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NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

225-3741

FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM B371-B
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

July 17, 1972

Mr. Leonard M. Siegel
Pacific Studies Center
1963 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

Dear Mr. Siegel:

This is in further response to your letter of May 25 and my response of June 16 in connection with the Technical Abstract Bulletin and the TAB Index.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter received from the Department of Defense in response to our inquiry. We would very much appreciate any comments or observations you care to make about statements contained in the letter before proceeding further in this matter.

Sincerely,



William G. Phillips
Subcommittee Staff Director

Enclosure



DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Mr. William G. Phillips
Subcommittee Staff Director
Foreign Operations and Government
Information Subcommittee
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am pleased to provide the following information per your request of June 14 in order to respond to Mr. Siegel's letter of May 25 to Mr. Moorhead.

Mr. Siegel's statement that the Technical Abstract Bulletin and its related indexes are now classified is correct. However, this action was taken only after a lengthy analysis which clearly showed that their continued availability as unclassified documents would be detrimental to national security.

Prior to classification, these documents were limited to Defense Documentation Center users. The attached newspaper clipping indicates, however, that this limitation on distribution was not effective.

After determining that the total compilation of technical abstracts and related indexes constitutes an excellent intelligence collection tool, despite the unclassified nature of most individual project abstracts, we decided to segregate all unclassified technical reports whose distribution to the general public was not otherwise restricted (e. g., reports containing proprietary information). These are processed through the Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service (NTIS), which announces and makes these reports available to the general public. By contrast, classified and limited distribution reports are announced in the Confidential Technical Abstract Bulletin and its related indexes which are restricted in their availability to those with the requisite security clearance.

We believe that this procedure provides a reasonable balance between our desire to make the maximum amount of DoD information available to the public and the need to protect certain types of information in the interest of national security. It should be further noted that this procedure is not unique to DoD. Both NASA and AEC publish both classified and unclassified announcements of their technical reports.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Gus D. Dorough

for John S. Foster, Jr.

Attachment
a/s

FROM CONFIDENTIAL GOV'T FILES

MEET YOUR LOCAL WAR CRIMINAL,
LOOK HIM UP IN T.A.B.

SPECIAL FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

Came across a publication recently which should prove to be invaluable for people interested in researching the activities of scientists engaged in research for the military. It's called the Technical Abstract Bulletin -- "TAB" to the military/scientific community.

It is published twice a month (on the 1st and 15th) by the Defense Documentation Center, the address of which is c/o Dr. Robert B. Stegmaier, Jr., (Administrator), Cameron Station, Alexandria, Va. 22314. But don't write him, unless you have an official "need to know," because TAB is not available to the general public.

If, however, you can inveigle your way around this "need to know" nicety, you'll find that the TAB is a comprehensive collection and index of all reports, interim and final, on defense contract research in 22 "subject fields" ranging from agriculture to space technology, and taking in every conceivable scientific field.

Item (verbatim):

AD-377 386 Fld. 15/2

GRACE (W R) AND CO CLARKSVILLE MD RESEARCH DIV RESEARCH ON NEW CONCEPTS FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF AGENTS FOR TUNNEL DENIAL

Final rept. May-Aut 66

by J. A. Cogliano, G.L. Braude, L.E. Campbell, E. W. Lard and M. Cock. 15 Nov 66 47 p. Rept. no. Res-66-114 Contract DA-18-035-AMC-747 (a) Proj. DA-1B522301A081

Confidential report

Distribution: No Foreign without approval of Commanding Officer, Edgewood Arsenal, Md. 21010. Attn: SMUEA-TSTI-F

Descriptors: (*Underground structures,

Non-lethal agents). (*Non-lethal agents. Dissemination). Army operations.

