

62-8047

31 October 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

SUBJECT : Declassification of Intelligence for Public Release
Purposes

1. This office recently suggested to the DDCI that the following measures might help to safeguard against revelation of intelligence sources and methods resulting from declassification of intelligence for public release purposes. The DDCI directed that appropriate action should be taken.

a. Refer to the DCI any outside requests for declassification as already directed by the DDCI.

b. Education: A paper should be prepared to alert those concerned to the dangers of imprudent declassification. This paper should be hard hitting and cite specific examples of where damage has been done.

c. Damage Assessment Procedure: The purpose here would be to call to the attention of those concerned on a continuing basis that almost always, when intelligence is declassified for public release, the U. S. Government pays a price in revealing sources and methods. The damage assessment would explain in understandable terms what this price is so that persons seeking declassification for this purpose would be reminded that they are not getting something for nothing.

d. Memorandum or notice clearly outlining the Agency responsibilities and policies concerning declassification.

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2. I suggest the Security Committee of USIB review how best to carry out the problem of "education" mentioned in 1b above.

3. Please let me know what procedure you suggest for Damage Assessment. I am aware that the Security Committee already takes some action along these lines.

4. I would like your views as to the most efficient means of complying with 1d. Perhaps the action suggested in paragraph 5 below will effectively do the job. I suggest we formalize in the same directive action mentioned in 1a above.

5. As a further suggestion I would like you to look into the possibility of issuance of a new DCID dealing with this whole problem. Even though Executive Order 10501 touches on this subject, the matter of declassification of information for public release is not set forth in any NSCID or DCID. I have noted that the President's memorandum of 29 June 1960 and agreed guidance treats with this subject. However, in order to insure that proper coordination and due consideration are given to protect intelligence sources and methods, we should seriously consider a DCID to this end.

6. Please keep me advised of your recommendations and actions in the above matters.

O/ExecDir :kg

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Executive Director

Distribution

Original - Addressee

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