

22 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, DCI Security Committee

FROM : Chairman
NFIB Working Group on Compartmentation

SUBJECT : Security Clearance Standards

1. As you know, the NFIB Working Group on Compartmentation has had a panel deliberating about the problem of establishing more rigid criteria for clearances for access to national foreign intelligence issued at standard levels of classification. Although there is little dispute about the merit of such a proposal, the administrative and resource costs, particularly in the Department of Defense, are apparently of such a magnitude that the feasibility of carrying out the program is brought into question.

2. At the same time, I know that the DCI Security Committee itself has discussed this problem and has reached a judgment that the need for higher clearance standards is just as urgent when it comes to granting national security clearances (as distinct from national foreign intelligence clearances). I understand that their view is that, because the need is across the board, there should not be a distinction between consumers of intelligence and consumers of other classified information, and if the situation is to be remedied, the remedy should apply to all people who have access to classified information.

3. I reported the above developments to the Director last Friday and pointed out to him that the problem of security clearance standards was obviously of much more general concern than the particular aspects from which we were viewing it in setting up the APEX Program. Moreover, since the time and money required to resolve this problem meant that APEX would be implemented long before the classification question was solved, I felt that we should not let the APEX Program founder on the question of standard security clearances.

4. In view of these considerations, I recommended that the problem should be removed from the APEX forum and transferred to the DCI Security Committee. The Director agreed with this recommendation and by this memorandum, I hereby transfer the responsibility and wish you well.



cc: DCI
DDCI
C/Community Security Group



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MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Office of Security

Dick--

You have probably heard this. You should disband your panel and make whatever information you have available to whomever picks up this task. Please do not disseminate this memorandum to your panel.

Thanks for your efforts.

[redacted]

SA to the DCI

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Date 22 March 1979

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