

STATEMENT OF THOMAS H. BAER
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IWG
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The release of new materials from the Central Intelligence Agency we are announcing today is an extraordinary development in the annals of the Agency: the reversal of a 1999-2005 policy of thinly veiled noncompliance with the federal statutes creating IWG and binding all agencies of the government holding classified documents pertaining to Nazi and Japanese Imperial war crimes. Today, CIA is joining the other agencies of the Government in disclosing its Cold War operations utilizing Nazi war criminals, warts and all.

How did this reversal happen?

It happened because three vigilant members of Congress, the IWG staff and its Public Members made an ironclad case decrying CIA's misinterpretation of its obligations under law, resulting in newly appointed Director of Central Intelligence Porter Goss ordering full compliance and giving his approval to a two-year extension of IWG's mandate by Congress and the President.

The relevance of today's disclosures, and of those previously made, to the issues this Nation faces today is striking. To what extent, and under what circumstances, can our Government rely upon intelligence supplied by mass murderers and those complicit in their crimes? Where is the line between reliance and rejection to be drawn and who has the qualifications to draw that line? A reading of our disclosures will inform the answers to those questions for historians, for Members of Congress, for the executive, and for the American people.

We are now operating with the third Director of Central Intelligence in IWG's history. Fortunately, as Director of N.S.A., General Michael Hayden worked closely with our staff and with us to effectively disclose what had to be disclosed without jeopardizing the essential role played by that agency in safeguarding the United States. I hope and trust that he knows and appreciates our mission.

I commend the C.I.A. for making the disclosures it is making today.