



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

Serial: MDR-83720  
18 October 2016

MUCKROCK  
DEPT MR 23877  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
ATTN: Mr. Michael Best

Dear Mr. Best:

This responds to your request of 9 February 2016 to have "Encrypted and untranslated copies of messages which were examined by the February 1943 project later codenamed VENONA and ended on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1980" reviewed for declassification. You further state "the decrypted and translated records have been released and posted to the NSA's website, and neither the decryption method (a One Time Pad was repeatedly used, allowing the code to be broken) nor the Russian-to-English translation process remains classified."

Your request has been reviewed under the Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) requirements of Executive Order (E.O.) 13526. The information requested is denied in its entirety as it meets the criteria for classification as set forth in Section 1.4 subparagraphs (b) and (c) and remains classified TOP SECRET as provided in Section 1.2 of E.O. 13526. In addition, Section 3.5 (c) of E.O. 13526, allows for the protection afforded to information under the provisions of law. Therefore, information that would reveal NSA/CSS functions and activities has been protected in accordance with Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605, formerly 50 U.S. Code 402 note). The withheld information is exempt from automatic declassification in accordance with Sections 3.3(b)(3) and (6) of the Executive Order.

Since your request for declassification has been denied, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. Any person denied access to information may file an appeal to the NSA/CSS MDR Appeal Authority. The appeal must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days after the date of the denial letter. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the NSA/CSS MDR Appeal Authority (P133), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road, STE 6881, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6881. The appeal shall reference the initial denial of access and shall contain, in sufficient detail and particularity, the grounds upon which the requester believes the release of information is required. The NSA/CSS MDR Appeal Authority will endeavor to respond to the appeal within 60 working days after receipt of the appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake C. Barnes", followed by a horizontal line.

BLAKE C. BARNES  
Chief  
Declassification Services



Request ID: 0000812469

# UNCLASSIFIED TRANSMITTAL OF MATERIAL



Type: OMAL



Submitted: 20161018

<b>TO</b> MR. MICHAEL BEST MUCKROCK NEWS DEPT MR 25521 OR 23877 411A HIGHLAND AVE SOMERVILLE, MA 02144-2516 PHN#: NONE	<b>FROM (RETURN ADDRESS)</b> DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY 9800 SAVAGE ROAD FORT MEADE MARYLAND 20755-6000 ATTN: CERNE, PHYLLIS LOUISE SUITE: 6881	This transmittal may NOT be downgraded upon removal of the enclosure(s). This transmittal may be declassified upon removal of the enclosure(s).			
		<b>WRAPPED</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> D	<b>COMSEC</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<b>SUBMITTED</b> 20161018	
		<b>SHIPPING MODE</b> USPS - First Class		<b>PACKAGE CT</b> <b>1 of 1</b>	

LN#	UNCLASSIFIED TITLE/DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	QTY	TOT COST	MFG SERIAL#	BARCODE	CLASS. OF ITEM
1	NSA LETTER: MDR-84445, 18 OCT 2016, THE RASIN MANUALS.	1	0			UNCLASSIFIED

DESIG	ACCT	TYPE	PAS STATEMENT	APPROVAL
CPODIR	NO	NA	Not Applicable	

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS (UNCLASSIFIED)  
 MR. MICHAEL BEST.

REQUESTED BY	SIGNATURE	ORG	PHONE
CERNE, PHYLLIS LOUISE (PLCERNE)	<i>Phyllis L. Cerne</i>	P133	(301)688-7554

UNCLASSIFIED  
 DO NOT STAMP RECEIPT PORTION WITH CLASSIFICATION

**RECEIPT**  
 (Please sign and return immediately. Avoid tracer action)



Request ID: 0000812469

Type: OMAL

<b>RETURN TO</b> DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY 9800 SAVAGE ROAD FORT MEADE MARYLAND 20755-6000 ATTN: CERNE, PHYLLIS LOUISE SUITE: 6881	<b>FROM</b> MR. MICHAEL BEST MUCKROCK NEWS DEPT MR 25521 OR 23877 411A HIGHLAND AVE SOMERVILLE, MA 02144-2516 PHN#: NONE	Receipt is hereby acknowledged for the material or documents listed under this Request ID	
		SID (Typed or Printed)	DATE RECEIVED
		NAME (Typed or Printed)	
		SIGNATURES	