

20 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Executive Order 11652 — "Classification and Declassification of National Security Information and Material"

Executive Order 11652, approved on 8 March 1972 and effective 1 June 1972, replaces and revokes Executive Order 10501, as amended, which had been the basic regulation in the field of protection of national security information since it was issued in 1953. Issuance of the new Order was the culmination of a prolonged study of the problem of protecting national security information by an interdepartmental committee (which included CIA representation) initiated by the President in early 1971. The purposes of the study were to recommend controls which would improve the protection of national security information, avoid overclassification of such information, and accomplish prompt and systematic declassification. The basic features of E.O. 11652 are:

A. The definitions of the three categories of national security information — "Top Secret", "Secret" and "Confidential" — are broadened. "National security information" is broadened.

B. National security information is to be protected in accordance with directives to be issued by the President acting through the National Security Council, which directives are to conform to certain policies prescribed by the Order. (A working draft of a NSC directive has been received by the Agency for comment.) The Order itself does not otherwise limit access or provide for physical protection. The "third agency" rule is not retained in the new Order.

C. The authority to classify information is delegated to certain specified officials.

D. Specific rules for classifying information are prescribed.

E. All information classified under the new Order becomes declassified automatically on the passage of certain time periods (General Declassification Schedule), but agency heads are authorized to exempt from automatic declassification certain information, including information "pertaining to cryptography, or disclosing intelligence sources or methods." Use of this "exemption authority shall be kept to the absolute minimum consistent with national security requirements." Information so exempted is subject to other declassification rules. Declassification of information classified under E. O. 10501 also is to be declassified in accordance with indicated requirements. In addition, the directives to be issued by the President acting through the National Security Council, are to require that classified material is to be reviewed on a systematic basis and, where national security interests permit, declassified or downgraded earlier than is required by the General Declassification Schedule.

F. An Interagency Classification Review Committee is established, and its work prescribed, to assist the National Security Council to monitor the implementation of the Order. Also, each department or agency head is to designate a senior official to "ensure effective compliance with and implementation of this order" and to chair a Departmental Committee to oversee the administration of the Order within the department.

G. Disciplinary action is required in the case of violations.

H. The Order is effective 1 June 1972. The working draft copy of the NSC directive also would be effective 1 June 1972.

I. Prior to the effective date of the Order, each department or agency is to "submit to the Interagency Classification Review Committee for approval a copy of the regulations it proposes to adopt pursuant to this order." The working draft of the NSC directive requires that departmental regulations be submitted by 15 May.

Summary of Basic Features

The requirements of the new Order, with reference to its application to CIA, are quoted and summarized at some length in the following paragraphs.

A. National Security Information - Definitions

1. "National security information" is information or material which requires protection against unauthorized disclosure "in the interest of the national defense or foreign relations of the United States" (emphasis supplied). (The corresponding definition in E.O. 10501 did not include the reference to "foreign relations" of the United States. The new definition is designed to accord more precisely with that provision of the Freedom of Information Act which exempts from the public disclosure requirements of that Act "matters that are . . . specifically required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy." But note that the Order and the statutes are not identical in this regard — the former referring to "foreign relations", the latter to "foreign policy".)
2. "'Top Secret' refers to that national security information or material which requires the highest degree of protection. The test for assigning 'Top Secret' classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. Examples of 'exceptionally grave damage' include armed hostilities against the United States or its allies; disruption of foreign relations vitally affecting the national security; the compromise of vital national defense plans or complex cryptologic and communications intelligence systems; the revelation of sensitive intelligence operations; and the disclosure of scientific or technological developments vital to national security. This classification shall be used with the utmost restraint."
3. "'Secret' refers to that national security information or material which requires a substantial degree of protection. The test for assigning 'Secret' classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security. Examples of 'serious damage' include disruption of foreign relations significantly affecting the national security; significant impairment of a program or policy directly related to the national security; revelation of significant military plans or intelligence operations; and compromise of significant scientific or technological developments relating to national security. The classification 'Secret' shall be sparingly used."
4. "'Confidential' refers to that national security information or material which requires protection. The test for assigning 'Confidential'.

classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the national security. "

B. Protection of Classified Information (Access, Marking, Safekeeping, Accountability, Transmission, Disposition and Destruction)

