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23 May 95

Memo to: Record

SG11

From: [redacted]

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CIA briefed the status of the Star Gate transfer to SSCI 22 May 1995. The SSCI staff present included Charles Battaglia, Christopher Straub, Edward Levine, Melvin Duby, Christopher Mellon, Al Cummings, and Donald Mitchell. CIA participants included [redacted] (D/ORD) [redacted] (OCA), [redacted] (Comptroller), and [redacted] (ORD).

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[redacted] began with summary of the Congressional Action and ORD's response to it, stressing that ORD was conducting a blue ribbon panel study and had not transferred people from DIA because CIA did not possess the means to task them or disseminate their product. [redacted] then addressed the three main elements of the CDA: 20 year retrospective, declassification, and transfer by 1 July of the program from DIA to CIA.

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The briefing quickly became a question and answer session. Given that no questions were asked specifically about "remote viewing," I assume that all present understood the general nature of the program activity in this area and were concerned primarily with the program cost, utility, and transfer issues.

At the end of the briefing, summary charts were distributed to three members, Christopher Mellon, Christopher Straub, and Al Cummings (I think). These summary charts indicated when Richard D'Amato had been briefed and included four highlights of that meeting.

Some of the questions included:

Resources and Transfer:

How much will the study cost, and who is paying for it this year?

Did Congress have some specific reason for wanting to get this program out of DIA? (A - Language indicates DIA was urgent not ramping up)

What would happen if Congress zeroed out the FY96 money, would CIA still pay for this? (A = No)

How much will CIA spend on R&D versus foreign assessment? (A: 1/3, 1/3, 1/3)

How much money has been spent on this program?

How has DIA spent the money?

Utility:

What is the real value of this program to the intelligence community?

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Has the program ever produced a documented success?
Isn't the remote viewing product numerically evaluated?
What part of the program most belongs in the intel community?
Was there any case where this program provided critical information?
After 20 years does anyone have anything to show for this?

The Blue Ribbon Panel:

Why did the NRC pull out? Was their letter negative about remote viewing?
Why repeat the study if NRC pulled out?
How long will AIR take to complete the study?
Will the AIR review address the utility of remote viewing?

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[redacted] stressed that the NRC study dealt with an Army program dealing with performance enhancement tools, and not Star Gate, although one chapter in the NRC report addressed remote viewing. No one has reviewed Star Gate.]

Declassification:

What does declassification mean?
What aspects of this caused it to be classified in the first place?
What aspects might you keep classified at CIA?

Miscellaneous:

What program do the Russians have in this area?
Is there any brainwave or other paranormal research going on anywhere outside the IC?
Would you put the R&D at a University?