

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 2

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# The news—briefly

## US orders secrecy pledge

Washington  
The White House, determined to stop leaks of classified information to reporters, ordered officials involved in national security to sign a secrecy pledge.

The order sets up a system under which every copy of a document circulated by the council will have a different number, identifying who has handled it.

On the cover sheet will be a notice that the document is to be read and discussed only by people authorized by law. It requires each person signing the cover sheet to cooperate with any investigation, which could include lie detector tests.

Monitor correspondent Richard J. Cattani reports the administration also backed off on an earlier attempt to shut off National Security Council leaks by limiting press access. New NSC classified information regulations drop a Jan. 12 rule requiring "pre-clearance and follow-up memorandum" for every press contact.