I, Thomas Blanton, declare:

1. I am the Director of National Security Archive at George Washington University in Washington D.C. The *Los Angeles Times* (16 January 2001) described the Archive as "the world's largest nongovernmental library of declassified documents." I served as the Archive's first Director of Planning & Research beginning in 1986, became Deputy Director in 1989, and Executive Director in 1992. I filed my first Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request in 1976 as a weekly newspaper reporter in Minnesota and have filed hundreds of FOIA requests over the
years. I serve as series editor of the National Security Archive's reference collections of
declassified documents including the newly published collection *U.S. Policy in the Vietnam War,
Part I, 1954-1968*. I am a founding editorial board member of freedominfo.org, the virtual
network of international freedom of information advocates; and serve on the editorial board of H-
DIPLO, the diplomatic history electronic bulletin board, and on the board of directors of the
*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. I make this declaration in support of Plaintiff Larry Berman's
Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment and In Opposition to the Central Intelligence Agency’s
Motion for Summary Judgment. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein, and
would and could competently testify to them if called as a witness.

2. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 are true and correct copies of relevant portions of a
March 2000 National Archives and Records Administration (“NARA”) report titled, “Records
Management In The Central Intelligence Agency.” The full report is available on the Internet at
http://www.fas.org/sgp/othergov/naracija.html. This report reflects that the Central Intelligence
Agency (“CIA”) maintains a copy of both the President’s Daily Briefs (“PDBs”) sent to the
President of the United States and the copy reviewed by the President, whether annotated or not.
See Exhibit 1 at 5.

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of “CIA Today,” which is a
document available from the CIA website at
http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/cia_today/ciatoday_03.shtml. According to this CIA
document, in reference to PDBs, the CIA states, “It is important to know that CIA’s analysts only
report information and DO NOT make policy recommendations – making policy is left to the
executive branch of the government, such as the State Department or the Defense Department.
These policymakers use the information that CIA provides to help them make US policy toward
other countries.” See Exhibit 2 at 1.

4. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 are true and correct copies of relevant portions of a
study published by the CIA’s Center for the Study of Intelligence and written by John L.
Helgerson titled “*Getting to Know the President: CIA Briefings of Presidential Candidates, 1952-
1992*” (1996), p. 163. Helgerson served as the CIA’s Deputy Director for Intelligence during the
Bush administration and, according to the foreword, he was head of the team that briefed President Bill Clinton in Little Rock after the 1992 election. According to the foreword, in addition to having access to classified files, Mr. Helgerson interviewed previous CIA briefers and all surviving former Presidents. This publication and the relevant pages attached here to as Exhibit 3 are available on the CIA’s website at http://www.cia.gov/cis/books/briefings/cia-10.htm.

Helgerson notes that the specific type of intelligence document called the PDB was first created for President Lyndon B. Johnson and implemented around December of 1964. Id. at 6. Before this time, Helgerson notes that President Johnson received other intelligence reports, including the President’s Intelligence Checklist (“PICL”) and the twice weekly Intelligence Review. Id. at 5.

5. Helgerson also states, “On a continuing basis, roughly 60 percent of the items covered in the PDB are not addressed in the newspapers. This body of information, in particular, is likely to be unfamiliar to a prospective president.” Id. at 16.

6. Helgerson writes that while the practice varied from President to President, during the Johnson administration a briefer from the CIA was not present when the President read the PDB. Id. at 6 and 8. He states that the CIA did not receive from Johnson the steady presidential feedback that it received from President John F. Kennedy. Id. at 6.

7. Through independent research conducted at my direction by analysts of the National Security Archive, and in conjunction with Plaintiff Larry Berman, we have discovered that fifteen PDBs have been released in “sanitized” form by the CIA under the mandatory declassification review process pursuant to the applicable Presidential Executive Order in force at the time. Our copies of these PDBs are available from and were obtained through the official archives of the President Lyndon B. Johnson Library at University of Texas in Austin, Texas, and the NARA. The official declassification of these records is indicated by a stamp on each document that identifies the declassification authority and the date of declassification.

8. Ten of these PDBs, from the Johnson administration, are dated April 1, 1968 (Ex. 4), August 7, 1965 (Ex. 5), June 8, 1967 (Ex. 6), June 9, 1967 (Ex. 7), June 7, 1967 (Ex. 8), June 6, 1967 (Ex. 9), June 5, 1967 (Ex. 10), May 27, 1967 (Ex. 11), May 16, 1967 (Ex. 12), May 13,
1976 (Ex. 13), and where attached to the Complaint. For the Court's convenience, true and correct
copies of these PDBs are also attached hereto as Exhibits 4-13, respectively.

