

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
Washington 25, D. C.

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NSA REGULATION
NUMBER 10-4

1 April 1955

EFFECTIVE UNTIL 1 APRIL 1956 UNLESS SOONER
RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED

CLASSIFICATION AND HANDLING OF DOCUMENTS CONCERNING
COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

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SECTION I - PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this Regulation is to outline the United States Communications Intelligence Board (USCIB) policy with respect to the handling and classification of those documents other than Category I or codeword COMINT documents which contain information about communications intelligence activities.

SECTION II - DEFINITION

For the purpose of this Regulation, information about COMINT activities is that information which reveals, directly or by implication, the existence of any activity directed toward the extraction of intelligence from the communications of a foreign government but does not reveal actual success, progress, or processes in the production of COMINT.

SECTION III - POLICY OF USCIB

1. General.

In accordance with USCIB Directive No. 16, it is essential that all reference to the existence of any COMINT activity, either direct or indirect, be avoided except among those to whom the knowledge is necessary for the proper performance of their duties.

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2. Handling and Exemptions

a. Except as provided for in paragraph 2b below, documents containing information about COMINT, will be transmitted via COMINT channels. Such documents and their inclosures, where applicable, will be stamped on the bottom of each page as follows: "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY." If the document is permanently bound, the legend need only appear on the cover and the first page.

b. When it becomes necessary to furnish information about COMINT activities of the types listed in Section IV to offices outside COMINT channels, such action will be taken only after specific authorization in each case by the USCIB member concerned. In the case of types of material listed in Section V such action may be taken in accordance with procedures established by the USCIB member concerned. In all such cases every reasonable step should be taken to limit distribution to a minimum.

c. The holder of a document stamped "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY," upon determination by proper authority (paragraph 2b above) that a requirement exists for its removal from COMINT channels, must obtain approval from the originator prior to such action. In all such instances all reasonable steps will be taken to see that the document receives the security protection its content warrants.

d. When documents containing information about COMINT are forwarded outside of COMINT channels the terms "COMINT" and "Communications Intelligence" should be avoided if possible.

3. Classification.

a. Classification is determined by content, including the extent of revelation of COMINT activities. The extent of revelation will be determined in each instance by judgment as to (1) the sensitivity of the COMINT activity revealed or the category of COMINT involved, (2) whether the information is specific or general, and (3) whether the revelation concerns past activities only or would affect current activities.

b. The classification of each document containing information about COMINT activities must be considered on the merits of each individual case. There are, however, certain basic criteria which will be of assistance in the determination of classification. (See Appendix to NSA Regulation 121-7)

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4. Public Utterances.

Maximum feasible administrative action will be taken to require that all public utterances which may contain information about COMINT are submitted, for review and advice, to the cognizant USCIB member prior to such utterance. In the event that such information already publicly revealed is included in a document submitted by a private source for review, an attempt by persuasion shall be made to either eliminate such information or express it in such general terms as to conceal, to the maximum degree possible, specific associations with COMINT activities. In the event such a document is submitted by an official source, that document will be classified in accordance with paragraph 3 above (Classification).

SECTION IV - TYPES OF INFORMATION HANDLED VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY

The following are examples of information about COMINT which will be handled via COMINT channels only and which will carry the stamp "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY":

- a. USCIB directives and papers (except as specifically exempted by the Executive Secretary, USCIB).
- b. COMINT liaison with foreign governments.
 - (1) Coordination, liaison and exchange visits.
 - (2) Formal agreements.
- c. NSA Operations Orders
 - (1) General mission assignments.
 - (2) General task assignments.
- d. Foreign cryptographic material (which should be placed in COMINT channels as soon as practicable).
- e. Specific intercept requirements and assignments.
- f. COMINT agency reports of accomplishment.
- g. Plans and policies for support by COMINT activities of ELINT and ECM operations.
- h. Inter-agency exchange of information about Third Party COMINT arrangements.

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i. That information concerning base rights negotiations which involves (1) specific quid pro quo, (2) collaboration or exchange with Third Parties affecting the COMINT activity, or (3) details of the mission or operations of the COMINT activity. It is noted that certain of this information will have to be released outside COMINT channels at a point in the negotiations when it must be presented to, or is raised by, foreign nationals through non-indoctrinated U. S. negotiators.

j. COMINT codewords used in the codeword sense.

SECTION V - TYPES OF INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE HANDLED
OUTSIDE COMINT CHANNELS

The following are examples of information which, with proper approval, may be handled outside COMINT channels, if necessary:

- a. Base rights negotiations except as provided in Section IV.
- b. Construction matters.
- c. Regulations stating the general mission and function of COMINT activities that do not reveal specific techniques or procedures that are unique to COMINT operations.
- d. Courses of instruction at service schools.
- e. Budgetary matters.
- f. Correspondence regarding hazardous duty assignments.

SECTION VI - SUPERVISION

Supervision for the implementation of the policy outlined herein is the responsibility of the Adjutant General.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CANINE:

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Major General, US Air Force
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

GEO. E. CAMPBELL
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