

~~TOP SECRET~~

78L-4-4 a.
P.L. 91-1
HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~TOP SECRET~~

THE NRO STAFF

September 25, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ~~FLAX~~ *ank*

SUBJECT: The Interagency Ad Hoc Working Group on Security
Classification Policy's Venture into Earth-Sensing Policy

Problem:

To advise you of the nature of the Interagency Ad Hoc Working Group on Security Classification Policy, its venture into earth-sensing security policy, and the DOD position with regard to that action.

Background:

On June 20, Mr. William Foster, Director ACDA, wrote to Mr. Clifford recommending that an interagency working group be set up to work on a more uniform security classification policy (see Tab A). (It is our understanding that Mr. Foster claims that information passed to him during disarmament negotiations varies widely in its security classification, depending on the agency involved. He has cited lasers, radars, and earth-sensors as examples.) Mr. Clifford replied that he supported the idea and spelled out his concept of the group's functions (see Tab B). He named Mr. J. J. Liebling as the DOD representative.

The group has had two meetings: the first was organizational and the second considered interagency security problems in connection with laser technology. The third meeting, scheduled for today, was to consider earth-sensors, with the main presentation by Mr. Ed Risley of the National Academy of Sciences (see Tab C). This situation came to my attention on Monday, September 23, when we were called by Mr. ~~██████████~~ and asked why TKH clearances were being processed for the members of this group.

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

CONTROL NO. *1-1019*
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE _____ OF _____ PAGES

TOP SECRET

HANDLING
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

We viewed this meeting with great concern for reasons which I certainly do not need to detail to you. On Tuesday, September 24, [REDACTED] I met with Mr. Richard Durham, ACDA's representative on the group, to ask why ACDA was bringing up this matter in this forum. Mr. Durham (SI, TK) was unable to give us any policy problems. He simply felt the "issue needed ventilation." He was strongly hostile to suggestions that any valid problems could be handled more properly elsewhere.

We returned to the Pentagon and re-grouped [REDACTED] in ASD/A, since the OSD representative, Mr. Liebling (TK), works for Mr. Horwitz. This was particularly important since Mr. Liebling was on leave. [REDACTED] assisted us in preparing a briefing and a DOD position paper for Mr. Horwitz's review.

Current Status:

We met with Mr. Horwitz this morning and found him very well informed in the general area of earth-sensing policy. He listened to a short briefing and approved the DOD policy statement (see Tab D). He directed Mr. Liebling to read this statement to the group and to scrupulously avoid any discussion of earth-sensing.

Other departments have also reacted strongly in opposition to this discussion. Dr. Steininger, specially invited guest, has refused to attend; Mr. Tidwell, also specially invited, will not attend (the DCI will respond to the invitation by stating that this is the wrong place for earth-sensing security discussions). Mr. Keeney and Mr. Jack Shaw (Executive Secretary of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Committee) have expressed themselves similarly.

Recommendation:

No action is required on your part.


PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

TOP SECRET
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULES

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE _____ OF _____ PAGES

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

COPY

June 20, 1968

Dear Clark:

I am convinced that a need exists among the executive agencies and departments having classification authority for an interagency working group on security classification policy. It is my understanding that members of your staff who have responsibility in the security classification policy field agree that an interagency working group is needed. To this end, my Classification Officer, Mr. Richard L. Durham, has arranged with members of your staff and representatives from NASA and AEC to meet together on a classified basis on June 26, 1968, at 10 a. m. in my conference room.

I personally plan to meet briefly with the group, and I will state at that time my complete support for their efforts to improve interagency cooperative efforts in this field. Too often, in my opinion, decisions to classify new technology have not been communicated to other agencies which are also involved in the same technology. Too, a narrow, restrictive policy on the release of classified information between executive branch agencies could well result in waste and duplication of research efforts.

I am certain you share my concern and hope you will support my efforts to develop a permanent working group from this ad hoc meeting.

I am also sending similar letters to Chairman Seaborg and Mr. Webb.

Sincerely,

William C. Foster

The Honorable
Clark Clifford
Secretary of Defense

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

COPY

ORIGINAL USE ONLY

JUN 20 1968

Dear Clark:

I am convinced that a need exists among the executive agencies and departments having classification authority for an interagency working group on security classification policy. It is my understanding that members of your staff who have responsibility in the security classification policy field agree that an interagency working group is needed. In this case, my Classification Officer, Mr. Richard L. Urban, has arranged with members of your staff and representatives from NSA and AEC to meet together on a classified basis on June 20, 1968, at 10 a.m. in a conference room.

I personally plan to meet briefly with the group, and I will state at that time my complete support for their efforts to improve interagency cooperative efforts in this field. Too often, in my opinion, decisions to classify new technology have not been communicated to other agencies which are also involved in the same technology. Too, a narrow, restrictive policy on the release of classified information between executive branch agencies could well result in waste and duplication of research efforts.

