

CONFIDENTIAL

SENT TO: USRO/ST Paris  
SUBJECT: Classification of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents  
REFERENCE: POLTO A-307

1. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the reference despatch, the Department is sending a circular instruction to interested posts notifying them of COCOM action on downclassification and authorizing the general rule of "confidential" classification for EXCON messages which was set forth conditionally in the final sentence of [redacted] of June 13, 1955, subject to exceptional cases where higher classification is warranted., e.g. CAS

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reports  
classified Secret  
that are  
laterally  
disseminated  
in the field.

2. With respect to paragraph 6 of the reference despatch, Washington agrees that the USDEL should recommend formal downgrading of the China Special List and the old International Lists.

3. With respect to paragraph 5 of the reference despatch, it is not planned to make a further review of the partially downgraded documents in question because of the recent date of the security review, unless the USDEL considers that the failure to downgrade in toto certain of the documents in question is proving to be an obstacle to the general rule of "confidential" classification.

**State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file**

ITR:ECD:RBWright:fej  
12/1/55

Cleared with: ICA/MDAC - Mr. Tilson  
Defense - Mr. Martino  
Commerce - Mr. George  
- Mr. Garrett  
EUR/RA - Mr. Buckle

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Approved For Release 2001/03/02 : CIA-RDP62-00328A000100510087-5

CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION

Subject: Classification of EXCON Communications

EXCON

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References:

[REDACTED]  
COCOM Document 2045  
COCOM Document 2083  
COCOM Document 1901, Annex B

1. The reference instruction indicated that the addressee posts would be notified when agreement had been reached in COCOM to accept a US-proposed list of key documents for downgrading from "secret" to "confidential". Agreement has been reached as of November 3, 1955 on such a list of documents; the list is set forth in COCOM Document 2045 as amended by Document 2083, and appears in its authorized version as Annex B to COCOM Document 1901. Posts maintaining files of COCOM documents may take note of the downclassification of specified documents as may be appropriate for their purpose.

2. COCOM agreement upon a key group of downclassified documents means that a general rule of "confidential" classification for future documents and for EXCON communications will now prevail. EDAC and ACEP committee documentation will follow a general rule of "confidential" to the maximum extent possible. classification/ The addressee posts should now operate on the presumption that all EXCON messages meriting classification will be "confidential" rather than "secret", subject to exceptional cases where higher classification is warranted, such as "secret" [REDACTED] disseminated laterally in the field.

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ITR:ECD:REwright:fej  
12/1/55

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RA - Mr. Buckle

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Paris

POLTO A - 307

Nov 10, 1955

WASHINGTON

EXCON

SUBJ: Security Classification CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents

REFS: (A) POLTO A-207 to Washington, Sept 30;  
(B) COCOM Doc 2045, pouched Oct 3;  
(C) Forthcoming COCOM Doc 2083;  
(D) TOPOL A-19, Aug 1.

1. As indicated in Ref C, COCOM on Nov 3, with certain exceptions, unanimously accepted the Ref B US proposals for downgrading 82 "basic" Committee documents from "Secret" to "Confidential." The agreement was final, i.e., not subject to any reservation period. The COCOM Secretariat will issue the list of downgraded documents as an annex to Doc 1901, which is the Committee's general agreement on security classification. The 10 documents not agreed for downgrading are listed in Para 3 below.

2. USDEL believes that the action taken will substantially achieve the aim (Ref D) of permitting the overwhelming majority of future Committee documents and related EXCON communications to be classified "Confidential." However, under the agreed Committee rules, delegates are still free to request a higher (or lower) classification for individual records of discussion which they believe to merit treatment other than "Confidential" and also to submit memoranda with classifications other than "Confidential."

3. The German delegate, with the Chair's support, objected to partial downgrading of individual documents, on the grounds that it would cause administrative inconvenience. The German delegate also objected to the downgrading of COCOM Doc 1426.01/8 (bearings) and to paragraph 72 of CG Paper XIV (shipping). Therefore, the following documents in the Ref B US proposal will retain the "Secret" classification.

JCM:erson:mmd  
10 Nov. 1955

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Consultative Group paper XIV	COCOM Document 1643
Consultative Group paper XII	COCOM Document 1426.01/8
COCOM Document 565	COCOM Document 1614.00/1
COCOM Document 777	COCOM Document 1614.00/3
COCOM Document 1475	COCOM Document 1614.00/5

4. While some of the documents mentioned in the preceding paragraph may be of some importance for current work, for example, those on shipping and CG paper XII, which includes the listing criteria, USDEL still believes that this will not unduly hamper the aim of having "Confidential" classifications on current material, including shipping and item matters. USDEL has asked other delegations, at their convenience, informally to let us know whether, apart from Doc 1426.01/8, para 72 of CG paper XIV, and the other portions specified as "Secret" by the US, they had any substantive objection to downgrading the above documents.

5. As mentioned in the initial US submission on this subject (Ref B), USDEL has informed the Committee that further downgrading proposals might be forthcoming in the future. If, as a result of further study, Washington finds it possible to recommend downgrading in toto for all or some of the documents originally recommended for partial downgrading, that would appear most useful.

6. USDEL notes that the original list of documents for downgrading received from Washington (Ref D, attachment), did not specifically mention the China Special List, or the old International Lists, i.e., Docs 182, 183, 184, Docs 358.1, .2, .3 and 700.1, .2, .3, with annexes and amendments. However, since it did include the China Consolidated List which duplicates the substantive coverage (but not the wording in all cases) of both the old International Lists and the China Special List, USDEL assumes that there is no objection to treating the latter as "Confidential." Confirmation of this point would be appreciated. If Washington has no objection, USDEL believes it would be worthwhile to recommend formal downgrading of the China Special List and the old International Lists.

7. USDEL assumes that the Department will inform all interested Missions of the downgrading action taken by COCOM as well as supplying any further guidance (if necessary) on classifying EXCON communications.

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