

31 August 1981

*Classified Concept 31 Aug 81  
Removed*

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Fred Celek, State Department

LTC Celek requested that USAMIIA message 171800Z Aug 81 be modified so that it could be released on an unclassified basis. He suggested deletions which he felt would make the release appropriate. LTC Walker, MAJ Perry, Mr. Joseph Solomon, and Sharon Watson discussed the request and felt that it was ill-advised for several reasons:

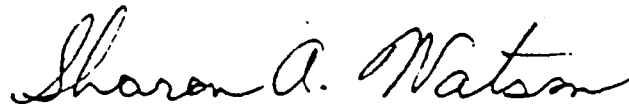
1. These results are based on the analysis of only one sample. Within the month, analyses of three additional samples will be completed which could provide corroborative evidence.

2. Before the possibility of natural occurrence can be entirely ruled out, results of analyses of normal flora samples from the region need to be screened. Although the levels found were very high (much higher than those reported to occur naturally), this type of background evidence is crucial.

3. The premature release of fragmentary information may jeopardize analysis of future samples since the researcher involved may recognize his work and resent the fact that he has been doing these analyses on a blind basis.

4. The premature release of this information could jeopardize the survey of normal flora sampling, since a logical response of the Soviets would be to insure that "natural" outbreaks occurred.

Despite these concerns, it was decided to release the information since we were told that it would break anyway with or without our permission. The information pertaining to specific analysis methods and other information which would identify researchers involved was removed at our recommendation.



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