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5 November 1954 REF ID:A6657 Fo: S/ASST DIR NSA (Mr. William F. Friedman) FEDERAL CURB PUT ON TECHNICAL DATA FROM: NSA-76 FROM: NSA-763 Commerce Secretary Names Group to Keep Unclassified Items From Potential Foes

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4--The Commerce Department acted today at the President's direction to keep strategic but unclassified material out of the hands of potential enemies.

The Secretary of Commerce, Sinclair Weeks, said an "Office of Strategic Information" had been set up "to provide a central location within the Government which will work with the business community" in voluntary efforts to keep technical data away from foreign nations.

He designated R. Karl Honaman of Glen Ridge, N. J., as director of the new office. Honaman is on loan to the Government from the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City, where he is director of publication.

"In this cooperative effort at self-protection," Weeks said today, "we will undertake to revitalize the voluntary system of carefully evaluating the export of scientific, engineering and other information of a non-statistical nature which, while unclassified, might none-the-less be prejudicial to our national security if it fell into unfriendly hands."

"Classified" material in Government parlance is information stamped "top secret," "secret" or "confidential" for security reasons. Classified information is closely guarded, officials explained, but there is a wealth of technical information that circulates freely among manufacturers and others, and which the new agency would scan.

"Such watchfulness would not take the form of censorship," Mr. Weeks explained today. "It would instead be a matter of exercising intelligence reasonable precaution to make certain that in the necessarily free exchange of scientific information we do not provide nations whose interests are inimical to our own with material which they could some day use against us. The key to the success of this program lies in the cooperation of all who develop and disseminate our national 'know-how.'"

The Secretary also named a committee of Commerce Department officials to work with the new unit. It comprises John C. Green, acting director of the Office of Technical Services, as chairman; Albert Leman, Director of Public Information; Col. Newman Smith, director of Office of Security Control; Marshall M. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Affairs, and George T. Moore, acting director, Office of Administrative Operations.

The New York Times, City Edition, 5 November 1954, Page 40, Column 3 (Washington, 4 November 1954)