1. "The President acting through the National Security Council shall issue directives . . . to protect classified information from loss or compromise", such directives to conform to the following policies:

(a) "No person shall be given access to classified information or material unless such person has been determined to be trustworthy and unless access to such information is necessary for the performance of his duties. "

(b) "All classified information and material shall be appropriately and conspicuously marked to put all persons on clear notice of its classified contents. "

(c) "Classified information and material shall be used, possessed, and stored only under conditions which will prevent access by unauthorized persons or dissemination to unauthorized persons. "

(d) "All classified information and material disseminated outside the executive branch under Executive Order No. 10865 or otherwise shall be properly protected. "

(e) "Appropriate accountability records for classified information shall be established and maintained and such information and material shall be protected adequately during all transmissions. "

(f) "Classified information and material no longer needed in current working files or for reference or record purposes shall be destroyed or disposed of in accordance with the records disposal provisions contained in Chapter 33 of Title 44 of the United States Code and other applicable statutes. "

2. The requirement above that access to classified information or material be granted only as is necessary for the performance of one's

duties shall not apply to persons outside the executive branch who are engaged in historical research projects provided the head of the department (a) determines "that access is clearly consistent with the interests of national security" and (b) takes "appropriate steps to assure that classified information or material is not published or otherwise compromised."

C. Delegation of Authority to Classify

1. Only the following persons may classify information as "Top Secret":

(a) The heads of the following departments, agencies and offices:

- (1) The White House Office;
- (2) National Security Council;
- (3) Office of Management and Budget;
- (4) Domestic Council;
- (5) Office of Science and Technology;
- (6) Office of Emergency Preparedness;
- (7) President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board;
- (8) Council on International Economic Policy;
- (9) Council of Economic Advisers;
- (10) National Aeronautics and Space Council;
- (11) Office of Telecommunications Policy;
- (12) Central Intelligence Agency;
- (13) Atomic Energy Commission;
- (14) Department of State;
- (15) Department of the Treasury;
- (16) Department of Defense;
- (17) Department of the Army;
- (18) Department of the Navy;
- (19) Department of the Air Force;
- (20) United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency;
- (21) Department of Justice;
- (22) National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and
- (23) Agency for International Development.

(b) Such "of their senior principal deputies and assistants as" such heads "may designate in writing".

c. Such "heads and senior principal deputies and assistants of major elements of such" departments, agencies and offices as the heads designated in subparagraph 1.(a) above, may designate in writing.

2. Only the following persons may classify information as "Secret":

(a) Officials who are authorized to classify information as "Top Secret".

(b) Such subordinates of any official authorized to classify information as "Top Secret" (except those officials listed in subparagraph 1.(c) above) as such official may designate in writing.

(c) "The heads of the following named Departments and such senior principal deputies or assistants as they may designate in writing":

- (1) Department of Transportation;
- (2) Federal Communications Commission;
- (3) Export-Import Bank of the United States;
- (4) Department of Commerce;
- (5) United States Civil Service Commission;
- (6) United States Information Agency;
- (7) General Services Administration;
- (8) Department of Health, Education, and Welfare;
- (9) Civil Aeronautics Board;
- (10) Federal Maritime Commission;
- (11) Federal Power Commission;
- (12) National Science Foundation;
- (13) Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

3. Information may be classified "Confidential" only by officials who are authorized to classify information as "Top Secret" or "Secret" and by such officials as they may designate in writing.

D. Requirements for Classifying Information

1. "Both unnecessary classification and over-classification shall be avoided. Classification shall be solely on the basis of national

security considerations. In no case shall information be classified in order to conceal inefficiency or administrative error, to prevent embarrassment to a person or Department, to restrain competition or independent initiative, or to prevent for any other reason the release of information which does not require protection in the interest of national security. "

2. The "Top Secret" classification "shall be used with the utmost restraint. "

3. The "Secret" classification "shall be sparingly used. "

4. No category other than "Top Secret", "Secret" or "Confidential" shall "be used to identify official information or material as requiring protection in the interest of national security". But the "originating Department or other appropriate authority may impose, in conformity with the provisions of this order, special requirements with respect to access, distribution and protection of classified information and material, including those which presently relate to communications intelligence, intelligence sources and methods and cryptography". (The phrase "intelligence sources and methods" was not included in the corresponding provision of E.O. 10501.) This authority gives recognition to the use of compartmentation systems.

