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DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

3354

FILE NO.	SUBJECT
	Presidential Order Affecting Security Classification

TO	FROM	DATE	COMMENT NO. 1
See Distribution	AG	20 Nov 53	

Col.Geo.E.Campbell/60235/lm

1. By Executive Order 10501, dated 6 November 1953, the President has eliminated the use of "RESTRICTED" classification, and the "SECURITY INFORMATION" notation. This order is to become effective 15 December 1953. Definitions of the remaining categories of classification are as follows:

a. TOP SECRET: Except as may be expressly provided by statute, the use of the classification TOP SECRET shall be authorized, by appropriate authority, only for defense information or material which requires the highest degree of protection. The TOP SECRET classification shall be applied only to that information or material the defense aspect of which is paramount, and the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the Nation such as leading to a definite break in diplomatic relations affecting the defense of the United States, an armed attack against the United States or its allies, a war, or the compromise of military or defense plans, or intelligence operations, or scientific or technological developments vital to the national defense.

b. SECRET: Except as may be expressly provided by statute, the use of the classification SECRET shall be authorized, by appropriate authority, only for defense information or material the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in serious damage to the Nation, such as by jeopardizing the international relations of the United States, endangering the effectiveness of a program or policy of vital importance to the national defense, or compromising important military or defense plans, scientific or technological developments important to national defense, or information revealing important intelligence operations.

c. CONFIDENTIAL: Except as may be expressly provided by statute, the use of the classification CONFIDENTIAL shall be authorized, by appropriate authority, only for defense information or material the unauthorized disclosure of which could be prejudicial to the defense interests of the nation.

2. All Agency matter now classified "RESTRICTED" (except that noted in paragraph 3 below) will be automatically declassified 15 December 1953. Material originated by this Agency, now outstanding, bearing the classification of "RESTRICTED", may be upgraded to "CONFIDENTIAL" provided it meets the standard set forth in paragraph 1c. There will be no mass upgrading of "RESTRICTED" material to "CONFIDENTIAL". A document can only be upgraded by its originator, and only on the basis of its content.

3. Exceptions to this Executive Order are as follows:

a. CRYPTOGRAPHIC SECURITY. In order to preserve and maintain cryptographic security as required by the Act of 13 May 1950 (Public Law, 513, 81st Congress):

(1) All material directly related to cryptographic systems now classified "RESTRICTED - SECURITY INFORMATION" is upgraded to "CONFIDENTIAL".

(2) All messages presently classified "RESTRICTED" are upgraded to "CONFIDENTIAL". Such messages shall be declassified where possible after appropriate processing.

b. Indorsements made prior to 15 December 1953 to "RESTRICTED" basic communications will retain "RESTRICTED" classification.

c. Urgent amendments made prior to 15 December 1953 to RESTRICTED contracts will be classified "RESTRICTED" pending review of the classification of the entire contract.

d. Replies to "RESTRICTED" communications from foreign governments will be classified "CONFIDENTIAL" in order to protect the information furnished by them.

e. Communications of SECAN or DACAN which are NATO Agencies will continue to use classification of "NATO RESTRICTED".

4. An unclassified reply or reference may not be made to a message marked "Paraphrase required." An unclassified reply or reference by date-time group may not be made to a message marked "No unclassified reply or reference if the date-time group is quoted."

5. RESTRICTED material upgraded to CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Paragraph 2 above will be stored under the same conditions now required for CONFIDENTIAL material.

6. Classified material furnished individuals not in the Executive Branch of the Government will have the following notation stamped or written on the material:

"This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law."

7. The provisions of the Executive Order will be incorporated at a later date in pertinent NSA publications.

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DISTRIBUTION IV