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October 9, 1950

Lt. General Walter B. Smith
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

In Executive Order 9835, dated March 21, 1947, the President directed the now defunct Security Advisory Board to draft rules applicable to the handling and transmission of confidential documents and other documents and information which should not be publicly disclosed.

A preliminary draft of minimum standards for the handling and transmission of classified information was circulated among various agencies of the Government by the Board. However, submission to the President of the final and revised draft was deferred upon the advice of the Bureau of the Budget. The minimum standards continued to be held in suspension and the Security Advisory Board was dissolved.

On September 27, 1950, the ICIS approved the enclosed draft entitled "Regulations Establishing Minimum Standards for the Handling and Transmission of Classified Information in Executive Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government," dated September 14, 1950. The draft was prepared by the ICIS Subcommittee on the Protection of Classified Government Data which consists of representatives from the Departments of Defense, Justice, State and Commerce and an Observer from the Bureau of the Budget.

The ICIS would appreciate receiving whatever comments your agency may have on the above draft and for your convenience, in this regard I am enclosing five copies. It would be further appreciated if such comments could be received by October 17, since it is expected that a special meeting will be held on October 19 for the purpose of approving submission of the minimum standards to the National Security Council.

Your cooperation in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond P. Whearty
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on
Internal Security