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and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 75611B  
4 October 2018

JOHN GREENEWALD  
27305 W LIVE OAK RD  
SUITE 1203  
CASTAIC CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This further responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 14 November 2013 for "a copy of all records pertaining to the NSA's use of the computer program PROMIS." A copy of your request is enclosed.

Your request has been processed under the FOIA and some of the documents you requested are enclosed. Certain information, however, has been deleted from the enclosures. Additional documents will be provided when their processing is complete.

Some of the withheld information has been found to be currently and properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526. The information meets the criteria for classification as set forth in Subparagraph (c) of Section 1.4 and remains classified SECRET as provided in Section 1.2 of Executive Order 13526. The information is classified because its disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security. Because the information is currently and properly classified, it is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(1)).

In addition, this Agency is authorized by various statutes to protect certain information concerning its activities. We have determined that such information exists in these documents. Accordingly, those portions are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statutes applicable in this case are Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605).

Personal information regarding other individuals has been deleted from the enclosures in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6). This exemption protects from disclosure information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In balancing the public interest for the information you request against the privacy interests involved, we have determined that the privacy interests sufficiently satisfy the requirements for the application of the (b)(6) exemption.

Since information was withheld from the enclosures, you may construe this as a partial denial of your request. You are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures.

You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below. NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving any appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

- The appeal must be sent via U.S. postal mail, fax, or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)  
National Security Agency  
9800 Savage Road STE 6932  
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is 443-479-3612.

The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is FOIARSC@nsa.gov.

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.

You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison at foialo@nsa.gov for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Rd. - OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
ogis@nara.gov  
877-684-6448  
(Fax) 202-741-5769

Sincerely,

  
*for*

JOHN R. CHAPMAN  
Chief, FOIA/PA Office  
NSA Initial Denial Authority

Encls:  
a/s

---

**From:** donotreply@nsa.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2013 11:35 PM  
**To:** donotreply@nsa.gov  
**Cc:** john@greenewald.com  
**Subject:** FOIA Request (Web form submission)

Name: John Greenewald

Email: [john@greenewald.com](mailto:john@greenewald.com)

Company: The Black Vault

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Postal 2nd Line: None

Postal City: [REDACTED]

Postal State-prov: [REDACTED]

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Country: United States of America

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Records Requested: To whom it may concern,

This is a non-commercial request made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 5 U.S.C. S 552. My FOIA requester status as a "representative of the news media" however due to your agency's denial of this status, I hereby submit this request as an "All other" requester.

I prefer electronic delivery of the requested material either via email to [john@greenewald.com](mailto:john@greenewald.com) or via CD-ROM via postal mail. I respectfully request a full fee waiver. Based on the public's interest in the subject matter of the below request, I feel the release of this information will play a crucial role in deepening the public's awareness of the intelligence gathering of our government.

I also have a unique way of disseminating the information via my website [www.theblackvault.com](http://www.theblackvault.com). The documents are freely distributed to the public, and literally thousands of people a day visit the site to download information.

I respectfully request a copy of all records pertaining to the NSA's use of the computer program PROMIS.

According to a recently released document under the FOIA by the Department of Justice, "We also contacted NSA and asked whether it used or developed any program called PROMIS. NSA informed us that it used a commercial off-the-shelf software package that was purchased from computer corporation of America. In 1974-1975, six years before the incorporation of Inslaw, NSA developed a database with query search and report features in the M204 language. This particular database is called PROMIS, an acronym for Product Related on-line Management

Information System. (NSA explained that its intelligence reports are referred to within NSA as the agency's "product.")"

To see the full document where this is referenced, visit:  
[http://www.governmentattic.org/9docs/DOJ-OIP-INSLAW\\_1993.pdf](http://www.governmentattic.org/9docs/DOJ-OIP-INSLAW_1993.pdf)

Thank you so much for your time, and I am very much looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

[REDACTED]

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Chief, V

Serial: C-031-74  
DATE: 12 February 1974

*Black copy*

FROM : Chief, C

SUBJECT: DDO Product Management Data Base

REF: A) V Memo, subject as above, Serial: V/020/74, 21 Jan 74  
B) DDO Memo, Subj: SIGINT Management Data Base, 15 Jan 74

1. I fully support the concept of a common DDO SIGINT product management data base to provide senior SIGINT managers timely and accurate information.

2. To this end I am particularly anxious to begin development of a system to replace the current Offline Coversheet Processing (OCP) system referred to in paragraph 2, reference A. The OCP is costly, and it seems the results are inadequate to meet the information requirement. The OCP manual data conversion process alone consumes 500 manhours each quarter; output lags some two weeks because of the data conversion workload; and the seven to eight percent error rate is very high (due to illegible handwritten data entries, omissions, etc.)

