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Policy

WS 117L Reports

WDSIT

WDTR

5 Sept. 56 Lt. Herthor/dh/1344

1. A working arrangement has been established between WDTR and WDSIT whereby dissemination of all reports and/or information relating to WS 117L (Project 1115, ARS, or Rand Project Feedback) will be limited and specific authority for release of such documents will be obtained from the Western Development Division, Assistant for WS 117L, Lt. Colonel, Frederic C. E. Oder. This policy is to be continued, and for your information, the appropriate paragraph on security is quoted from ARDC System Development Directive SDC No. 117L, dated 17 August 1956:

"4.4.(d) (1) Security - Maintenance of special security restrictions on information relating to development progress, system status, and planned operational capabilities is directed. A master security classification guide for WS 117L will be prepared, and a roster maintained of individuals whose position known to your organization requires overall knowledge of the sensitive aspects of the WS 117L development program. An up-to-date copy of this roster will be submitted for retention at this Headquarters."

2. ARDC System Requirement No. 5, dated 17 October 1955 still applies and a general security guide is outlined therein.

3. The purpose of this DF is primarily to point out the special need for strict interpretation of "need-to-know" on this weapon system, and in particular to point out that a general need-to-know does not exist for all WDD, R-W or EKO.

4. This policy will now apply to all documents generated by R-W related to WS 117L and on the general subject of satellites. In particular, the document accession list dated 24 August 1956 references at least three reports with no indication of a limited distribution. They are as follows:

56-5304 - Heat dissipation in the ARS vehicle 17 July 1956  
R-W GM 42-37 (S).

56-5320 Attainment of Satellite Orbit in Quasi - Flat Earth  
Approximation 16 May 1955 - R-W GM 271.1722 by  
J. M. Richardson (S).

56-5393 A Note on the Optimum Firing Program for Satellite Orbit  
2 August 1955 - R-W by C. F. Carrier (C)

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR  
INTERVALS. NOT AUTOMATICALLY  
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

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5. Since R-4 is on contract with the Air Force to perform studies relating to WS 117L, and the mere fact that the Air Force is engaged in a satellite program is classified secret, it is requested that the same "limited distribution" criteria be applied.

SIGNED

FREDERIC C. E. ODER  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Assistant for WS 117L  
Technical Operations

*How is this reconciled  
with HQ USAF statement  
that "WS 117L, ARS" "Air Reconnaissance  
is an unclassified Satellite"  
Subject when continued.*

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