5. "Each classified document shall show on its face its classification and whether it is subject to or exempt from the General Declassification Schedule. It shall also show the office of origin, the date of preparation and classification and, to the extent practicable, be so marked as to indicate which portions are classified, at what level, and which portions are not classified in order to facilitate excerpting and other use.

6. "Unless the Department involved shall have provided some other method of identifying the individual at the highest level that authorized classification in each case, material classified under this order shall indicate on its face the identity of the

highest authority authorizing the classification. Where the individual who signs or otherwise authenticates a document or item has also authorized the classification, no further annotation as to his identity is required.

7. Classified information or material furnished to the United States by a foreign government or international organization shall either retain its original classification or be assigned a United States classification. In either case, the classification shall assure a degree of protection equivalent to that required by the government or international organization which furnished the information or material. "

8. "Material containing references to classified materials, which references do not reveal classified information, shall not be classified. "

9. "Restricted Data" (atomic energy information) and "Formerly Restricted Data" "shall be handled, protected, classified, downgraded, and declassified in conformity with" the Atomic Energy Act.

E. Declassification and Downgrading

1. The President, acting through the National Security Council, is to issue directives to require that all classified "information or material shall be reviewed on a systematic basis for the purpose of accomplishing downgrading, declassification, transfer, retirement and destruction at the earliest practicable date. "

2. Information originated after 1 June 1972.

(a) General Declassification Schedule. Classified information, unless declassified earlier, shall be declassified and downgraded in accordance with the following timetable:

"(1) 'Top Secret.' Information or material originally classified 'Top Secret' shall become automatically downgraded to 'Secret' at the end of the second full calendar

year following the year in which it was originated, downgraded to 'Confidential' at the end of the fourth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, and declassified at the end of the tenth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(2) 'Secret.' Information and material originally classified 'Secret' shall become automatically downgraded to 'Confidential' at the end of the second full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, and declassified at the end of the eighth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(3) 'Confidential.' Information and material originally classified 'Confidential' shall become automatically declassified at the end of the sixth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated. "

(b) Exemption from General Declassification Schedule

(1) Any official authorized to classify information as "Top Secret" may exempt from the General Declassification Schedule (GDS) "any level of classified information or material" originated by him or under his supervision falling within one of the following categories:

(i) Classified information or material furnished by foreign governments or international organizations and held by the United States on the understanding that it be kept in confidence.

(ii) Classified information or material specifically covered by statute, or pertaining to cryptography, or disclosing intelligence sources or methods.

(iii) Classified information or material disclosing a system, plan, installation, project or specific foreign relations matter the continuing protection of which is essential to the national security.

(iv) Classified information or material the disclosure of which would place a person in immediate jeopardy.

(2) In any such exemption action "the official shall specify in writing on the material the exemption category being claimed and, unless impossible, a date or event for automatic declassification. "

(3) The use of the above exemption authority "shall be kept to the absolute minimum consistent with national security requirements".

(c) Mandatory Review of Exempted Material (10 Year Review)

Upon request by another department of government or a member of the public "at any time after the expiration of ten (10) years from the date of origin" of any exempted information or material, such information shall be reviewed for declassification.

(1) If the information continues to qualify for exemptions, it shall be so marked and, unless impossible, a date for automatic declassification shall be set.

(2) If the information no longer qualifies for exemptions, it shall be declassified.

(d) Declassification After 30 Years

All such classified information not earlier declassified becomes automatically declassified "at the end of thirty full calendar years after the date of its original classification" unless the head of the department "personally determines in writing at that time to require continued protection because such continued protection is essential to the national security or disclosure would place a person in immediate jeopardy. " In such case he shall also specify the period of continued classification.

3. Information originated before 1 June 1972.

(a) Such information, if assigned to Group 4 under E.O. 10501, is subject to the General Declassification Schedule above.

(CIA information is not in Group 4, but it may be that Central Reference Service or another Agency component has custody and responsibility for Group 4 documents.)

(b) All other information classified before 1 June 1972 (assigned to Groups 1, 2 or 3) is exempt from the General Declassification Schedule but is subject to the mandatory 10 year review (above), upon request.

(c) Information classified before 1 June 1972 which is 30 years old is to be systematically reviewed for declassification by the Archivist of the United States. Thereafter, the Archivist shall continue to protect "only such information or material as is specifically identified by the head of the Department". (Thus, the review is to be made by each department.) The department head shall, in each case, "specify the period of continued classification." The Archivist has addressed a letter to CIA (and to other agencies) requesting that an official "at the Assistant Secretary level" be designated to work with the Archivist on this aspect. A meeting for those selected is set for 28 April at the National Archives Building.

F. National Security Council and Committee Review

1. "The National Security Council shall monitor the implementation of this Order."

2. To assist the National Security Council, an Interagency Classification Review Committee is established, to be composed of representatives of State, Defense, Justice, AEC, CIA, the NSC Staff "and a Chairman designated by the President." Representatives of other departments may be invited to meet with the Committee on matters of particular interest to those departments. The Committee shall (a) oversee department actions to ensure compliance with the Order and implementing directives issued by the President, and (b) "receive, consider and take action on suggestions and complaints from persons within or without the government with respect to the administration" of the Order and "in consultation with the affected Department" assure that "appropriate action is taken on such suggestions and complaints." Upon

request of the Committee Chairman, "any Department shall furnish to the Committee any particular information or material needed by the Committee to carry out its functions."

3. Each department head is to designate "a senior member of his staff who shall ensure effective compliance with and implementation of this order and shall also chair a Departmental committee which shall have authority to act on all suggestions and complaints with respect to the Department's administration of this order."

G. Disciplinary Requirements

1. "Any officer or employee of the United States who unnecessarily classifies or over-classifies information or material shall be notified that his actions are in violation of the terms of this order or of a directive of the President issued through the National Security Council. Repeated abuse of the classification process shall be grounds for an administrative reprimand. In any case where the Departmental committee or the Interagency Classification Review Committee finds that unnecessary classification or over-classification has occurred, it shall make a report to the head of the Department concerned in order that corrective steps may be taken."

2. "The head of each Department is directed to take prompt and stringent administrative action against any officer or employee of the United States, at any level of employment, determined to have been responsible for any release or disclosure of national security information or material in a manner not authorized by or under this order or a directive of the President issued through the National Security Council. Where a violation of criminal statutes may be involved, Departments will refer any such case promptly to the Department of Justice."



Associate General Counsel

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Classification and Declassification of National Security Information and Material

Executive Order 11652. March 8, 1972

The interests of the United States and its citizens are best served by making information regarding the affairs of Government readily available to the public. This concept of an informed citizenry is reflected in the Freedom of Information Act and in the current public information policies of the executive branch.

Within the Federal Government there is some official information and material which, because it bears directly on the effectiveness of our national defense and the conduct of our foreign relations, must be subject to some constraints for the security of our Nation and the safety of our people and our allies. To protect against actions hostile to the United States, of both an overt and covert nature, it is essential that such official information and material be given only limited dissemination.

This official information or material, referred to as classified information or material in this order, is expressly exempted from public disclosure by Section 552 (b) (1) of Title 5, United States Code. Wrongful disclosure of such information or material is recognized in the Federal Criminal Code as providing a basis for prosecution.

To ensure that such information and material is protected, but only to the extent and for such period as is necessary, this order identifies the information to be protected, prescribes classification, downgrading, declassification and safeguarding procedures to be followed, and establishes a monitoring system to ensure its effectiveness.

Now, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the United States, it is hereby ordered:

SECTION 1. *Security Classification Categories.* Official information or material which requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of the national defense or foreign relations of the United States (hereinafter collectively termed "national security") shall be classified in one of three categories, namely "Top Secret," "Secret," or "Confidential," depending upon the degree

of its significance to national security. No other categories shall be used to identify official information or material as requiring protection in the interest of national security, except as otherwise expressly provided by statute. These classification categories are defined as follows:

(A) *"Top Secret."* "Top Secret" refers to that national security information or material which requires the highest degree of protection. The test for assigning "Top Secret" classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. Examples of "exceptionally grave damage" include armed hostilities against the United States or its allies; disruption of foreign relations vitally affecting the national security; the compromise of vital national defense plans or complex cryptologic and communications intelligence systems; the revelation of sensitive intelligence operations; and the disclosure of scientific or technological developments vital to national security. This classification shall be used with the utmost restraint.

(B) *"Secret."* "Secret" refers to that national security information or material which requires a substantial degree of protection. The test for assigning "Secret" classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security. Examples of "serious damage" include disruption of foreign relations significantly affecting the national security; significant impairment of a program or policy directly related to the national security; revelation of significant military plans or intelligence operations; and compromise of significant scientific or technological developments relating to national security. The classification "Secret" shall be sparingly used.

(C) *"Confidential."* "Confidential" refers to that national security information or material which requires protection. The test for assigning "Confidential" classification shall be whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the national security.

SEC. 2. Authority to Classify. The authority to originally classify information or material under this order shall be restricted solely to those offices within the executive branch which are concerned with matters of national security, and shall be limited to the minimum number absolutely required for efficient administration. Except as the context may otherwise indicate, the term "Department" as used in this order shall include agency or other governmental unit.

(A) The authority to originally classify information or material under this order as "Top Secret" shall be exercised only by such officials as the President may designate in writing and by:

- (1) The heads of the Departments listed below;
- (2) Such of their senior principal deputies and assistants as the heads of such Departments may designate in writing; and

(3) Such heads and senior principal deputies and assistants of major elements of such Departments, as the heads of such Departments may designate in writing.

Such offices in the Executive Office of the President as the President may designate in writing

Central Intelligence Agency
Atomic Energy Commission
Department of State
Department of the Treasury
Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Department of the Air Force
United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
Department of Justice
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Agency for International Development

(B) The authority to originally classify information or material under this order as "Secret" shall be exercised only by:

(1) Officials who have "Top Secret" classification authority;

(2) Such subordinates as officials with "Top Secret" classification authority under (A) (1) and (2) above may designate in writing; and

(3) The heads of the following named Departments and such senior principal deputies or assistants as they may designate in writing.

Department of Transportation
Federal Communications Commission
Export-Import Bank of the United States
Department of Commerce
United States Civil Service Commission
United States Information Agency
General Services Administration
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Civil Aeronautics Board
Federal Maritime Commission
Federal Power Commission
National Science Foundation
Overseas Private Investment Corporation

(C) The authority to originally classify information or material under this order as "Confidential" may be exercised by officials who have "Top Secret" or "Secret" classification authority and such officials as they may designate in writing.

(D) Any Department not referred to herein and any Department or unit established hereafter shall not have authority to originally classify information or material under this order, unless specifically authorized hereafter by an Executive order.

SEC. 3. Authority to Downgrade and Declassify. The authority to downgrade and declassify national security information or material shall be exercised as follows:

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Information may be downgraded or declassified by the official authorizing the original clas-

sification, by a successor in capacity or by a supervisory official of either.

(B) Downgrading and declassification authority may also be exercised by an official specifically authorized under regulations issued by the head of the Department listed in Sections 2(A) or (B) hereof.

(C) In the case of classified information or material officially transferred by or pursuant to statute or Executive order in conjunction with a transfer of function and not merely for storage purposes, the receiving Department shall be deemed to be the originating Department for all purposes under this order including downgrading and declassification.

(D) In the case of classified information or material not officially transferred within (C) above, but originated in a Department which has since ceased to exist, each Department in possession shall be deemed to be the originating Department for all purposes under this order. Such information or material may be downgraded and declassified by the Department in possession after consulting with any other Departments having an interest in the subject matter.

(E) Classified information or material transferred to the General Services Administration for accession into the Archives of the United States shall be downgraded and declassified by the Archivist of the United States in accordance with this order, directives of the President issued through the National Security Council and pertinent regulations of the Departments.

(F) Classified information or material with special markings, as described in Section 8, shall be downgraded and declassified as required by law and governing regulations.

SEC. 4. *Classification.* Each person possessing classifying authority shall be held accountable for the propriety of the classifications attributed to him. Both unnecessary classification and over-classification shall be avoided. Classification shall be solely on the basis of national security considerations. In no case shall information be classified in order to conceal inefficiency or administrative error, to prevent embarrassment to a person or Department, to restrain competition or independent initiative, or to prevent for any other reason the release of information which does not require protection in the interest of national security. The following rules shall apply to classification of information under this order:

(A) *Documents in General.* Each classified document shall show on its face its classification and whether it is subject to or exempt from the General Declassification Schedule. It shall also show the office of origin, the date of preparation and classification and, to the extent practicable, be so marked as to indicate which portions are classified, at what level, and which portions are not classified in order to facilitate excerpting and other use. Material containing references to classified materials, which references do not reveal classified information, shall not be classified.

(B) *Identification of Classifying Authority.* Unless the Department involved shall have provided some other method of identifying the individual at the highest level that authorized classification in each case, material classified under this order shall indicate on its face the identity of the highest authority authorizing the classification. Where the individual who signs or otherwise authenticates a document or item has also authorized the classification, no further annotation as to his identity is required.

(C) *Information or Material Furnished by a Foreign Government or International Organization.* Classified information or material furnished to the United States by a foreign government or international organization shall either retain its original classification or be assigned a United States classification. In either case, the classification shall assure a degree of protection equivalent to that required by the government or international organization which furnished the information or material.

(D) *Classification Responsibilities.* A holder of classified information or material shall observe and respect the classification assigned by the originator. If a holder believes that there is unnecessary classification, that the assigned classification is improper, or that the document is subject to declassification under this order, he shall so inform the originator who shall thereupon re-examine the classification.

SEC. 5. *Declassification and Downgrading.* Classified information and material, unless declassified earlier by the original classifying authority, shall be declassified and downgraded in accordance with the following rules:

(A) *General Declassification Schedule.*

(1) *"Top Secret."* Information or material originally classified "Top Secret" shall become automatically downgraded to "Secret" at the end of the second full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, downgraded to "Confidential" at the end of the fourth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, and declassified at the end of the tenth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(2) *"Secret."* Information and material originally classified "Secret" shall become automatically downgraded to "Confidential" at the end of the second full calendar year following the year in which it was originated, and declassified at the end of the eighth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(3) *"Confidential."* Information and material originally classified "Confidential" shall become automatically declassified at the end of the sixth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated.

(B) *Exemptions from General Declassification Schedule.* Certain classified information or material may warrant some degree of protection for a period exceeding that provided in the General Declassification Schedule. An official authorized to originally classify information or material "Top Secret" may exempt from the General Declassification Schedule any level of classified information or material originated by him or under his supervi-

sion if it falls within one of the categories described below. In each case such official shall specify in writing on the material the exemption category being claimed and, unless impossible, a date or event for automatic declassification. The use of the exemption authority shall be kept to the absolute minimum consistent with national security requirements and shall be restricted to the following categories:

(1) Classified information or material furnished by foreign governments or international organizations and held by the United States on the understanding that it be kept in confidence.

(2) Classified information or material specifically covered by statute, or pertaining to cryptography, or disclosing intelligence sources or methods.

(3) Classified information or material disclosing a system, plan, installation, project or specific foreign relations matter the continuing protection of which is essential to the national security.

(4) Classified information or material the disclosure of which would place a person in immediate jeopardy.

(C) *Mandatory Review of Exempted Material.* All classified information and material originated after the effective date of this order which is exempted under (B) above from the General Declassification Schedule shall be subject to a classification review by the originating Department at any time after the expiration of ten years from the date of origin provided:

(1) A Department or member of the public requests a review;

(2) The request describes the record with sufficient particularity to enable the Department to identify it; and

(3) The record can be obtained with only a reasonable amount of effort.

Information or material which no longer qualifies for exemption under (B) above shall be declassified. Information or material continuing to qualify under (B) shall be so marked and, unless impossible, a date for automatic declassification shall be set.

(D) *Applicability of the General Declassification Schedule to Previously Classified Material.* Information or material classified before the effective date of this order and which is assigned to Group 4 under Executive Order No. 10501, as amended by Executive Order No. 10964, shall be subject to the General Declassification Schedule. All other information or material classified before the effective date of this order, whether or not assigned to Groups 1, 2, or 3 of Executive Order No. 10501, as amended, shall be excluded from the General Declassification Schedule. However, at any time after the expiration of ten years from the date of origin it shall be subject to a mandatory classification review and disposition under the same conditions and criteria that apply to classified information and material created after the effective date of this order as set forth in (B) and (C) above.