3. There are several possible approaches to the problem, and when system requirements are better defined regarding data input type and volume; the type, timeliness and frequency of output; and security constraints, C will recommend a suitable system to satisfy the requirements.

4. C115 is the point of contact for coordinating the C Group effort in the development of this system.

*Kenneth H. Speierman*  
KERMITH H. SPEIERMAN  
Chief, C

cc: DDO C1  
A C11  
B C115  
G C5  
W C54  
V2  
V3  
V5



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

17 Jan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Chiefs A, B, C, G, V, W

DATE: 15 JAN 1974

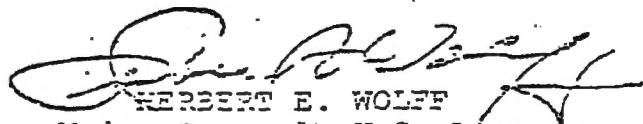
FROM : DDO

SUBJECT: SIGINT Management Data Bases

1. As DDO, I am responsible to the Director for the day-to-day management of SIGINT production resources. Many statistics are available to me from the individual Groups, but because of the separate preparation and varying content, they are unavailable in a form or time to fully serve my needs.

2. I need a system which will cut across Group lines, provide me with that management data I require, and which will enable me to respond to Intelligence Community questions and requirements. The SIGINT On-Line Information System (SOLIS) meets some of my needs for an operational inter-group data base. Production data, associated with the product data base, are to be introduced into a common data base as quickly as possible. Information related to analytic procedures or technical results is not to be included in these files; rather, only that management data needed by senior managers. At this time, I specifically need to have the capability to systematically identify producing organizations, collector data or mission numbers for TX product. Special computer procedures must be developed to prevent exposure of these data to those who don't need it.

3. V is charged with establishing this common management data base. Other Production Managers are to render all necessary assistance to achieve an early implementation date.



HERBERT E. WOLFF  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Deputy Director, Operations  
NSA/CSS

cc: C1  
C4  
V1  
V2  
V5 (SOLIS Manager)

Approved for Release by NSA on  
10-04-2018, FOIA Case # 75611

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Beck*

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Serial: V/020/74

TO : Chiefs A, B, C, G, W

DATE: 21 JAN 1974

FROM : Chief V

SUBJECT: DDO Product Management Data Base

REFERENCE: DDO Memo, subject, "SIGINT Management Data Bases", dated 15 January 1974

1. As a result of reference, I will implement an on-line computer system to provide product-related data needed at the DDO level and outside the agency. To satisfy the needs which prompted this action the system must include data from all sources and related to all product. The sensitivity of some of this data dictates the need for a multi-level system, both from the aspects of security and access. The complexity of such a program precludes its immediate implementation.

2. We must proceed, however, with a reliable off-line system to provide some of that data required by reference. During the past year we have tested and used an Off-Line Coversheet Processing system to obtain some management data. We will use this off-line system until the on-line system is in operation.

3. The on-line DDO Product Management Data System will be designed to satisfy existing needs, and have the potential for expansion in consonance with future requirements which could arise, in part, from the ongoing USIB SIGINT Committee's inquiry into "SIGINT source" information. It will have several safeguards to prevent the undesirable proliferation of unnecessary or sensitive data, or access thereto. This applies to NSA elements as well as users. For example, the amount of data to be included in the system is limited to that needed to respond to existing requirements. Similarly, access to the data, either in part or in whole, will be restricted to those who actually need it. To safeguard the most sensitive collectors an arbitrary designator or other convention may be used in the data base.

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~~UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4. Any additions in either data or access will be made only after coordination with all concerned production elements.

5. V2 is tasked with the day-to-day coordination and management of this system and will provide procedural details needed for implementation.

*Juanita M. Moody*  
JUANITA M. MOODY  
Chief, V

cc: DDO  
V2  
V3  
V5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : V2

Serial: C11/93/74

DATE: 8 May 1974

K. Beach/C115/5203

FROM : C11

SUBJECT: PROMIS Content and Timeliness Requirements

REFERENCE: V2/112/74, Subject: Same, dated 8 May 1974

1. Stripping of PROMIS-needed data elements from PSR and [redacted] is only one of the means for data capture under consideration in the PROMIS data base study. However, until the study is completed it would be premature to begin program modifications for stripping the data from PSR and [redacted].

