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January 12, 1983

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM  
FOR CASE PROCESSING

DOD is developing an automated data communications, storage and retrieval system for use in processing requests for disclosure of classified military information, munitions and dual-use export cases and COCOM cases. The system, called the Foreign Disclosure and Technical Information System (FORDTIS) by DOD, will store only those cases referred to DOD for coordination. FORDTIS will permit Commerce, State, Defense, DOE, Customs and the intelligence agencies to retrieve case data or reference data over remote terminals located in their respective organizations. This will improve case processing efficiency and speed by giving all parties immediate access to the latest data on each case under consideration, reducing mailing delays. It will also allow greater consistency in case processing by making it easier to review past cases similar to the case under consideration.

FORDTIS' initial operating capability was demonstrated in June 1982 for use in processing requests for classified military information and munitions export cases. The system is being tested for use in processing dual-use export cases. DOD, each of the services, and DIA have terminals. The State, Commerce, CIA, NSA, DOE, and Customs installations will begin in 1983. Eventually, 100 terminals at 40 sites are planned.

DOD will fund for cryptographic equipment, communications equipment, and installation costs. Users will pay for the communications line as a normal part of their telephone service. Users will be responsible for providing electricity and site security.

A Memorandum of Understanding to define what data will be exchanged and who will provide software interfaces has been drafted by DOD. Coordination at the working level will begin shortly. No problems are anticipated.

NSC review completed.

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