

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICAN HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 1:01CV02447 (CKK)

DECLARATION OF THOMAS S. BLANTON

1. I am the Director of the National Security Archive, one of the plaintiffs in this case.
2. The National Security Archive (“the Archive”) is an independent non-governmental research institute and library located at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. The Archive collects and publishes declassified documents acquired through the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”). The Archive is the world’s largest nongovernmental library of declassified documents, has published more than 500,000 pages of declassified documents in various formats, and has become the leading non-profit user of FOIA. The Archive has made extensive requests for presidential and vice presidential records in NARA’s custody, including Reagan presidential records maintained by NARA at the Reagan Presidential Library and Bush presidential and vice presidential records maintained by NARA at the Bush Presidential Library.

3. The National Security Archive currently has 86 outstanding requests for documents to the Reagan Presidential Library, and 46 outstanding requests for documents from the Bush Presidential Library (some for Bush vice presidential records and some for Bush presidential records). Most of the requests relate to specifically identified presidential decisions, meetings of the National Security Council, state visits, presidential foreign travel, and similar materials. For some of the requests, no documents have yet been made public; for others, there has been a partial response, but we are awaiting additional documents that have not yet been released to the public. The requests encompass documents that would likely be subject to the P-5 restriction under the Presidential Records Act for materials reflecting confidential communications between and among the President and his advisers if they had been sought within the 12-year restriction period. For example, the George Bush Library responded by letter dated February 11, 2004, to an Archive request filed in 2000 (for records on a March 1991 state visit) that eight pages responsive to our request were being withheld under the P-5 restriction. Under the terms of Executive Order 13,233, all the documents sought in our requests to the Reagan and Bush presidential libraries are subject to review by representatives of the former President and Vice President, as well as by the incumbent President.

4. The Reagan Library has informed us in writing that its processing time for requested documents is now 48 months (as compared to the 20 working days specified by the FOIA). Staff at the Reagan Library have advised us informally that reviews under Executive Order 13,233 are a major factor in these delays.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on April 12, 2004.


THOMAS S. BLANTON