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APPENDIX BANNEXURE B3CLASSIFICATION AND HANDLING OF INFORMATIONRELATED TO COMINT OR COMINT ACTIVITIESINTRODUCTION

1. This Annexure establishes minimum standards with respect to the handling and classification of information which is neither COMINT nor that contained in the "documents and technical material" as described in paragraph 19 of Appendix B, yet reveals, directly or by implication, the existence or nature of COMINT or of COMINT activities.
2. The nature of COMINT and COMINT activities and their susceptibility to loss require that certain information regarding these activities and their product be restricted to persons who have been cleared and indoctrinated for access to COMINT. Certain other information concerning these activities and their product may be handled within conventional channels for information of similar classification. It is essential, however, that reference to the existence or nature of COMINT or 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.
3. Information related to COMINT or COMINT activities which indicates a degree of success or progress in the production of COMINT, a sophisticated COMINT technique or the scale and direction of COMINT effort to a degree which may stimulate countermeasures, as specified in Annex A hereto, must be safeguarded precisely as though it were COMINT. Except as provided for hereinafter, documents containing such information, including messages transmitted electrically, shall be transmitted only via COMINT channels, and shall bear the classification and COMINT codeword appropriate to the most sensitive category or sub-category of COMINT to which they relate.
4. Information related to COMINT or COMINT activities, specified in Annex B hereto, shall be kept exclusively within COMINT channels, except as provided for hereinafter and in that Annex. Documents which contain such information,

- 1 -

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~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

55-00461  
NSA TS CONTL. 59 02143  
COPY NUMBER 9  
PAGE 1 OF 8 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

including messages transmitted electrically, shall bear the appropriate classification but no COMINT codeword, and shall be clearly identified by the caveat "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY", stamped, typewritten, or printed on each page. In the case of bound documents, the identification will show on the cover and title page, if any.

5. Information pertaining to COMINT or COMINT activities, specified in Annex C hereto, may be handled in accordance with normal practice for other information of similar classification. However, nothing herein should be construed as prohibiting an authority from passing such information in COMINT channels. (In such cases, the caveat "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY" will not be used.)

SPECIAL USAGE

6. Should it become necessary to furnish information of the types listed in Annex A to non-indoctrinated persons, such action will be taken only after specific authorization in each case by proper authority designated by USIB or LSIB. When a document containing such information is released from COMINT channels, the codeword must be removed. NSA and GCHQ, through technical channels, will undertake to keep the other party informed, at least in general terms, of the material involved.

7. Information related to COMINT or COMINT activities of the types listed in Annex B may be furnished to non-indoctrinated persons, only with the prior approval of the originator or proper authority and in accordance with the procedures established by USIB or LSIB. When a document containing such information is released from COMINT channels, the handling caveat must be removed or rendered illegible.

8. Every reasonable precaution must be taken to ensure that documents released from COMINT channels are given minimum distribution and receive the security protection their contents warrant.

9. Working papers and similar documents containing information of the types listed in Annexes A and B need not, at the discretion of the officer in charge and after full consideration of the risks involved, bear the classification, codeword or handling caveat when handled exclusively within a COMINT secure area by indoctrinated persons.

- 2 -

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~ NSA TS CONT. NO. 59 02143  
 COPY NUMBER 9  
 PAGE 23 OF 8 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

CLASSIFICATION

10. The classification of each document containing information related to COMINT or COMINT activities must be determined individually, after due consideration of the damage which unauthorized disclosure of its contents could cause to national security, national interests, and the capability of either party to continue to produce communications intelligence.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

11. Maximum feasible administrative action will be taken to require that all public statements which may contain information related to COMINT or COMINT activities are submitted, for preliminary review and advice, to the appropriate COMINT authority, as specified by either Board. 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 eliminate such information or to 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 10 above. ✓

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

NSA TS CONTL. 59 02143  
COPY NUMBER 98  
PAGE 3 OF 8 PAGES

59-00861