

~~SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~FINALSUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 13.7/46      Item 6 of the Agenda for the 30th Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 26 May 1955.

Subject:            Implementation of Categorization (USCIB 13.7/42).

The CHAIRMAN (Captain Taylor) explained that in recommending an examination of the problem of administering COMINT clearances on the basis of category of access he did not intend to imply that the policy of identical investigative standards for clearance and access to Category III and II be changed. He stated that the reports he had received indicate that a very large number of people are cleared for Category III; however, he went on to point out that the fact that these people are cleared does not necessarily mean that they all have access to and actually see Category III material. He concluded by stating that the information really needed, in his opinion, is the number of persons who, in fact, receive or engage in the production of each category and sub-category of COMINT.

MR. POLYZOIDES suggested that obtaining such a breakdown should be the first step in solving the problem.

MR. GODEL agreed and remarked that such an exercise should not be expected to yield precise figures in each case but should provide a good idea of the size of the problem. He continued, by expressing his opinion, that an additional and perhaps a more fundamental part of the problem is to remove from Category III that material which really should be Category II. We must, he added, clearly recognize that there is a difference in Category III and Category II material and put more of the material into Category II. OGA

[redacted] reported that, in connection with an internal study regarding Category III plain text, CIA had concluded that it is not feasible to compartment such material due to the necessity for persons having access to this plain text also to have occasional access to other Category III material. He had been informed, he continued, that it might be feasible to limit most of the intercept operators [redacted] to Category II, provided NSA could downgrade a very small number of instructional documents which are provided to the operators. He asked that this possibility be examined.

MR. GODEL pointed out that such a limitation would be more difficult at a station having both intercept and analysis responsibilities since analysts need access to Category III technical back-up material.

CAPTAIN HOLTWICK noted that a review of pertinent USCIB Directives and Appendix "B" in connection with this problem appeared to be in order.

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MR. POLYZOIDES then suggested that the problem be given to the Intelligence and Security Committees, that they sit together in their discussions and be given considerable leeway in their examination of the problem.

It was so agreed.

OGA

DECISION: (26 May 1955) USCIBEC agreed that:

a. The difficulties apparent in the implementation of categorization warrant a thorough study of the basic aspects of the problem including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) Further investigation of the figure of [redacted] referred to in paragraph 4 of USCIB 13.7/42, with a view to determining more specifically how many of these persons, as a practical matter, are regularly exposed to each of the categories of COMINT.

(2) Intercept operators need for Category III COMINT material and exploration of the practicability of limiting their access to Category II and Category I COMINT material only.

(3) Review of material assigned to all categories with particular emphasis upon a detailed study with resultant recommendations relative to downgrading certain material presently assigned to Category III.

(4) Review of the provisions of Appendix "B" and pertinent USCIB Directives in connection with this problem with a view to recommending appropriate revisions, if deemed desirable.

b. To refer the problem to a Joint Committee for study and recommendation, such Committee to be chaired by the Chairman of INTCOM, and comprised of the members of the USCIB Intelligence and Security Committees.

The meeting adjourned at 1812.

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