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

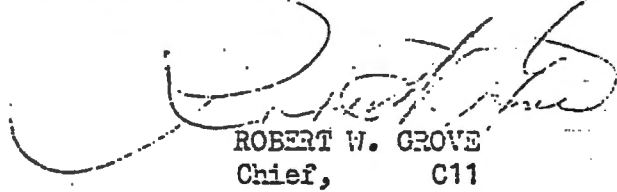
2. We expect to conclude the study and to recommend a system for PROMIS in the very near future. However, we need certain information from you before the study can be completed, i.e.,

a. What SIGINT product must be covered in the initial data base?

b. What SIGINT product should be covered in the ultimate data base, and in what order of priority?

c. How timely does the data need to be for each of the foregoing?

3. Upon receipt of the foregoing information we will promptly complete the PROMIS study and make our recommendations to you. Without this information it would be difficult to make an informed judgement on the best direction to take in design of a computer system to satisfy your requirement.

  
ROBERT W. GROVE  
Chief, C11

cc: C  
C1  
V

THIS CORRESPONDENCE MAY BE  
DOWNGRADED TO CONF CC  
UPON REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED  
ENCLOSURE(S)

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10-04-2018, FOIA Case # 75611

~~SECRET~~



Washington, D.C. 20530.

FACIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

DATE : 5/11/94 (b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

TO : [Redacted]

FACSIMILE No.: [Redacted]

TELEPHONE No.: [Redacted]

FROM : John C. Dwyer  
Assistant Associate Attorney General

FACSIMILE No.: (202) 514 - 1724

TELEPHONE NO.: (202) 514 - 4969

NO. OF PAGES : \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS : \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Associate Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 13, 1994

VIA FACSIMILE

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

[Redacted]  
Assistant General Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
National Security Agency  
Ft. Meade, Maryland 19755-6000

Dear [Redacted]

Attached is an excerpt from a draft of the Department of Justice's report on the allegations raised by INSLAW, Inc. I would appreciate your reviewing that excerpt and informing me if the National Security Agency has any objection to the public release of any information contained in the excerpt or if you have any reason to believe privacy considerations warrant non-disclosure. We drafted the report with an eye toward eventual public release so we do not anticipate any concerns. However, if you do have any objections, we would appreciate hearing from you no later than Wednesday, May 18, 1994.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

(b) (6)

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

John C. Dwyer  
Assistant Associate Attorney General

Attachment

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

We also met with representatives of the National Security Agency. According to  Branch Chief for the NSA's ADP Support Division, and Nancy Starecky, also of ADP Support, the NSA maintains a database known as Product Management Information Systems or "PROMIS". "Product" is a term used within

---

the NSA to refer to intelligence reports. Accordingly, the NSA "PROMIS" database contains abstracts of intelligence reports generated by various parts of the NSA. Both Ms. Starecky and Ms. [redacted] emphasized that the NSA "PROMIS" is not a software program, but rather is an application of the M204 database management system. According to Ms. Starecky, M204 is one of the earlier relational database systems. It basically allows the user to define data fields and other information to be contained in individual databases, such as the NSA PROMIS database. Ms. Starecky stated that she was involved in the original development of the NSA PROMIS database in the 1970s which was developed primarily to allow the accumulation of management information regarding the productivity of various NSA divisions.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : A09, B09, G09, V309, W42

Serial: V2/027/74  
DATE: 31 January 1974

FROM : V2

SUBJECT: DDO Product Management Data Base

- REFERENCE:
- A. V/020/74, subject as above, dated 21 Jan 74
  - B. DDO Memo, subject "SIGINT Management Data Bases", dated 15 Jan 74
  - C. P2 R&D Memo, subject, "Product Coversheet, Form M3015", dated 31 May 73

1. Per references A and B we are working on an on-line computer system to provide product-related data needed at the DDO level and outside the agency. Such a system can not be made available immediately because of programming and design requirements. To satisfy existing needs we are proceeding with the Off-Line Coversheet Processing job. It is essential, therefore, that Product Coversheets be completed as accurately as possible per the instructions in paragraph 3 below.

2. Reference C, which provided instructions for completing Form M3015, REV MAY 73 (Product Coversheet) is superceded by this memo. As you may recall some recommendations concerning the Product Coversheet were not implemented. Also, we received some recommendations after the form had gone to print. Form M3015, REV OCT 73 is now available. It incorporates those changes you suggested which are useful to all or most production organizations.

3. To ensure all Product Coversheets (Form M3015, REV OCT 73) are uniformly completed, please adhere to the following procedures:

A. Required - Always complete Blocks 1 - 17, and 21.

BLOCK	ENTRY
Blank	For communications use only
1. OPI/Phone	Designator for the staff or production element within the office of primary interest that prepared the product (e.g., A832, B211, G909, W252). Secure phone number of the element.

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~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~

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~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~

BLOCK

ENTRY

2. Date (10 positions) Date of release (when product is released for publication). Enter as one or two digit date (no nulls), space, three letter abbreviation of month, space, and two digit year (e.g., 1 Jan 74; 22 Jan 74).

