

Executive Order
10-49796

card

16 AUG 1958

Alice
June
Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]

Mr. J. Walter Yeagley, Chairman
Interdepartmental Committee on
Internal Security
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Yeagley:

ILLEGIB

As requested in your letter of 23 June 1958, we have examined the operation of the Agency's program for the implementation of Executive Order 10501, with specific reference to unnecessary classification and overclassification.

As mentioned previously in our letter of 30 March 1956, we do not believe that unnecessary classification presents a problem. While it is necessary to classify a considerable amount of our administrative type information, this situation has been alleviated to some degree through the use of control statements. For example, classification of several administrative type documents has been reduced by limiting their dissemination to "CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY". Also, a policy has been established prohibiting the classification of translations of unclassified documents or publications unless classified evaluations are included with them.

Overclassification, as stated in our previous letter, has been a problem and has caused some difficulties--these difficulties being largely attributed to the use of a SECRET stamp when CONFIDENTIAL would have been sufficient. We have been trying to correct this situation through a process of education, and through the exercise of adequate classification controls. Newly appointed officers and staff type personnel are given a thorough briefing in classification criteria. For older employees, a lecture on classification procedures has been instituted in certain training courses. As a result of these actions, it is felt that considerable improvement has been made in the use of realistic classifications throughout the Agency. One example, worthy of note, is the drop in the number of TOP SECRET documents relating to operational matters, most of which are of CIA origin. In 1955, there were [] documents processed through our TOP SECRET control procedures; in 1956, there were [] and in 1957, there were [] A further drop in 1958 is anticipated.

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With respect to other actions taken by this Agency, we believe that our letter of 30 March 1956 adequately sets forth our experience and practices and there have been no subsequent developments which would warrant further comments.

I will be happy to designate a representative to meet with your Committee to furnish further details or information, should you find it desirable.

Sincerely,

Signed

Allen W. Dulles
Director

OS/ [redacted] :tjs(6 Aug 58)
Retyped:DD/S:CEB;bjf (15 Aug 58)
Distribution:

- Orig & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - DCI - Files
- ✓ 1 - ER *was reading*
- 1 - DDCI - Files
- 1 - AD/CR
- 1 - C/RI
- 1 - PS/OS Files w/basis
- 1 - PS/OS Chrono (w/held)
- 3 - DD/S Chrono, Subject, Reading

CONCUR:

[redacted]

L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

Approved For Release 2003/05/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001000120013-6
DATE 6/27/58

TO: **DD/S**

ROOM NO. **126** BUILDING **East**

REMARKS:
**For preparation of reply for
DCI's signature.**

*ER 10-4979
ltr to DCI from
J. Walter Yeagley
... implementation of E.O. 10501*

FROM: [Redacted]

ROOM NO. [Redacted] BUILDING [Redacted] EXTENSION [Redacted]

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File ER

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Executive Registry
-7-8539/1

Carroll
Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee
on Internal Security
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

JAN 26 1956

STAT

Dear Mr. Yeagley:

Chris
Kitty *KW* *Ed* *filed*
all 4/16/56

This is in response to your letter of January 26, 1956 requesting comments and suggestions on proposed changes to Executive Order 10501. Before commenting on these proposed changes, I believe a little background information on some of the problems the Central Intelligence Agency has encountered in downgrading and declassifying material might be helpful.

During the latter part of 1955 we conducted a survey of these major components producing completed intelligence reports to determine what would be gained by reviewing these reports for the purpose of downgrading or declassification. The survey disclosed that in practically every instance, completed intelligence reports cited classified individual document sources. To review completed intelligence reports, therefore, would first require a review of the cited individual documents.

The problem is further complicated by the fact that in such a review, the controlling factor in most instances is the protection of intelligence sources and methods rather than the substantive content. As you probably are aware, there were many intelligence reports originated during World War II that are still held in a classified status because of the necessity of protecting the sources. Furthermore, the fact that a series of intelligence documents represents the completion of a particular collection effort does not in many instances warrant a declassification or downgrading. The specific operation through which this particular information was obtained may still be active or working on other collection requirements.

Over and above these considerations on intelligence studies and reports, CIA is faced with an additional security problem in that practically all of its administrative information, particularly that concerning organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries and numbers of personnel employed must be carried in a classified category. This near

E/R via Reading

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classification. Compliance with the admonition of Section 3 that "unnecessary classification and over-classification shall be scrupulously avoided" is carried out through the Agency's classification control network which provides a continuing review of classification procedures and practices, including training and guidance on a current basis.