(TAB dated Jan. 13, 1967, page A46), Item:

AD-377 847 Fld. 15/7

RAND CORPORATION SANTA MONICA CALIF ALTERNATIVE 1970-72 USAF TACTICAL FORCE POSTURES IN MAJOR CONVENTIONAL WARS by Sorrel Wildhorn and H.M. Danant Dec 66 56p. Rept. no. RM-5206-PR Contract AF 49 (638)-1700

Secret report

Descriptors: (*Warfare, Tactical warfare). (*War games, Air Forces, Aircraft. Shelters. Effectiveness. Tactical Air Command. Defense systems. Diagrams. Landing Fields.

(TAB dated Feb. 15, 1967, page A47)

Item #1 is pretty clear. Researchers at the W.R. Grace Company, a big U.S. steamship line with a subsidiary called the Davison Chemical Company, have done research on how to use "agents" (probably chemical) to clear out a tunnel and deny its use. The five researchers are listed, as well as the date of the report.

Three of these researchers are listed in the Baltimore phone directory and are, presumably, available for (some sort of) comment. Edgewood Arsenal is the Army's chemical center. We leave it to your imagination to figure what this research project is all about. (Perhaps the five researchers are nicknamed the "tunnel rats" by their fellow researchers.)

Item #2. We don't have a Santa Monica phone book. Perhaps some West Coast partisans will track down Messers Wildhorn and Danant.

The Technical Abstract Bulletin is another intelligence source about the U.S. military. (1) It lists the research facility. (2) The title and "descriptors" suggest

the nature of the research. (3) The names of the researcher(s) provide a clear investigative avenue.

TAB is by no means definitive, but it does suggest, in addition, the staggering scope of defense research activities. This is important.

Item:

AD-378 399 Fld. 15/7

STANFORD RESEARCH INST MENLO PARK CALIF ALTERNATIVE COMMUNIST CHINA THREAT POSTURES AND ANNUAL COSTS, 1967-1985

Technical rept.

by M. B. Summers. May 66, 234 p. Rept. no SRI-TR-5205-15, SRI-5-2616 Contract DA-49-092-ARO-10, Proj. SRI-ETU-5205

Secret report

Restricted data

Distribution: No Foreign without approval of office, Chief of Research and Development, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C. 21301

Descriptors: (*China, War potential) (TAB dated March 1, 1967, page A71)

"Need to know" is a catchy phrase.

It should be obvious by now that there is a great "need to know" on the part of all United States citizens, not just the kept scientists, the whores of the military establishment, the "privileged few" who have sold their brains.

The Technical Abstract Bulletin is an excellent source from which to learn the direction(s) of military planning. The items listed here are only three out of literally thousands.

NOTE: We repeat -- the TAB is not available on your local newsstand. It is however, available (if you can ferrat it out) wherever defense research is being conducted. We stole ours.

Good hunting.

July 20, 1972

William G. Phillips
Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee
Committee on Government Operations
Rayburn House Office Building, Room B371-B
Washington, D.C.
20515

Dear Sir:

Thanks you for your letter of Jul 17. I appreciate that you followed up my inquiry.

It has often been said that the classification of documents does more to keep information from the American people than from external enemies of the United States. The MOD response to my inquiry seems to confirm this charge.

The enclosed clipping doesn't seem to have value to the North Vietnamese, who are fully aware that the US. is using tear gas in Vietnam. Yet apparently the Pentagon sees the domestic confirmation of activities charged by the North Vietnamese to endanger National Security.

Anti-war groups did use TAB to gather a great deal of material on Chemical and Biological Warfare. That material-- as well as research by television network--created public opposition to this otherwise unknown portion of American military preparedness. President Nixon, in cutting back biological warfare, recognized the validity of the opposition.

Many Pentagon officials believe that anything which restricts their activities endagger national security. I disagree. In a democracy, bringing truth to the people strengthens the nations

I hope you subcommittee will be able to pursue this item further. TAB does not contain technical information. It merely describes government activities. Super-secret projects are not listed. The public has a "need to know."

Thank you.

sincerely yours,

Leonard Siegel