

memorandum

DATE: 9 May 2002

U-0051 ☐

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: ☐

SUBJECT: Iraqi Documents in Possession of the Defense Intelligence Agency

Thru:

TO: The Archivist of the United States
Director, Life Cycle Management Division (NWML)

FOIA(b)3 - 10 USC 424, DIA

During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1991, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) came into the possession of approximately 4 million pages of documents created by the Iraqi military. All of those documents were digitized in 1991, and both the paper and the digitized versions of them were transported to the United States, and subsequently, fully exploited for any intelligence value.

The paper copies of these documents were kept in temporary storage for more than ten years, and have once again been digitized. DIA currently has classified and unclassified versions of these documents on compact discs. During the most recent digitization effort, human health problems were encountered due to the various types of mold on the paper of these documents. Testing determined that the mold is not lethal, but is hazardous to the health of some people.

While coordinating with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) staff regarding the retirement of more than 400 boxes containing these documents for temporary storage, DIA determined that, because of the existence of the digitized versions, the health hazard posed by the mold and the security classification of some of the documents, they would be wrapped in plastic and never released for review. The digitized versions of the documents, which DIA will provide to NARA, would be made available to anyone who wanted to see the documents. Additionally, the cost to store the documents for ten years only to have them destroyed at the end of that time would be a waste of money. It is the intent of DIA to destroy the paper copies of these documents as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions regarding this action please contact me, at ☐



JOHN TARTELLA

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Services
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