



*Information Security Oversight Office*  
National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC. 20408-0001



Mr. James E. David  
Smithsonian Institution  
National Air and Space Museum (DSH-MRC 311)  
P.O. Box 37012  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Dear Mr. David:

I am writing in response to your recent inquiry concerning several topics relating to automatic declassification under Executive Order 12958, "Classified National Security Information," as amended (the Order),

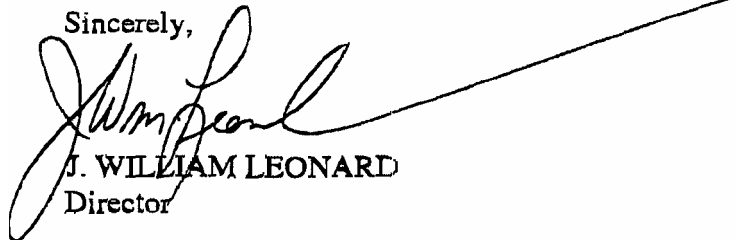
By way of background, ten executive branch agencies originally received Presidential approval for file series exemptions under Executive Order 12958. These file series exemptions are still in effect. A list of those agencies was published in ISOO's 1998 *Annual Report to the President*, a copy of which is enclosed. At present, no new file series exemptions have been approved following last year's amendment to E.O. 12958, although a single request is currently pending.

With respect to notifications made to me regarding delays to the onset of automatic declassification as set forth in section 3.3 (e) of the Order, several agencies have indicated their intent to delay for an additional 5 years the automatic declassification of information contained in special media such as microforms, motion pictures, and audiotapes. Additionally, so as to facilitate the full implementation of the automatic declassification concept on December 31, 2006, I have concurred as a matter of course to specific agency requests to delay for up to 3 years the automatic declassification of classified records that have been referred to that agency. Finally, no agency has informed me of their intent to delay the automatic declassification of records that have only recently been discovered.

In addition to an update on approved file series exemptions, in the *Annual Report to the President* for fiscal year 2005, we will be including an updated consolidated list of all instances where an agency has indicated its intent to delay the onset of automatic declassification for any of the reasons set forth in section 3.3(e) of the Order. For specific information concerning file series exemptions or other delays to the onset of automatic declassification, it is best that you contact each agency directly.

We recently reported to the President on the status of declassification activities within the Executive branch, a copy of which is enclosed. This report should identify for you those agencies which currently have records subject to the provisions of section 3.3 of the Order. if you have any questions, please contact Linda J. Ebben, Senior Program Analyst or me on 202-219-5250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. William Leonard", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. WILLIAM LEONARD  
Director

Enclosures (2)

Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

October 26, 2004

J. William Leonard Director  
Information Security Oversight Office  
National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Mr. Leonard:

At a stakeholders' meeting at the College Park National Archives on October 13, there was not sufficient time to discuss the last agenda item concerning automatic declassification. It was suggested that we write you with our questions.

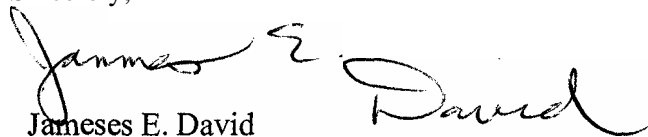
Have any agencies submitted proposals to exempt specific file series from automatic declassification under Section 3.3 (c) and (d) of E.O. 13292? Will the public be able to obtain copies of the proposals and the records documenting their approval in whole or part? If any of these items are classified, can unclassified summaries be made available?

Have any agencies notified your office of a postponement of automatic declassification under Section 3.3 (e)? Will the public be able to obtain copies of these notifications or learn about their substance?

Can the lists of specific file series granted exemption from automatic declassification under E.O. 12958 be made available to the public? Is it possible to make unclassified summaries of the CIA and NSA lists, which we understand to be classified? Separate and apart from the actual lists, could the specific dates or events on which the exempted information will be reviewed or declassified be released?

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (202) 633-2426 or at [davidj@nasm.si.edu](mailto:davidj@nasm.si.edu).

Sincerely,

  
Jameses E. David