9. The released PDBs include ones from August 7, 1965 and April 1, 1968, the day
immediately after and before the PDBs at issue in this lawsuit. See Exhibits 5 and 4.

10. The PDB dated April 1, 1968 reads: "Hanoi report the Vietnamese Communists are
organizing a broad offensive to take place in South Vietnam this summer. [Redacted] Hanoi
expects the offensive to set the stage for a settlement on Communist terms and that the US will
accept an "armistice" by early next year. [Redacted] report that a special mobilization of
manpower is under way in North Vietnam to provide large numbers of new forces for the South."
See Exhibit 4 at 2.

11. The PDB dated April 1, 1968 contains this item on Egypt: "Nasir, in a speech to the
nation on Saturday, outlined a 'program of action' to bring about political reform. We doubt that
it will amount to much." See Exhibit 4 at 4.

12. The PDB dated August 7, 1965 contains the following item on the head of state in
Indonesia: "Despite Sukarno's long-standing kidney ailment, for which he delays proper
treatment, he has seemed quite chipper lately." See Exhibit 5 at 4.

13. Portions of five of these ten Johnson-era PDBs are published in the U.S. State
Department's series on Foreign Relations of the United States ("FRUS") 1964-1968, Volume
XIX, Arab-Israeli Crisis and War, 1967. Additionally, the content of these five PDBs as published
in FRUS is available on the U.S. State Department's official website at
http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/johnsonlb/xix/. Attached as Exhibit 14 are true and correct
copies of the content of these five PDBs as obtained from the State Department's website.

14. Through our research we have discovered that in addition to the ten PDBs
mentioned above at least 6 others have been publicly released in sanitized form and are available
through the Johnson Library. The official declassification of these records is indicated by a stamp
on each document that identifies the declassification authority and the date of declassification.

15. One of these PDBs, dated May 29, 1967, indicates that during the very month
Plaintiff Larry Berman filed the instant lawsuit, the CIA, on December 2, 2004, approved this
PDB for release in “sanitized” form pursuant to the mandatory declassification review procedures of Executive Order 13292. Attached hereto as Exhibit 15 is a true and correct copy of this May 29, 1967 PDB obtained from the Johnson Library.


17. Another of these PDBs, dated April 25, 1967, likewise indicates that during the very month Plaintiff Larry Berman filed the instant lawsuit, the CIA, on December 10, 2004, approved this PDB for released in sanitized form pursuant to the mandatory declassification review procedures of Executive Order 13292. Attached hereto as Exhibit 16 is true and correct copy of this April 25, 1967 PDB obtained from the Johnson Library.

18. This PDB, addressed to the President and marked “DAILY BRIEF,” contains an entry regarding South Vietnam which states: “VOTERS HAVE NOW GONE TO THE POLLS IN 900 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 VILLAGES SCHEDULED TO ELECT THEIR OFFICIALS THIS SPRING. TOTAL TURNOUT SO FAR HAS BEEN 77 PERCENT OF THOSE REGISTERED. VIET CONG HARASSMENT WAS LIGHT DURING THE LATEST POLLING LAST SUNDAY.” Id. at 1.

19. Another document, dated September 7, 1968, includes the notation, “Special Daily Report on North Vietnam for the President’s Eyes Only,” and indicates that in October of 1993 it was approved for released in sanitized form pursuant to the mandatory declassification review procedures. While this document is not a PDB it does appear to have been sent to President
Johnson by the CIA. Attached hereto as Exhibit 17 is a true and correct copy of this September 7, 1968 document obtained from the Johnson Library.

20. This document reveals information about Ho Chi Minh's health as well as North Vietnamese reflections of U.S. political attitudes on the war. Id. at 2.

21. Another document that appears to be an excerpt from a PDB, dated January 16, 1967, indicates that on January 15, 1993, it was approved for released in sanitized form pursuant to the mandatory declassification review procedures. Attached hereto as Exhibit 18 is a true and correct copy of this January 16, 1967 PDB obtained from the Johnson Library.

