

clearance and need-to-know, who follow guidelines laid down by the originating agencies, and then decide what can be released at this time versus what must be maintained as still classified. There is some grey area here where a document can be declassified with small deletions (names of people, perhaps) where these are only a small fraction of the document. So it's a painstaking procedure, and especially with intelligence files, one deals with a wide variety of subject matter. I finally determined at the end of June that Entry 267 had been reviewed. I notified Bill Moore and Jaime Shandera, who I had kept informed about my findings which also, incidentally, had included discovery that there was a 1948 Top Secret UFO document that had been released. There weren't many of those on UFOs that we had available to us. There was another TS document also released about the same time dealing with a sighting by United States Senator Richard Russell, on a trip to Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, Jaime and Bill had received postcards with provocative riddles on them. One of them was read to me on the phone, and we tried to puzzle out what it meant. It mentioned Reese's Pieces, a type of candy. It mentioned "Suitland," which I had also visited in March and is a repository for government files and sort of an annex of the National Archives itself. There were a number of things in the message which pointed toward it being a good idea for somebody to go to Washington. It should be stressed that the post cards were rather peculiar, with a sort of off-beat sense of humor. One of them had an address of "Box 189, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia," and was apparently mailed from New Zealand. This doesn't mean that somebody actually travelled to either Ethiopia or New Zealand. Obviously, a postcard can be put in a letter which is sent to somebody who is told to drop it in a mailbox. "Box 189," as it turned out, was significant.

What happened then was that in early July, 1985, Bill Moore and Jaime Shandera flew to Washington and started going through the boxes of Entry 267 that had just been reviewed. They found about 75 pages in the first 120 boxes that looked worth copying. The procedure is to make a list of the pages for copying, to put in a special sheet marking the place, and eventually the Archives mails the copies (and a bill of 35¢/page). It should be stressed that original documents cannot be removed from the Archives, cannot be damaged, destroyed, etc. They don't get borrowed. Thieves have on occasion "borrowed" papers with signatures of famous people, but that's an entirely different matter.

The standard procedure at the Archives is for the researcher to go into an area where the clerks or archivists bring a cart of Archive boxes. Different archives have different limits. In some places, the maximum number is 6 boxes, or 8, or 12, or 18. The Archive boxes are vertical boxes about 12 inches high and 6 inches deep with a hinged lid that opens, and a label on the end. Inside the box are file folders. At some archives there are finders' guides which list each individual file folder. At others, one might get a finders' guide that says "correspondence for a certain office, 1948 through 1952, 10 boxes," which isn't very helpful at all. Much of the material in Entry 267 of Air Force Record Group