

~~RESTRICTED~~~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~Security Classification and Disposition of
Empty Tape Reels

S/ASST

SEC

29 April 53

1. With reference to your memorandum, above subject, dated 27 April, I cannot concur in the proposal of para 2. In its place I recommend that the empty reels be destroyed by burning, as classified material.

2. My reasons for the above are as follows:

a. This reel is unique and not used by other communication facilities.

b. An accumulation of these reels could reveal by their number the conduct of a secret operation and could lead a foreign agent to their source, and eventually to their original content.

c. These reels embossed as "SECRET, unclassified when empty," could be taken home by employees as toys for their children, or for any other reason, and could thus arouse the curiosity of laymen, could lead to the association of the children's parents with a classified operation, and could even lead a foreign agent to bring pressure upon the parents or other employees involved.

3. Experiments have been made as to the "burnability" of the reels and it has been determined that their burning will present no problem. Although Item c, above, may be far-fetched, the other two are entirely reasonable and burning is a very simple process.

LESLIE H. WYMAN
Colonel, Artillery

V2A SEC

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SUBJECT: Disposition of empty tape reels

 TO: C/SEC FROM: S/ASST DATE: 7 May 1953 COMMENT NO. 2

1. All the members of the Classification Advisory Panel, including Col. Campbell (AG), concurred in your proposed solution, except the Chief, Security Control Division. His alternative solution and reasons therefor are set forth in inclosure 1 to my comment.
2. You will note that I referred Col. Wyman's dissent to Col. Campbell and that the latter appears now to concur with the idea of burning the empty reels, which according to para. 3 of Col. Wyman's comment is easy and presents no hazards.
3. It seems to me that if the arguments of the Chief, SEC are valid they would remain valid even with the proposed new and additional embossing on the reels. Therefore, in his view the new proposed embossing would be questionable, if not wholly misleading.
4. I have no strong feelings as to the validity or non-validity of the arguments presented by Col. Wyman. If we take the position of extreme caution, I suppose we would all agree with SEC and make people destroy the empty reels by burning.
5. If the latter position is adopted by you, then any new embossing should say "Destroy by burning when empty," or some such wording.

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
 Special Assistant

1 Incl:
 WF from SEC to S/ASST
 dtd 29 Apr 53

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
 SPECIAL ASSISTANT