Should you desire any further details or information on this important subject, I shall be glad to designate a representative to meet with your Committee.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

C. P. CARRIL
Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

OS/ [] skh
Rewritten: SA-DD/S: [] DLC (20 Mar 66)

- Distribution:
- Orig. & 1 - addressee
 - ✓ 2 - DCI *w/ basis*
 - 1 - AD/CR
 - 1 - Chief, FI Staff
 - 1 - PS/OS *w/ basis*
 - 1 - DD/S chrono
 - 1 - DD/S subject

CONCUR: *22 March*

[]

fr L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

Col. Edwards
has concurred
in this letter

[]

Second page changed: A/PC: ji

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is recognized in Section VII of Public Law 110, 81st Congress, 1st Session (1949) which exempts the Agency from the provisions of any other law requiring the publication or disclosure of this type of administrative information.

I would like to emphasize, however, that the foregoing does not prevent a continuing review of classified material falling into certain categories such as correspondence, general administrative letters and memoranda, and a few specific types of periodic publications; namely, those which do not cite sources. Automatic downgrading stamps have been and are being used widely in permissive instances. The Agency classification control network has been established to control the application of original classifications and to perform the function of reviewing classified material for the purpose of downgrading or declassification. Guidance on a continuing basis is furnished to the control network by the CIA Classification Control Officer and also through the medium of Agency regulatory material.

The following comments are offered on your two specific suggestions:

1. Revision of EO 10501 to provide for an annual review of material for declassification purposes appears desirable provided certain types of ~~defense~~ information which retain their sensitivity for a long period of time be exempted. ~~This exempted material would include intelligence studies, reports and other documents, material disclosing intelligence plans and operations and information showing the intelligence organization, personnel, etc.]~~ A requirement calling for an annual review of this type material would, in our opinion, impose on this Agency a costly and time-consuming administrative workload. It is recognized that this reasoning may not apply to other agencies.

2. Revision of EO 10501 to incorporate a broader method of automatic downgrading or declassification than that permitted by Section 4(a) would, in our opinion, tend to result in a compromise of intelligence sources and methods. I am sure you recognize the utmost importance we place upon the protection of this type of information.

With respect to unnecessary classification and over-classification, the former has presented no problem. We have, however, encountered certain difficulties with over-classification. In many of the cases reviewed a CONFIDENTIAL classification would have been sufficient rather than a SECRET

pertain to the national security

without expectation of discovering much declassification material

*This page changed
not typed - a/pcc*

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE ACTING DIRECTOR

The Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security is considering revision of Section 4 of Executive Order 10501. Section 4 deals with downgrading and declassification of classified material.

The Committee requested CIA's comments, with particular reference to two specific proposals:

Proposal 1: A required annual review of all classified documents for declassification purposes.

Proposal 2: Incorporation of a broader method of automatic downgrading or declassification.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The attached proposed reply gives background information on problems encountered in downgrading and declassifying material, with special emphasis on the protection of intelligence sources and methods. It recommends Proposal 1 exempt certain types of material which retain their sensitivity over a long period of time and recommends against Proposal 2.

Recommend signature.



for L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

22 March
(DATE)

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Approved For Release 2003/05/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001000120013-6

22 *Frank*

(Date)

TO:

BUILDING

ROOM NO.

REMARKS:

Jack - This is the letter I mentioned this morning that should be mailed before Monday - It has been rewritten for Gen Cabell's signature. J.F.H.

FROM:

BUILDING

ROOM NO.

EXTENSION

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5 March

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM
Approved For Release 2003/05/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001000120013-6
UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | INITIALS | DATE |
|----|------------------|----------|--------|
| 1 | Mr. Kirkpatrick | [] | 36 Jan |
| 2 | Col. Edwards | | 1 Feb. |
| 3 | Chief PS/OS | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|----------------|
| ACTION | | DIRECT REPLY | 2 | PREPARE REPLY |
| APPROVAL | | DISPATCH | | RECOMMENDATION |
| COMMENT | | FILE | | RETURN |
| CONCURRENCE | 1 | INFORMATION | | SIGNATURE |

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Remarks:

3 - Preparation of reply for DCI signature.

