

*Declassification Review*

The Information Response Branch of the Office of IRM Programs and Services, Bureau of Administration, Department of State, conducted the declassification review of the documents published in this volume. The review, which began in 1996, was conducted in accordance with the standards set forth in Executive Order 12958 on Classified National Security Information and applicable laws. The principle guiding declassification review is to release all information, subject only to the current requirements of national security as embodied in law and regulation. Declassification decisions entailed the concurrence of the appropriate geographic and functional bureaus in the Department of State, other concerned agencies of the U.S. Government, and the appropriate foreign governments regarding specific documents of those governments.

The final declassification review of this volume, completed in 2000, resulted in the decision to withhold 2.5 percent of the material selected for publication; 7 documents were denied in full. The decision on key intelligence issues was appealed to a High-Level Panel consisting of senior representatives from the Department of State, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency, established in 1997 to determine whether or not a covert activity could be acknowledged by the United States. The Panel arrived at a determination that resulted in the release of some but not all of the appealed documentation.

In the Indonesia compilation three documents were denied in full (180, 182, and 221) and three documents were released with major excisions (167, 175, and 181). These denials and excisions were made on the grounds that release of the information would reveal intelligence sources or methods, disclosure of which would "clearly and demonstrably" damage U.S. national security interests, as allowed in Executive Order 12958. Despite these denials and excisions of specific sources and methods as well as details of implementation, the broad outline of the limited U.S. covert policy in Indonesia is documented in the compilation. Two documents in the compilation on Malaysia-Singapore (269 and 286) were also denied to protect intelligence sources and methods. In the Philippines compilation, two documents were denied in full, again on the grounds of intelligence sources and methods. Despite the withheld information, the editor, the General Editor, and the Historian believe that the documentation and editorial notes printed in the volume comprise a thorough, accurate, and reliable record of major U.S. foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity.