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78-4102

2 OCT 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM :   
Assistant for Information

SUBJECT : Need for Additional Markings on Documents  
Provided by Foreign Governments

1. The Markings Task Force working on the implementation of E.O. 12065 addressed the need for the Agency to affix additional markings to more clearly identify documents or information provided by foreign governments and concluded that such markings are not required.

2. It has just been brought to our attention, however, that SECOM, in developing an Intelligence Community implementing order for E.O. 12065, has taken the position that documents containing foreign government information should be annotated with the marking "CONTAINS FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INFORMATION" which may be abbreviated as "FGI" for reference, data processing and communication purposes. The above markings are to be used except in those instances where the fact of foreign origin is so sensitive that it must be concealed from normal recipients of the document. In these instances, the documents involved should be marked as if they were wholly of U.S. origin. This position is now being reviewed by the Markings Task Force and the final result will probably be the adoption of the same or similar type of marking for Agency documents in order that there should be compatibility on this item.

3. Regarding the specific question raised by the British, both the Markings Task Force and the Classification Review Group agrees that the current "UK" markings used on the documents they provide us do adequately identify their "foreign" origin. There was general agreement that should the British or any other country choose to increase or expand on the markings currently used on the documents they provide, an additional

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degree of protection might be afforded. This was based on the assumption that with each additional or expanded marking, it should become more unlikely that individuals handling such documents would overlook or not recognize their foreign origin.

Signed

[Redacted Signature Box]

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PROPOSAL FOR  
WAIVER FROM PORTIONAL MARKING REQUIREMENT

1. An ADP data base will be classified as an entity using criteria in Section 1-3. All reports from a data base will carry the same classification and be marked in accordance with Section 1-501. Text files containing paragraphs that will be used in producing documents must be portionally marked.

2. Computerized data bases contain data that range from unclassified through Top Secret. The resources required to portionally mark each data item, keep such a data element current (the classification of the data changes with circumstance), and to automatically classify reports based on the classification of those data items is substantial. The cost of doing this is not in the public interest.

3. Often data bases include individual items that when processed or reported together have a higher degree of classification. The computer technology is not such that we can identify and program all such relationships so that computer-generated reports using such data can be properly classified. The same determination used in classifying a computer data base is used for classifying reports derived from that data base.

4. Computer reports are generally only disseminated internally to the Agency and they are used for administrative and research purposes.

5. Documents produced using data from a computer data base will be classified under the same criteria as the data base.

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