

Director, Central Intelligence
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

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January 5, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Violations of the Security of
Classified Information

At the 77th Meeting of the National Security Council, the President made the following statement:

"Public disclosure of classified information regarding this Government's national security policies and plans in these critical times has become so flagrant in recent weeks that I feel compelled to bring this matter to your attention at this meeting. I have in mind particularly recent disclosures in the press and radio of highly classified atomic energy information and top secret data contained in the NSC 68 series. It is inconceivable to me that any loyal Government employee would make such information available to representatives of the press. I have therefore ordered that certain steps be taken to trace down those responsible for such a grave breach of security. I have also directed that the distribution of NSC and CIA reports be strictly limited. In addition, I desire that each of you take all practicable steps within your respective departments and agencies to prevent further disclosures of classified information, particularly during this period of national emergency when our security is at stake. I am particularly anxious that every Government employee having access to classified information realize his personal responsibility to his country for preventing the unauthorized disclosure of such information, through the press or otherwise."

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The above statement is accordingly transmitted herewith for appropriate action as indicated therein.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Attorney General
The Secretary of Commerce
The Director of Defense Mobilization
The Economic Cooperation Administrator
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Administrator of Federal Civil Defense
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
The Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference
The Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security

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