

20 Mar 95

Status of STARGATE Program

In response to Congressional direction, we are working with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to transfer the STARGATE program to CIA. We also have initiated a number of actions to comply with the Congressional request that we perform a retrospective review and technical analysis of the program's activities, as well survey the program for declassification purposes. We have reviewed and coordinated the DIA report on STARGATE; the information provided in the DIA retrospective review and technical analysis is part of the ongoing data transfer between the two agencies and will be used in the independent CIA review of the program. (S)

Retrospective Review

To perform the retrospective review of STARGATE's 20-year history and a technical analysis of the program's results, we will work closely with the National Research Council (NRC), which has ready access to a variety of experts in the scientific fields related to the program. We have exchanged draft tasking statements with the NRC to establish a Blue Ribbon Panel of parapsychological phenomena to ensure a comprehensive and unbiased technical retrospective review of the program. In addition, CIA will request the NRC to:

- Review research and development studies related to this program--less than 50 studies--for which unclassified reports are available.
- Meet with program officials to develop a comprehensive understanding of STARGATE's current direction.
- Perform technical evaluation of all the data related to the program, including experimental designs and their results, and proposed future research. This evaluation will

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contain recommendations on which technical areas have the potential for fruitful research and will identify areas that should not be pursued further.

- Draft the final report, which will incorporate the findings of the Blue Ribbon Panel; the NRC also will participate, as appropriate, in briefing these findings to the Congress. (S)

- The review and analysis of the Blue Ribbon Panel will be unclassified, but we will not release its findings until the Congress and the involved agencies have been briefed. We are working with the NRC to determine the appropriate amount of time for the study, which could require up to six months. (S)

- In other actions, we are requesting the cooperation of the US Army Research Institute, which holds a contract related to behavioral sciences with the NRC. We also are preparing to transfer resources to the Institute for the cost of managing and supporting the NRC during the technical review. We also are contacting several organizations involved in the program to review STARGATE's operations. (S)

Declassification

We will declassify immediately certain aspects of our program, including the Agency's past sponsorship of activities related to the investigation of paranormal phenomena for intelligence purposes and the results of this research. We also have held informal discussions with the Agency's Center for the Study of Intelligence on developing strategies for declassifying information. In order to determine what additional information related to the STARGATE program can be declassified, we will convene a DCI classification review committee. This committee will conduct

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a detailed review of all CIA and DIA program documents and other information--including actual targets against which operations were conducted and their nature, the customers for these operations, and resources allocated to this effort--to declassify further where appropriate. (S)

To facilitate the declassification effort and the Blue Ribbon Panel review, we will request DIA to:

- Declassify its sponsorship of STARGATE and to continue downgrading and declassifying the technical reports associated with the program.

- Eliminate the program's compartmentation, and remove from a limited distribution status all other classified documentation related to STARGATE and consider declassifying these documents further.

- Transfer to CIA all DIA documents associated with STARGATE following declassification consideration for archival purposes and further review by the DCI declassification committee.

- Assist the Agency in executing the Blue Ribbon Panel review by providing unclassified information relating to the program when requested by the Panel. (S)

Following the completion of these declassification and review efforts, we will develop a comprehensive management strategy for the program. (S)

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Attachment

Schedule of Events

March 1995

Status of transfer of program activities to CIA.

Preliminary declassification actions by CIA, request to DIA for further action.

April 1995

Establish DCI declassification committee to review long-term issues.

Form Blue Ribbon Panel to conduct retrospective review and technical data analysis.

March-June 1995

Conduct technical review, interview Intelligence Community users, draft preliminary report and recommendations.

July 1995

Develop CIA program management strategy that addresses proper scope, resources, and management.

Brief Congress on results and recommendations of Blue Ribbon Panel.

Report program design and status to Congress.

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