(E) *Declassification of Classified Information or Material After Thirty Years.* All classified information or ma-

terial which is thirty years old or more, whether originating before or after the effective date of this order, shall be declassified under the following conditions:

(1) All information and material classified after the effective date of this order shall, whether or not declassification has been requested, become automatically declassified at the end of thirty full calendar years after the date of its original classification except for such specifically identified information or material which the head of the originating Department personally determines in writing at that time to require continued protection because such continued protection is essential to the national security or disclosure would place a person in immediate jeopardy. In such case, the head of the Department shall also specify the period of continued classification.

(2) All information and material classified before the effective date of this order and more than thirty years old shall be systematically reviewed for declassification by the Archivist of the United States by the end of the thirtieth full calendar year following the year in which it was originated. In his review, the Archivist will separate and keep protected only such information or material as is specifically identified by the head of the Department in accordance with (E) (1) above. In such case, the head of the Department shall also specify the period of continued classification.

(F) *Departments Which Do Not Have Authority For Original Classification.* The provisions of this section relating to the declassification of national security information or material shall apply to Departments which, under the terms of this order, do not have current authority to originally classify information or material, but which formerly had such authority under previous Executive orders.

SEC. 6. *Policy Directives on Access, Marking, Safekeeping, Accountability, Transmission, Disposition and Destruction of Classified Information and Material.* The President acting through the National Security Council shall issue directives which shall be binding on all Departments to protect classified information from loss or compromise. Such directives shall conform to the following policies:

(A) No person shall be given access to classified information or material unless such person has been determined to be trustworthy and unless access to such information is necessary for the performance of his duties.

(B) All classified information and material shall be appropriately and conspicuously marked to put all persons on clear notice of its classified contents.

(C) Classified information and material shall be used, possessed, and stored only under conditions which will prevent access by unauthorized persons or dissemination to unauthorized persons.

(D) All classified information and material disseminated outside the executive branch under Executive Order No. 10865 or otherwise shall be properly protected. (E) Accountability records for classified information shall be established and maintained and such

information and material shall be protected adequately during all transmissions.

(F) Classified information and material no longer needed in current working files or for reference or record purposes shall be destroyed or disposed of in accordance with the records disposal provisions contained in Chapter 33 of Title 44 of the United States Code and other applicable statutes.

(G) Classified information or material shall be reviewed on a systematic basis for the purpose of accomplishing downgrading, declassification, transfer, retirement and destruction at the earliest practicable date.

SEC. 7. *Implementation and Review Responsibilities.*

(A) The National Security Council shall monitor the implementation of this order. To assist the National Security Council, an Interagency Classification Review Committee shall be established, composed of representatives of the Departments of State, Defense and Justice, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council Staff and a Chairman designated by the President. Representatives of other Departments in the executive branch may be invited to meet with the Committee on matters of particular interest to those Departments. This Committee shall meet regularly and on a continuing basis shall review and take action to ensure compliance with this order, and in particular:

(1) The Committee shall oversee Department actions to ensure compliance with the provisions of this order and implementing directives issued by the President through the National Security Council.

(2) The Committee shall, subject to procedures to be established by it, receive, consider and take action on suggestions and complaints from persons within or without the government with respect to the administration of this order, and in consultation with the affected Department or Departments assure that appropriate action is taken on such suggestions and complaints.

(3) Upon request of the Committee Chairman, any Department shall furnish to the Committee any particular information or material needed by the Committee in carrying out its functions.

(B) To promote the basic purposes of this order, the head of each Department originating or handling classified information or material shall:

(1) Prior to the effective date of this order submit to the Interagency Classification Review Committee for approval a copy of the regulations it proposes to adopt pursuant to this order.

(2) Designate a senior member of his staff who shall ensure effective compliance with and implementation of this order and shall also chair a Departmental committee which shall have authority to act on all suggestions and complaints with respect to the Department's administration of this order.

