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18 September 1953

MINUTES OF NSA CLASSIFICATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING - 2 SEPT 1953

1. The meeting of the NSA Classification Advisory Panel was called to order by Col. George E. Campbell, Adjutant General, at 0830, 2 September 1953, in Room 19-232B. The following were present:

Mr. W. F. Friedman, Chairman	SP/ASST
Lt. Col. G. S. Stevenson	R/D
Mrs. V. Chittenden	C/SEC
Dr. L. E. Shinn	PROD
Mr. F. E. Densmore	PROD
Mr. J. H. Douglas	P/P
Mr. S. W. Reynolds	SEC
Dr. S. Jaffe	TRNG

2. Col. Campbell noted that one of the most difficult problems in assigning classification arises because the definitions are not sufficiently detailed. Mr. Friedman added that what is wanted is to control dissemination of the material and suggested that it be done by means of a single classification with designators to indicate who is going to get the information.

3. Col. Campbell stated that one of the first problems to be considered by the Panel is the classification of COMINT, which the Director has indicated he believes to be over-classified.

4. Col. Campbell said that the Revised NSA Security Manual had been returned to the Security Division with the recommendation that several chapters be classified Restricted and that one chapter may possibly be unclassified. He referred to the chapter on Communication Security and suggested that much of the information in it could be incorporated as a part of the SOPs of the personnel who use it in connection with their assignments.

5. Mrs. Chittenden remarked that a considerable portion of the chapter having to do with distribution and accounting procedures could be downgraded but that the portion of it dealing with the Analysis and Evaluation Division would normally be Confidential since it contains information about the types of links which are susceptible to radiation. She suggested the preparation of a handbook of items dealing with distribution. It was agreed that such a handbook should not contain reference to internal operations if it is to be used as an over-all guide and that it should be classified Restricted.

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6. Mr. Reynolds stated that in his opinion the thinking in regard to classification ought to be liberalized to determine what must be protected under all circumstances and that a realistic approach should be taken toward other items. Mr. Friedman added that the unrealism with which classification is regarded has weakened the security which is applied to items that really need to be protected.

7. It was noted that the Army Regulation which states the mission of ASA is unclassified.

8. Col. Campbell presented an organization chart of Production which is graded Secret and asked about the possibility of downgrading it to Restricted. Mr. Friedman commented that with minor changes he believed the chart could be downgraded to Restricted. It was agreed that organization charts which list the Director, the Staff Divisions and Offices should be Restricted and that those going below this level should be Confidential.

9. In connection with short titles, nomenclature and code words, other than special code words, Col. Campbell recommended that they not be classified unless an explanation or indication is given of how the equipments or procedures which they cover are used in operations.

10. Mrs. Chittenden commented that a list of cryptographic code words is available which gives all cryptographic holders and that the composite list is required to be classified.

11. Dr. Jaffe recommended that a committee be appointed to codify operations in NSA and indicate the degree of security which should be attached to each of them. It was agreed that three committees be established within Production, the Office of Research and Development, the Office of Communication Security, with possibly a fourth committee in the Training Division, to develop guide lines for classification, including classification of titles of Branches, Units, and Sections. Dr. Shinn commented that the NSA Key List serves primarily as a telephone list.

12. Mr. Douglas recommended that the committees consider criteria by which personnel shortcuts might reduce classification, also that the security manuals of other Agencies be studied. In this connection, Mr. Densmore stated that he could get in touch with Col. Geddes, former Deputy Chief of ASA, who is now with the Atomic Energy Commission.

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13. Dr. Shinn indicated that Production would be able to collect a suitable list of questions within about three weeks to begin a table of contents from which the text for a handbook on classification could be filled in. It was agreed that reclassification, as well as classification, be considered by the Committees.

14. Col. Campbell mentioned that a translation of TICOM Document No. 1035 had been presented to the NSA Classification Advisory Panel with the recommendation that it be downgraded to Secret. In connection with the classification of TICOM operations, Dr. Jaffe remarked that because an item has been classified for a long period of time should not necessarily preclude it from re-examination.

15. Dr. Shinn indicated that it might be desirable to assign an individual in NSA to devote full time to becoming an expert on classification problems and that he be attached to the Security Division. Mr. Reynolds stated that he believes the problem requires the collaboration of all individuals concerned. In connection with developing the educational factor on the classification problem, it was agreed that the NSA Classification Advisory Board could be of assistance in giving the Staff Divisions and Offices guide lines on which to base some of their decisions.

16. Lt. Col. Stevenson noted that R/CA 53, Report by Cryptanalytic Aids Committee on Computer Classification, was considered by RADAC on 22 July 1953 and had been referred to the Chairman of the Classification Advisory Panel on 30 July 1953.

17. The next meeting of the Panel was scheduled tentatively to be held in about three weeks when it is anticipated that PROD, C/SEC and R/D would have submitted their classification problems and their recommendations on how to solve them. The meeting adjourned at 1130.