

178-4602

20 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

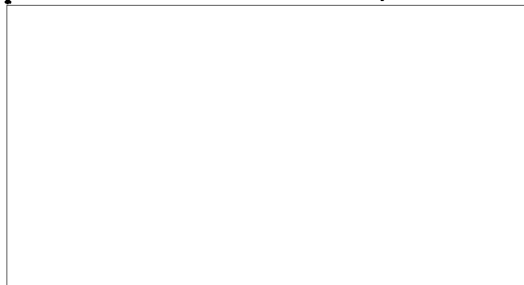
FROM : [redacted]
SA to the DCI

SUBJECT : ~~Zero-Base Review of Compartmented Clearances~~

1. Action Requested: This memorandum has a recommendation in paragraph 4, for your approval. [redacted]

2. Background: Earlier this month at your direction, the Office of Security tasked the Community to participate in a zero base review of the holders of compartmented clearances, both operational and product. As you know, the proposal for the [redacted] Control System also includes among its recommendations the zero base review to take place at the beginning of the implementation phase in order to better define and limit the population which will be given access within the [redacted] system [redacted]

I met with the NFIB Working Group on Compartmentation yesterday to hand out the work program over the next several months. Several of the participants raised the question of the zero base review, noting particularly that it seemed to them to be a redundant, if not burdensome, exercise to conduct two such reviews within such a short period of time. Their major emphasis was fixed on the question of clearances for access to codeword product which, of course, is a much larger population than those holding operational clearances. Moreover, the ground rules for justifying product access under the present compartmented systems are much looser than the ground rules under the [redacted] system so that the zero base review conducted at this time would not be of much value when we get to implement the [redacted] system. On the other hand, the system for operational compartments is essentially



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the same in both worlds so that a zero base review of operational clearances conducted at this time would be highly useful and give us a leg up when we start the new system. [redacted]

After some discussion, the consensus of the Group seemed to be that it would be desirable to postpone the zero base review for product clearances until we start implementing the [redacted] program, but to continue to carry out the zero base review for operational clearances. I think this makes a lot of sense and would advise you to assent to this change. [redacted]

3. Staff Position: I have discussed this question with the Director of Security, and he concurs in my proposal. [redacted]

4. Recommendation: That you authorize the Director of Security to defer the zero base review product clearances until the implementation phase of the [redacted] program, but instruct him to complete the zero base review for holders of operational clearances. [redacted]

APPROVED : [redacted]
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: [redacted]
Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : 22 DEC 1978

SA/DCI [redacted] (20 Dec 78)

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