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INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

Information falling within one or more of the categories set forth below may be classified if its disclosure reasonably could be expected to cause at least identifiable damage to the national security. These criteria are designed to aid in the identification of information produced by or for the Intelligence Community and its component elements which information is believed to require classification protection. Intelligence Community agencies should advise the DCI Security Committee of any information which does not meet any of these criteria but which they believe requires classification protection.

a. Military Plans, Weapons, or Operations

(1) Intelligence Information concerning foreign military intentions, capabilities, or activities.

(2) Information that could reveal the extent or degree of success achieved by the United States in the collection of intelligence information on and assessment of foreign military plans, weapons, capabilities, or operations.

b. Foreign Government Information

(1) Intelligence information provided to the United States by any element of a foreign government, or international organization of governments, with the explicit or implicit understanding that the information is to be kept in confidence. This includes information revealing past, present, or proposed joint intelligence activities or facilities involving the United States or the nature thereof in foreign countries.

(2) Intelligence information produced by the United States, whether unilaterally or jointly, with a foreign government or international organization of governments, pursuant to an arrangement with any element of such government

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or organization evidenced by an exchange of letters, memorandum of understanding, or other written record and requiring that the information, the arrangement itself, or both be kept in confidence.

c. Intelligence Activities, Sources, or Methods

(1) Information that could reveal or identify a present, past, or prospective intelligence source, whether a person, organization, group, technical system, mechanism, device, or any other means or instrument that provides, has provided, or is being developed to provide foreign intelligence or foreign counterintelligence.

(2) Information which could reveal or identify a present, past, or prospective intelligence method, procedure, mode, technique, or requirement used or being developed to acquire, transmit, analyze, correlate, evaluate, or process foreign intelligence or foreign counterintelligence or to support an intelligence source, operation, or activity.

(3) Information not officially released that could disclose the organizational structure of an Intelligence Community agency; the numbers and assignments of such agency's personnel; the size and composition of the budget for such agency or for all or any part of the National Foreign Intelligence Program; logistical and associated support activities and services; security procedures, techniques, and activities including those applicable to the fields of communications and data processing; or other quantitative or qualitative data that could reveal or indicate the nature, objectives, requirements, priorities, scope or thrust of any such agency activities, including the missions, functions and locations of such agency components or installations as are under any form of cover.

(4) Information that could disclose the identities of Intelligence Community agency personnel operating under cover or of code designations used to protect such personnel or intelligence sources, methods, and activities.

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(5) Information not officially released that could reveal the identity, number, location, character, or skills of personnel covered under agreements between an Intelligence Community agency and other agencies of the United States Government, elements of foreign governments, or other entities.

(6) Information pertaining to contractual relationships with private individuals, commercial concerns, or nongovernmental institutions and entities when such a relationship involves a specific intelligence interest, or reveals the extent or depth of knowledge or technical expertise possessed by an Intelligence Community agency, or when disclosure of the relationship could jeopardize the contractor's willingness or ability to provide services to such agency.

(7) Information pertaining to intelligence-related methodologies, techniques, formulae, equipment, programs or models, including computer simulations, ranging from initial requirements through planning, source acquisition, contract initiation, research, design, and testing to production, personnel training, and operational use.

(8) Information that could identify research, procedures, or data used in the acquisition and processing of foreign intelligence or counterintelligence or the production of finished intelligence, when such identification could reveal a particular intelligence interest, the value of the intelligence, or the extent of knowledge of a particular subject of intelligence or counterintelligence interest.

(9) Information that could disclose criteria and procedures for the handling of critical intelligence that could affect the national security of the United States or its allies and that requires the immediate attention of senior officials.

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(10) Information that could reveal, jeopardize, or compromise a cryptographic device, procedure, or system, or intelligence data resulting from the employment of such a device, procedure, or system, or the sites, facilities, systems, and technologies used or proposed for use in the collection, interpretation, evaluation, or dissemination of signals intelligence.

(11) Information that could reveal, jeopardize, or compromise a technical or mechanical device, procedure or system used or proposed for the collection of intelligence information, or the sites, facilities, equipment, systems, operational schedules and technologies used or proposed for use in such collection or in the interpretation, evaluation and dissemination of collected information.

(12) Information pertaining to training in intelligence sources, methods, and activities provided to individuals, organizations, or groups that could reveal or identify equipment, materials, training sites, methods and techniques of instruction, or the identities of students and instructors.

(13) Information not officially released that could disclose Intelligence Community agency policies and procedures used for personnel recruitment, assessment, selection, training, assignment, and evaluation.

d. Foreign Relations or Foreign Activities of the United States

(1) Intelligence information that, if disclosed, could lead to foreign political, economic, or military action against the United States or other nations.

(2) Intelligence information that, if revealed, could create, stimulate, or increase international tensions in such manner as to impair the conduct of United States foreign policies.

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(3) Information that could identify or otherwise disclose intelligence agency activities conducted or planned abroad in support of national foreign policy objectives, and planned and executed so that the role of the United States Government is not apparent or acknowledged publicly; or information that could reveal support provided to such activities.

(4) Information that could reveal that the United States has obtained, or seeks to obtain, certain data or materials of intelligence interest from or concerning a foreign nation, organization, or group when the disclosure of such effort could adversely affect United States relations with or activities in a foreign country.

(5) Intelligence information that, if disclosed, could lead to political or economic instability, or to civil disorder or unrest, in a foreign country or could jeopardize the lives, liberty, or property of United States citizens residing in or visiting such a country or could endanger United States Government personnel or installations there.

e. Scientific, Technological, or Economic Matters Relating to the National Security

(1) Intelligence information that provides the United States with a scientific, technical, engineering or economic advantage of value to the national security.

(2) Information concerning research of a scientific or technical nature leading to the development of special techniques, procedures, equipment and equipment configurations, or systems, and their use in the collection or production of foreign intelligence or foreign counterintelligence.

(3) Information dealing with the research and development, operational planning, deployment, or use of scientific and technical devices, equipment, or techniques used for intelligence purposes by an Intelligence Community agency jointly with, or through the cooperation of, other United States or foreign commercial, institutional, or governmental entities.

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f. United States Government Programs for Safeguarding Nuclear Materials or Facilities

Information on foreign nuclear programs, activities, capabilities, technologies, facilities, plans and intentions, weapons and their deployment that could disclose the nature, scope, or effectiveness of United States intelligence efforts to monitor nuclear developments abroad or could cause such efforts to fail or be restricted in a manner detrimental to national security.

g. Other Categories of Information Related to National Security and Determined by an agency head to Require Protection Against Unauthorized Disclosure

(1) Information the release of which could be expected to place an individual in immediate jeopardy.

(Other categories may be added later.)

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