(3) Undertake an initial program to familiarize the employees of his Department with the provisions of this order. He shall also establish and maintain active training and orientation programs for employees concerned with

classified information or material. Such programs shall include, as a minimum, the briefing of new employees and periodic reorientation during employment to impress upon each individual his responsibility for exercising vigilance and care in complying with the provisions of this order. Additionally, upon termination of employment or contemplated temporary separation for a sixty-day period or more, employees shall be debriefed and each reminded of the provisions of the Criminal Code and other applicable provisions of law relating to penalties for unauthorized disclosure.

(C) The Attorney General, upon request of the head of a Department, his duly designated representative, or the Chairman of the above described Committee, shall personally or through authorized representatives of the Department of Justice render an interpretation of this order with respect to any question arising in the course of its administration.

SEC. 8. *Material Covered by the Atomic Energy Act.* Nothing in this order shall supersede any requirements made by or under the Atomic Energy Act of August 30, 1954, as amended. "Restricted Data," and material designated as "Formerly Restricted Data," shall be handled, protected, classified, downgraded and declassified in conformity with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the regulations of the Atomic Energy Commission.

SEC. 9. *Special Departmental Arrangements.* The originating Department or other appropriate authority may impose, in conformity with the provisions of this order, special requirements with respect to access, distribution and protection of classified information and material, including those which presently relate to communications intelligence, intelligence sources and methods and cryptography.

SEC. 10. *Exceptional Cases.* In an exceptional case when a person or Department not authorized to classify information originates information which is believed to require classification, such person or Department shall protect that information in the manner prescribed by this order. Such persons or Department shall transmit the information forthwith, under appropriate safeguards, to the Department having primary interest in the subject matter with a request that a determination be made as to classification.

SEC. 11. *Declassification of Presidential Papers.* The Archivist of the United States shall have authority to review and declassify information and material which has been classified by a President, his White House Staff or special committee or commission appointed by him and which the Archivist has in his custody at any archival depository, including a Presidential Library. Such declassification shall only be undertaken in accord with: (i) the terms of the donor's deed of gift, (ii) consultations with the Departments having a primary subject-matter interest, and (iii) the provisions of Section 5.

SEC. 12. *Historical Research and Access by Former Government Officials.* The requirement in Section 6(A)

that access to classified information or material be granted only as is necessary for the performance of one's duties shall not apply to persons outside the executive branch who are engaged in historical research projects or who have previously occupied policy-making positions to which they were appointed by the President; *Provided*, however, that in each case the head of the originating Department shall:

- (i) determine that access is clearly consistent with the interests of national security; and
- (ii) take appropriate steps to assure that classified information or material is not published or otherwise compromised.

Access granted a person by reason of his having previously occupied a policy-making position shall be limited to those papers which the former official originated, reviewed, signed or received while in public office.

SEC. 13. *Administrative and Judicial Action.*

(A) Any officer or employee of the United States who unnecessarily classifies or over-classifies information or material shall be notified that his actions are in violation of the terms of this order or of a directive of the President issued through the National Security Council. Repeated abuse of the classification process shall be grounds for an administrative reprimand. In any case where the Departmental committee or the Interagency Classification Review Committee finds that unnecessary classification or over-classification has occurred, it shall make a report to the head of the Department concerned in order that corrective steps may be taken.

(B) The head of each Department is directed to take prompt and stringent administrative action against any officer or employee of the United States, at any level of employment, determined to have been responsible for any release or disclosure of national security information or material in a manner not authorized by or under this order or a directive of the President issued through the National Security Council. Where a violation of criminal statutes may be involved, Departments will refer any such case promptly to the Department of Justice.

SEC. 14. *Revocation of Executive Order No. 10501.* Executive Order No. 10501 of November 5, 1953, as amended by Executive Orders No. 10816 of May 8, 1959, No. 10901 of January 11, 1961, No. 10964 of September 20, 1961, No. 10985 of January 15, 1962, No. 11097 of March 6, 1963 and by Section 1(a) of No. 11382 of November 28, 1967, is superseded as of the effective date of this order.

SEC. 15. *Effective Date.* This order shall become effective on June 1, 1972.

RICHARD NIXON

The White House
March 8, 1972