I am certain you share my concerns and hope you will support my efforts to develop a permanent working group from this ad hoc meeting.

The Honorable
Clark Clifford,
Secretary of Defense.

ORIGINAL USE ONLY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

-2-

I am also sending similar letters to Chairman
Seaberg and Mr. Webb.

Sincerely,

W. William C. ...

~~W. William C. ...~~

W. William C. ...

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington

29 June 1968

**Honorable William C. Foster
Director, United States Arms Control
and Disarmament Agency
Washington, D. C. 20451**

Dear Bill:

I have your letter of June 20 proposing the establishment of a permanent interagency working group on security classification policy.

Pursuant to the recommendation of members of my staff who are directly concerned with matters of security classification policy, I am glad to add my support to the proposal set forth in your letter. In so doing, I understand that the basic purpose of the group would be to provide a continuing means for assuring that the security classification policies of the respective agencies are in harmony with one another, and to assure that in the implementation of those policies by the respective agencies, the necessary intercommunication and exchange of classified information and of declassification actions in areas of mutual interest would occur on a continuing and timely basis.

I have asked Mr. Joseph J. Liebling, Director for Security Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration), to represent me at the meeting to be held in your conference room on June 26. He will be accompanied by Mr. George MacClain, Director, and Mr. C. Donald Garrett, Deputy Director, respectively, of the Security Classification Management Division of his office, who will continue to represent the Department of Defense in the work of the sub-group from and after its formation.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Cordially yours,

Clark

COPY

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

29 JUN 1968

Honorable William C. Foster
Director, United States Arms Control
and Disarmament Agency
Washington, D. C. 20451

Dear Bill:

I have your letter of June 20 proposing the establishment of a permanent interagency working group on security classification policy.

Pursuant to the recommendations of members of my staff who are directly concerned with matters of security classification policy, I am glad to add my support to the proposal set forth in your letter. In so doing, I understand that the basic purpose of the group would be to provide a continuing means for assuring that classification policies of the respective agencies are consistent, and to assure that in the implementation by the respective agencies, the necessary intercommunication and exchange of classified information and of declassification areas of mutual interest would occur on a continuous and timely basis.

I have asked Mr. Joseph J. Liobling, Director for Security Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration), to represent me at the meeting to be held in your conference room on June 26. He will be accompanied by Mr. George J. McClain, Director, and Mr. C. Donald Garrett, Deputy Director, respectively, of the Security Classification Management Division of his office, who will continue to represent the Department of Defense in the work of the sub-group from and after its formation.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Cordially yours,

DMK

EX

**Third Meeting
Interagency, ad hoc Working Group
on Security Classification Policy**

September 25, 1968, 2:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome - The Honorable William C. Foster, Director
U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency**
2. **Briefing - Remote Sensing of the Earth Environment.
Mr. Edward Risley, Secretary, Division of
Earth Sciences, National Academy of Sciences.**
3. **Statement of Problem - Mr. Richard L. Durham
Director of Classification, ACDA**
4. **Other Business - Subject of fourth meeting
Place of fourth meeting.**

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA TALENT-
REVERSE CHANNELS
ONLY

STATEMENT BY MR. J. J. LIEBLING

As indicated in Secretary Clifford's letter of June 29 to Mr. William Foster, the DOD recognizes the need for, and has endorsed the formation of, an interagency working group to review security classification policies of mutual interest. We must point out, however, that U.S. earth-sensing activities are controlled by two security systems, national in origin, interagency in scope, and unusually well-defined in conceptual and operational detail. Both of these systems are managed by the Director of Central Intelligence. We have not considered these systems to fall within the functions, scope, or competence of this ad hoc committee.

Within the present statutory framework, as well as within derivative coordinating bodies, there is full provision for governmental agencies to present specific problems arising from their earth-sensing programs. These mechanisms are used regularly and are, in our belief, the proper forum for any presentations on the subject.

It is the DOD position, therefore, that the discussion of earth-sensing activities, viewed in a security context, is inappropriate for this group. We cannot participate in any such discussions even in the most general terms. We recognize that ACDA could well have an unresolved problem

F VIA TALENT-
F CHANNELS

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA TIGHT-
KEYHOLE CHANNELS
ONLY

in the earth-sensing area. If this is the case, we would suggest that ACDA be offered representation on the Earth Resources Survey Program Review Committee. I am sure that such arrangements could be made at this time through General Smart.

TCS 37630-68
Sent to Gen Smart
26 Oct 67/mjn

HANDLE VIA TIGHT-
KEYHOLE CHANNELS
ONLY

~~SECRET~~