22. It consists of a one paragraph excerpt titled: "Possible Augmentation of Hanoi's MIG Fighter Force." The text states "The North Vietnamese may have received as many as 70 jet fighters recently. [redaction] 50 MIG-21 and 20-MIG-17 aircraft have been received by the North Vietnamese Air Force. The MIG-21s were described as having come from the USSR and being hidden near a mountain -- possibly the range north of Phuc Yen Airfield. The location of the MIG-17s, which purportedly came from the Kwangsi Province, China, was not indicated."

23. Another PDB excerpt dated November 5, 1966, indicates that on August 1993, it was approved for released in sanitized form pursuant to the mandatory declassification review procedures. Attached hereto as Exhibit 19 is a true and correct copy of this November 5, 1966 PDB obtained from the Johnson Library.

24. This PDB includes a section on South Vietnam, which states:

"REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT MINISTER THANG IS COMPLAINING THAT CRITICISM OF HIS PROGRAM HAS RECENTLY BECOME FASHIONABLE AMONG SAIGON LEADERS. SOME OF THIS CRITICISM COMES FROM XY AND THIEU. IT PROBABLY STEMS FROM RESENTMENT OVER THE PUBLICITY ACCORDED THANG AND HIS PROGRAMS. THANG'S RESIGNATION WOULD BE A REAL IMPEDIMENT TO REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT SINCE NO EQUALLY QUALIFIED SUCCESSOR IS IN SIGHT. Id.

25. Another dated December 20, 1967, and including the notation "HEREWITH YOUR DAILY BRIEF AND SPECIAL REPORT AS OF 1100 EST 20 DEC;," indicates that on
May 16, 1990, it was approved for release in sanitized form pursuant to the mandatory
declassification review procedures. Attached hereto as Exhibit 20 is a true and correct copy of this
December 20, 1967 PDB obtained from the Johnson Library.

26. This PDB includes a six page section on South Vietnam and a “SPECIAL DAILY
REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM FOR THE PRESIDENT’S EYES ONLY.” Id.

27. In addition to the 16 PDBs mentioned above, President George W. Bush
declassified and released to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States
Attached hereto as Exhibit 21 are true and correct copies of these excerpts, which were attached to
the Complaint.

28. The former Director of Central Intelligence Robert M. Gates also quotes verbatim
from two PDBs in his 1996 memoir “From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider’s Story of Five
Presidents and How They Won the Cold War,” including the September 2, 1983 PDB on the
Soviet shoot-down of KAL-007 (at page 267) and a passage from the August 17, 1991 PDB on the
impending break up of the USSR (at page 521). The book indicates that it cleared prepublication
review procedures at the CIA and accordingly I am informed and believe that these excerpts were
approved for release by the CIA. See Answer, ¶ 4. Attached hereto as Exhibit 22 are true and
correct excerpts of From the Shadows, which contain quotes from the PDBs.

29. Bob Woodward’s book titled “Bush at War” on pages 39-40 references and quotes
from a PDB dated September 12, 2001. In reference to the terrorist attacks on September 11,
2001, and the PDB of September 12, Woodward writes, “One report out of Kandahar,
Afghanistan, the spiritual home of the Taliban, showed the attacks were ‘the results of two years’
planning.’ . . . One said a bin Laden associate — incorrectly — ‘gave thanks for the explosion in the
Congress building.’” Attached hereto as Exhibit 23 are true and correct excerpts from Bush at
War, which contain reference to and quotes from the September 12, 2001 PDB.

30. In addition to the PDBs disclosed as referenced above, a number of PICLs, the
predecessor document to the PDB, have been released in sanitized form pursuant to the mandatory
declassification review process and are available through The John F. Kennedy Library. These
include “sanitized” PICLS from February 15, 1962, October 15, 1962, October 16, 1962, October 17, 1962, and October 18, 1962. Attached hereto as Exhibit 24 are true and correct copies of these PICLS obtained from the Kennedy Presidential Library. The official declassification of these records is indicated by a stamp on each document that identifies the declassification authority and the date of declassification. These records are stamped with the mandatory review declassification stamp, which I am informed would be different than the stamp if these PICLS were released under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. 2107.

