

December 18, 2013

The Honorable James Clapper
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear General Clapper:

On behalf of the National Coalition for History and the organizations listed below we ask that you reconsider the decision that the ODNI Open Source Center (OSC) will cease providing information to the World News Connection as of December 31, 2013.

The information provided by the OSC to the World News Connection is a vital resource for the diverse stakeholders represented by our organizations including historians, archivists, political scientists, educators, students and researchers, librarians, journalists and interested members of the public.

The American public is already paying for the collection and compilation of these full text and summaries of newspaper articles, conference proceedings, television and radio broadcasts, periodicals, and non-classified technical reports. At a minimum, the U.S. government should expand public access to open source intelligence by publishing all unclassified, uncopyrighted Open Source Center products.

In the case of the WNC, we appreciate that copyright considerations are entailed and contracts must be made with the media source providers. We are also aware that NTIS is authorized (but not required in this instance) to charge fees for its products and services and to recover all costs through such fees "to the extent feasible." Subscribers are paying a substantial user fee to access the WNC, even though, according to an article published in *Secrecy News*, "the marginal costs of providing the additional feed to the (National Technical Information Service) NTIS are close to zero."

The Second Open Government National Action Plan released on December 6 by the White House stated, "The Obama Administration remains fully committed to building a 21-st Century Open Government and fundamentally improving the relationship between citizens and government. . ." In fulfillment of this commitment, we urge you to reverse this decision promptly before the feed is ended on December 31 and to provide open public access to all unclassified, uncopyrighted OSC products.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lee White, Executive Director of the National Coalition for History at 202-544-2422, x-116 or lwhite@historycoalition.org.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression
American Historical Association
Association for Documentary Editing
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Federation of American Scientists
Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference
National Coalition for History
National Council on Public History
National Security Archive
National Security Counselors
OpenTheGovernment.org
Organization of American Historians
Progressive Librarians Guild
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
Society for Military History
Society of American Archivists