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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

10 August 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members, National Foreign Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Accreditation Responsibilities for Automated SCI
Handling Systems

1. The protection of sensitive compartmented information (SCI) handled in automated systems is one of the most important responsibilities of the National Foreign Intelligence Board. The means for achieving acceptable levels of protection for SCI is both complex and costly and hence will probably be a lengthy process.

2. One immediate step toward better protection of SCI is to strengthen supporting NFIB policies. In this regard, a concern of mine has been the manner in which the policy responsibility for accrediting automated SCI handling systems has been implemented in some cases by delegating accreditation actions to organizations outside the Intelligence Community (IC). Decisions regarding the impact of SCI compromise on collection resources, on sources and methods, on relationships of our government with other governments, on technological developments, and the like can best, and often can only, be made by NFIB seniors.

3. Present policies that permit operational users and system developmental agencies outside the IC to determine what risks are acceptable in handling SCI raise real questions about NFIB's governance of its responsibilities in regard to the protection of automated systems processing SCI.

4. Accordingly, I am requesting, consistent with the provisions of DCID 1/16, that NFIB members take the necessary actions to retain or return to NFIB officials all delegations of accreditation authority and related actions for automated systems handling SCI: this should be accomplished within sixty days.

5. It appears that NFIB members may lack sufficient accreditation resources and that resource estimates for such action may not be readily available. As NFIB members and officials accumulate and project resource estimates, I will assist as appropriate in NFIB budgetary support.


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