31. Attached hereto as Exhibit 25 is a true and correct copy of an article written by John Diamond, titled, Few PDBs Declassified for Public, published in USA Today, April 11, 2004. I obtained this document from USA Today’s website and it is available at http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/executive/2004-04-11-public-pbds_x.htm. This article reports that CIA Director George Tenet told a House-Senate investigative committee in 2002 that it is not the content of the PDBs that make them sensitive but the fact that they are being briefed to the President. Id. at 1

32. This blanket policy is reflected in a December 20, 1991 report from the Task Force on Greater CIA Openness to the Director of Central Intelligence. In this report, the task force states that one of the goals to keep in mind in implementing any program to improve openness is “to preserve the mystique.” Attached hereto as Exhibit 26 at 2 is a true and correct copy of this December 20, 1991 Task Force report obtained pursuant to a FOIA request to the CIA.


34. Attached hereto as Exhibit 28 is a true and correct copy of a report of the U.S. State Department Historical Advisory Committee on Diplomatic Documentation for January 1-December 31, 2001, available on the Internet at http://www.fas.org/sgp/advisory/state/hac01.html.

35. In both of these reports, the committee criticizes the CIA’s blanket policy of non-disclosure of PDBs. For example, in the 2002 report, the committee writes, “[T]he Committee must continue to deplore the CIA’s blanket denial of declassification of the PDBs especially those
that are thirty or more years old. The PDBs for the Nixon period should be included in [the
Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) series], because they provide historians with an
invaluable and irreplaceable source for documenting high-level policymaking. The Advisory
Committee has never received a satisfactory formal explanation for the CIA's exemption of the
PDBs from declassification. See Exhibit 27 at 3.

36. I am informed and believe that several thousand Central Intelligence Bulletins have
been officially released in "sanitized" form by the CIA.

37. After reviewing the CIBs and comparing the same date PDBs it is evident that the
CIBs often contain similar and sometimes identical entries as those contained in the publicly
available PDB for the same day.

38. Attached hereto as Exhibit 29 is a true and correct copy of a CIB, dated May 16,
1967, which indicates that on April 27, 2004, it was approved for release in sanitized form by the
CIA. This CIB was obtained from NARA.

39. Attached hereto as Exhibit 30 is a true and correct copy of a CIB, dated April 1,
1968, which indicates that on January 29, 2003, it was approved for release in sanitized form by
the CIA. This CIB was obtained from NARA.

40. Attached hereto as Exhibit 31 is a true and correct copy of a CIB, dated August 7,
1968, which indicates that on January 29, 2003, it was approved for release in sanitized form by
the CIA. This CIB was obtained from NARA.

41. Attached hereto as Exhibit 32 is a true and correct copy of a CIB, dated August 6,
1965, the same date as one of the PDBs at issue here, which indicates that on January 29, 2003, it
was approved for release in sanitized form by the CIA. This CIB was obtained from NARA.

42. Attached hereto as Exhibit 33 is a true and correct copy of a CIB, dated April 2,
1968, the same date as one of the PDBs at issue here, which indicates that on January 29, 2003, it
was approved for release in sanitized form by the CIA. This CIB was obtained from NARA.

43. Attached hereto as Exhibit 34 and 35 are true and correct copies of Afternoon
Summaries for August 6, 1965 and April 2, 1968, respectively, the same date as the PDBs at issue
here. The Afternoon Summaries were prepared by the Department of State for the Secretary of
State and the undersecretaries, and generally include much of the same type of information reported in the contemporaneous PDBs. These were obtained from NARA.

44. Attached hereto as Exhibit 36 are true and correct copies of daily morning briefings by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to President Richard Nixon, dated February 13, 1969, indicating that they were approved for release by CIA on April 4, 2003. This document was obtained from NARA.

45. Attached hereto as Exhibit 37 are true and correct copies of relevant excerpts of the joint Bush-Scowcroft memoir, _A World Transformed_ (1998), containing verbatim quotes from briefings by CIA director William Webster and National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft to President George H. W. Bush.

46. Attached hereto as Exhibit 38 is a true and correct copy of a May 6, 2002 CIA internal memorandum to Acting Information and Privacy Coordinator Alan W. Tate from Kurt A. Perlman released by the CIA and available from the website of the Federation of American Scientists at [http://www.fas.org/sgp/advisory/iscap/cia050602.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/advisory/iscap/cia050602.pdf). This memo shows that in response to a specific request made by a Peter Pesavento for certain PDBs and CIBs the week before and after the 1969 moon landing, the CIA recommended that the request for PDBs be denied "in accordance with our current policy," but that it make a "reasonable accommodation on the CIBs" so as to "be in a stronger posture to defend the PDBs. . . ." Id.


I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: 4.29.05

Thomas Blanton