

# The National Security Archive

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## National Security Archive Editorial Policy

The mission of the National Security Archive is to enrich research and public debate about issues of national security policy by gathering, indexing, publishing, and making available to the public its unique collections of documentary materials on U.S. foreign policy issues.

The Archive determines its editorial policy independent of any outside funder, government or other entity. This applies to the subjects we choose as our focus as well as the scope and content of our publications.

In publishing documentary records, the Archive offers no assurances about the accuracy of their content. Government records sometimes contain material which is unverified, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. Furthermore, under the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) agencies are not required to substantiate personal data that may be released under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. section 552). The Archive therefore urges users of its collections not to rely on the accuracy of the documents. We affirm only that they are true facsimiles of government or other records whose content has not been independently verified.

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At the same time, the Archive encourages staff members and fellows to produce their own independent writings on topics with which they have become familiar through their work here. In Archive publications, individual staff viewpoints are limited to factual conclusions derived from the documents themselves, and avoid judgments on the policies of a particular president or his/her administration. If staff views appear to go beyond factual inferences, their writings are specifically labeled as analyses, commentaries, or otherwise the product of personal opinion. When publishing elsewhere, staff members are expected to request that their views be identified as their own and not those of the Archive, although we recognize that it is often not possible to guarantee other publications will provide such identification.