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(CLASSIFICATION)

Executive negative
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ACTION MEMORANDUM

[Handwritten signature]

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Action Memorandum No. A-125
Date 31 January 1963

TO : Director of Security
THRU : Deputy Director (Support)
SUBJECT :

REFERENCE:

1. I am appalled at the number of people in the Agency authorized to carry firearms. I had received information previously from an external source that the city fathers of the District of Columbia were about to raise this issue. This was what prompted my request for information as to Agency activities in this regard.
2. In looking over the list, I see some names (and perhaps there are many more) in which the justification for our authorization is at least marginal. As I understand the law, we are authorized to designate certain couriers and guards to carry firearms "when engaged in transportation of confidential documents and materials." To me this means exactly that -- and I cannot see how we would have as many as 250 people running around carrying confidential documents all at the same time. I can see where we might need a reasonable number of couriers who do nothing but courier duties. I can see a need for a reasonable number of security officers to carry firearms as well. I can see a mandatory requirement for these people to be fully qualified to use their weapons at all times. I do not object to an individual carrying firearms and credentials therefor during the period in which he is actually transporting documents, or performing security missions. I do object, and strenuously, to our personnel having credentials and being authorized to carry firearms at their discretion.
3. It would seem, therefore, that a comprehensive review is now indicated to ensure that only that limited number of personnel really needed to perform

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our functions in these areas are authorized credentials and the authority to carry firearms as a matter of routine procedure. Any others which might possibly be justified on occasion should have their credentials and their firearms sequestered in the Office of Security and draw them and return them as needed for a particular mission. Even these officers must be periodically checked out in their capacity to perform with firearms.

4. Please conduct such a review as a matter of urgency (the timing of my urgency is based in particular on current District of Columbia activities) and come back to me as soon as you can with the results of your review. If you need any further guidance, come talk to me without delay.

SIGNED

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

P. S. I presume this total number is world-wide, although the same criteria should obtain.

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MSC:blp

Distribution:

Original - Director of Security via DD/S

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