



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20310
February 1, 1990

Honorable Patricia Schroeder
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schroeder:

This is in response to your recent letter to the Secretary of the Army, in which you requested a review of classified information concerning Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA).

Beginning in 1983, the Army initiated a \$1.8 billion lawsuit against Shell Oil Company arising out of Shell's activities as a lessee at RMA. During the discovery phase of this litigation, Shell requested the government release some information which was withheld due to its classification. In response to this request, the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans reviewed all pertinent classified documents at RMA for possible downgrading. The results of the review indicated that many documents could be regraded to unclassified and released. The actual results of the review are enclosed. At the same time, a number of engineering drawings related to the North Plants Area (GB Plant) at RMA were also reviewed. It was recommended that all of the plant engineering drawings be classified SECRET by compilation, even though, each by itself, was considered unclassified. The rationale for this action is discussed in Part D of the enclosure. This recommendation was consistent with Executive Order 12356, titled "National Security Information," and Army Regulation 380-86, titled "Classification of Chemical Warfare and Chemical and Biological Information."

With the current proliferation of chemical warfare capable countries, it is vitally important that this information be protected. Although the review of RMA classified material was conducted almost five years ago, it is still considered current. The Army periodically

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reviews all classified information for possible downgrading as specified in the Executive Order, other regulations and national security requirements. In the meantime, it is essential to maintain a close control of releasable information which could possibly assist terrorists or other third world nations seeking to acquire the "poor man's atom bomb."

"Project 112" was the 112th task of about 150 military tasks the Kennedy Administration presented as an immediate defense thrust. It resulted in a study of the potential of chemical and biological warfare considering all possible applications, including a detailed plan for the development of an adequate chemical and biological deterrent capability. This project is further discussed in the report, "U. S. Army Activity in the U. S. Biological Warfare Program," February 24, 1977, which was distributed to Congress. Copies were also released to the general public. Part of this project dealt with RMA and this information has been released. Most of Project 112 still remains classified even though it is nearly 30 years old. It contains information which is known only to the United States and could be useful in developing a complete program, thereby enhancing chemical and biological warfare capability proliferation.

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"Special Projects" was a Division at RMA responsible for the disposal of anticrop material. Records produced by the Special Projects Division are maintained in the Defense Technical Information Center data bases. A request has been received by RMA for some specific reports and that request is currently being processed to determine whether some or all of the reports may be released, in whole or in part, based on the above cited regulations and the Freedom of Information Act.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Susan Livingstone

Susan Livingstone
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Installations, Logistics & Environment)

Enclosure