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June 15, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Your Administration has shown tremendous leadership in advancing transparency and providing the American people better access to their government's records. Consistent with these priorities, the Public Interest Declassification Board (the Board) writes to offer further declassification recommendations, responsive to a letter recently received from Congressman Scott Perry.

On April 13, 2026, the Board received a request from Congressman Perry to provide you with an assessment of the potential declassification and public release of the titles of a group of intelligence products from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). These products, 20 in total, were previously withdrawn from interagency circulation by CIA Director John Ratcliffe after an independent evaluation by the President's Intelligence Advisory Board (PIAB) found that they did not meet analytic tradecraft standards and lacked independence from political considerations.

In response to Congressman Perry's request, the Board conducted a declassification review of these intelligence products: three that have already been redacted in part and publicly released, as well as seventeen that presently remain fully classified. Pursuant to our statutory mandate under Section 703(b)(5) of the Public Interest Declassification Act, and in keeping with the Board's responsibility to weigh the public interest in disclosure against the need to protect legitimate national security equities, the Board provides the following recommendations for your consideration. An itemized list of the intelligence products, including titles, control numbers, and publication dates is enclosed to support these recommendations.

- **Declassify and Publicly Release the Titles of the CIA Intelligence Product**

The Board unanimously recommends declassifying and publicly releasing the titles of all 17 intelligence products that currently remain classified at the CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET level. Based on its review, the Board does not assess that disclosure of these titles would result in any damage to national security. Many of these titles, in fact, appear to have been inappropriately marked as Classified in the first instance.

- **Initiate a Formal Declassification Review of the Intelligence Product Contents**

The Board unanimously recommends that the CIA conduct a declassification review of the contents of the remaining 17 products. In its review, the Board recognized the sensitive nature of certain collection sources and methods underlying these assessments and acknowledged that some information may legitimately require continued protection in the interest of national security. Nevertheless, the Board believes that partial public release of these materials is feasible, and advisable in the public interest, following appropriate review.

More broadly, the Board's review of these intelligence products has reinforced its longstanding concern that overclassification remains a critical systemic challenge, and an area of inordinate ongoing risk for our government, obscuring the distinction between protecting legitimate national security interests and shielding institutions from public scrutiny.

These records reflect common agency practices, based on entrenched operational norms and cultural incentives, employing classification by default, inconsistent with the rules governing the protection of national security information. These decisions often seem small in isolation – like the overclassification of the title of a single intelligence product by a single analyst – but they create enormous downstream consequences: needless friction in the movement of essential information; and unsustainable costs for the staffing and technical infrastructure required to manage what are simply too many secrets. Along with these very real and continuing risks to our national security, comes a deeper erosion of the American public's trust in its government, which is the foundation from which our national security ultimately derives.

The Board applauds your Administration's unprecedented commitment to transparency and public access to historically valuable records. In the interest of promoting accountability, public access, and informed historical understanding while safeguarding national security, the Board respectfully submits these recommendations for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Ezra Cohen
Co-Vice Chair



Mark Angelson
Chair



Carter Burwell
Co-Vice Chair

Enclosure:

Intelligence Product Information

cc:

The Honorable Rick Crawford, Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
The Honorable Jim Hines, Ranking Member, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
The Honorable Scott Perry, U.S. House of Representatives
Adam Jones, Senior Director for Intelligence, National Security Council