Suspense - 12 March
12 March - State & [] who
agrees to an indefinite extension
say until 19 March JH

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FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | DATE |
| 229 Admin Bldg. | 30 Jan 56 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | SECRET |

STAT

Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security

3527 Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C.

7-8539

January 26, 1956

ICIS-PL7/178

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Section 4 of Executive Order 10501 states "Heads of departments or agencies originating classified material shall designate persons to be responsible for continuing review of such classified material for the purpose of declassifying or downgrading it whenever national defense considerations permit and for receiving requests for such review from all sources. Formal procedures shall be established to provide specific means for prompt review of classified material and its declassification or downgrading in order to preserve the integrity of the classification system and to eliminate accumulation of classified material which no longer requires protection in the defense interest"

Based on a recent study of the implementation of E.O. 10501, the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security has found that the over-all implementation and status of the program contemplated by Section 4 of the Executive Order leaves much to be desired. Satisfactory implementation of Section 4 apparently has been extremely difficult not only because of the tremendous volume of classified material on hand but also because personnel and budget restrictions often have been of such a nature as to severely handicap a paper-by-paper review.

To accord with the intent of the preamble of the Executive Order, to preserve the integrity of the classification system and to avoid excessive costs in the handling and safeguarding of classified information, it is necessary that the declassification program contemplated by Section 4 be effected to the maximum extent possible. To this end this letter is being sent to all agencies of the Executive Branch which have original classifying authority and therefore a responsibility for declassification under Section 4.

This Committee requests that your agency, on the basis of experience to date with respect to Section 4, forward such suggestions, observations, and comments, that in the opinion of your agency will assist you in achieving effective declassification of previously classified material. Your suggestions and observations need not be

limited in any sense and may relate to methods, procedures, revision of the Order, or to any other matter that may assist in the declassification program. If any suggestions contemplate the need for additional personnel, such need should be clearly indicated and the number of additional personnel estimated as accurately as possible. All such suggestions will be used as the basis for such proposed revision of the Order or other action as appears appropriate.

Two suggested changes in the Order are set forth below and your comments, including the practicability of administration in your agency, are earnestly solicited:

1. Revision of E.O. 10501 to provide that as each individual officer or employee is delegated authority to originally classify defense information he be given the additional responsibility of reviewing on a yearly basis for declassification purposes each and every document classified by him. Further, that each agency be required to review a fixed percentage of all previously classified information on a yearly basis until the over-all review has been completed.

(Please include in your observations the fixed percentage that your agency could reasonably review in one year.)

2. Revision of E.O. 10501 to incorporate a broader method of automatic downgrading or declassification than that permitted by Section 4(a). Specifically, that all information classified "Confidential" shall automatically become declassified after a stated period of time unless within that period positive steps are taken to continue the "Confidential" classification beyond such period. Similarly, automatic declassification or downgrading to the next lower classification would apply to all "Secret" and "Top Secret" information at the end of greater specified periods. Exceptions to this policy would be made for certain types of defense information such as personnel files, intelligence reports, defense plans, etc. It would be useful if you would include in your observations, (a) the period of time material classified as "Confidential", "Secret" and "Top Secret" should remain classified respectively before declassification or downgrading becomes automatic, and (b) any other types of defense information that should be excepted.

Related to the problem of declassification is the extent of unnecessary classification and over-classification. You are requested to advise to what extent, if any, unnecessary classification and over-classification of information has been noted in your agency. You are requested also to advise what steps have been taken to comply with the admonition of Section 3 that "unnecessary classification and over-classification shall be scrupulously avoided." This is desired in order that the Committee may determine the extent to which unnecessary classification or over-classification burdens the declassification program.

Your response to this letter is requested within 60 days from the date hereof. Following receipt, it is contemplated that where desirable or necessary to secure further details your agency will be invited to designate representatives to meet with the ICIS Subcommittee. Accordingly, it is requested that all suggestions made be set forth in considerable detail.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



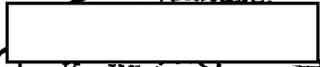
J. Walter Yeagley
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee
on Internal Security

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

The attached proposed letter to Mr. J. Walter Yeagley, Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS), is in response to his request for our comments concerning the extent and seriousness of unnecessary classification and overclassification of documents in the Agency.

This request stems from a requirement levied upon the ICIS by the National Security Council that a continuous review be conducted of the implementation of Executive Order 10501 to insure that classified defense information is properly safeguarded.

Recommend signature.


L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

AUG 15 1958

 (DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

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