3.

[Redacted]

The [Redacted] when applicable, which contributed material used in the product. Enter as five-to-seven sequential characters (e.g., [Redacted]). This data may be continued in Block 19, if necessary.

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

4. DDI List the appropriate Delivery Distribution Indicator(s) per USSID 519.

5. Precedence (2 positions) Appropriate transmission precedence (i.e., ZZ, OO, PP or RR).

6. DTG or date (10 positions) Date-time of electrical transmission as supplied by V3 (NSOC); date is entered for HCO as described in block 2 above (e.g., 1 Jan 74; 22 Jan 74).

7. Distribution (37 positions) Enter the appropriate distribution symbol (e.g., NSA/ZB or NSA/HCO-DDAD or NSA/Special) Special distribution and PLUS or LESS addressees are continued in the remarks block (Block 19). If distribution is NOFORN, add NOFORN only if parallel NOFORN distribution has been established. See NSA ECAT NOFORN supplement. Use non-standard distribution procedures for NOFORN product without established parallel NOFORN distribution.

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

[Redacted]

8. Flags The coverwords, if any, necessary to designate the use of special sources (e.g., ISHTAR) or special handling required (e.g., NON-FRONT). (NOTE: The flag SPOT does not belong here.) Enter the SIGINT Alert covername, when appropriate.

9. Serial (21 positions) The reference serial per USSID 305. The one-up number is supplied by V3 (NSOC).

10. Ident Code The subject suffix per USSID 305 or Intelligence Source Identifier (diplomatic, agent, and attache translations only).

~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~

~~HANDLE WITH EXTREME CAUTION~~



~~SECRET~~

- 11. Product Type (5 positions) Enter the word for the appropriate vehicle - SPOT or EGRAM.
- 12. Follow-up/Change Data The appropriate phrases, if any, to indicate the product is a follow-up or change to an earlier product. "Serial Correction" is also entered in this block.
- 13. Subject Code Content Control Code notation.
- 14. Msg Handling Instructions Appropriate caveats, when required, to indicate limitations on dissemination of product (e.g., [redacted] or compartmented handling instructions.) If none, so state.
- 15. Title Narrative title of product. (b) (1)  
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36
- 16. Plain/Cipher For translations, check appropriate block to indicate whether product is based on cipher or plaintext message.
- 17. Date-Time of Intercept (TOI) (10 positions) Enter as day-month-year and Zulu time (e.g., 14 Jan 74 1730Z).
- 18. Coordination Only the usual steps in the coordination process are provided for. Extra lines are provided for specialized use as desired.
- 19. Remarks Use as desired or for continuation of other blocks. (NOTE: When using M3015A enter block 21 data (see below) in lower left-hand corner of block 19.
- 21. MS PDDG(s) of monitoring station or SIGINT collector/mission number. The intercept source which provided the data on which the product is based. Enter no more than 10 PDDG's or four mission numbers.

B. Optional - Except as specified above the Data Base portion (Blocks 20-33) of the coversheet is provided for optional use by those elements which wish to preserve the technical base of a product.

- 20. WS Worksheet number, if any. (b) (1)  
(b) (3)-50 USC 3024(i)  
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36
- 22. PSN Intercept position number, if available.
- 23. Code Cryptsystem title, if any, or covername for secure communications (e.g., [redacted])

~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

- 24. CN Case Notation.
- 25. Freq Intercept frequency.
- 26. To Receiver callsign or other identification.
- 27. Fm Transmitter callsign or other identification.
- 28. SE/CR IGCP Subelement and line item number(s) which the product responds to. See para 4 below.
- 20-33. Optional
- 34. Released by Completed by V3 (NSOC) for all electrical product; appropriate releasing authority for HCO product not processed through NSOC.

4. To give DDO the ability to respond to the evaluation of the Key Intelligence Questions, complete Block 28 with the number, and sub-paragraph letter of the question to which the product responds. For example, a product relating to [redacted] would be indicated as 11A. A product on [redacted] would be indicated as 23A. (NOTE: When using M3015A enter block 28 down in the lower right-hand corner at block 19.)

(b) (1)  
 (b) (3) -50 USC 3024(i)  
 (b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

*D. B. Oliver*  
 DONALD B. OLIVER  
 Chief, V2

- cc: A5 G7  
 A6 G8  
 A7 G9  
 A8 G11  
 A9 R2  
 B11 V31  
 B2 V32  
 B3 V33  
 B4 V34  
 B6 V35  
 B7 V36  
 C1 V37  
 C4 FLEX  
 C5 W1  
 CO9 W2  
 E W3  
 E12 W4  
 G5 V  
 G6 DDO

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

~~HANDLE ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN AS UNCLASSIFIED~~