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OGC 75-3917
24 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: NSSM 229 Members

SUBJECT : New Developments on NSSM 229

1. A NSC Staff representative advises that the NSC hopes now to launch the NSSM 229 work, formally, next week or the following. It was indicated that the hope is to have an initial meeting at the "top level" of NSSM 229 delegates and thereafter to proceed with representatives at the so-called working level.

2. At the ICRC Meeting there was some discussion, initiated by the DOD representative, of problems caused by the use of control markings on classified documents other than those prescribed by the regulation and the NSC directive. For example, DOD receives from other agencies documents marked "Secret/ Sensitive." DOD does not know the intention of the originating departments in using the word "Sensitive." DOD is preparing for ICRC consideration a paper, possibly an ICRC letter to member agencies enjoining against the use of markings controlling classifying documents other than those prescribed by the Executive order. It is likely that the paper will also deal with such terms as "Eyes Only" and perhaps others. It was specifically recognized at the ICRC Meeting that compartmentation systems and specific control words for documents within such systems are authorized and DOD has no problem with those.

3. The CIA group on NSSM 229 may want to consider this item in anticipation that ICRC may make a suggestion to the Scowcroft group. I am inclined to think that it is well worth looking at the question generally. What markings other than those prescribed by the Executive order and NSC directive and for compartmentation systems should be used in conjunction with markings required for a classified document? If any such markings are desirable, should they not be prescribed by the Executive order for use by all departments?

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