

FINAL DRAFT

OSD Reply of 1 Dec 80

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DCI SECURITY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: SCI Due Process Procedures

On November 13, 1980, the DCI Security Committee by a vote of 9 to 3, approved the draft of Annex B, "DCID 1/14 Appeals Procedures," for transmission to the NFIB. While the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) supports implementation of an SCI due process procedure, draft Annex B as approved, potentially imposes a significant additional administrative and financial burden on the military services and is, therefore, unacceptable.

The OSD objections to the draft Annex B center on two primary concerns:

- (1) Equity and fairness dictate that a statement of reasons be provided before denial of SCI access occurs. Such a provision would afford the individual concerned an opportunity to respond to the allegations supporting the denial with additional information which might refute or mitigate the information upon which the denial or revocation is predicated. Notifying a person of the fact of a SCI denial without the reasons imposes a chilling effect on the person's ability to obtain appropriate due process remedies. The military services have successfully employed this concept for many years with collateral clearances.
- (2) An equitable appeals procedure does not necessarily require a personal appearance. A written notification of intent to deny or revoke access accompanied by the reasons therefore, an opportunity to reply in writing ~~and the opportunity to reply in writing~~ and the opportunity to appeal an adverse ruling to a higher authority satisfies, in our opinion, the test of equity and fairness. Since the DoD has approximately 100,000 SCI billets, a greater number than any other member agency of the intelligence community, the burden of a personal appearance would weigh most heavily on Defense. Each year a large number of applicants and incumbents, located all over the world, are denied SCI access. If only a small percentage requested a personal appearance, the financial impact on the military departments and DoD agencies would be considerable. It is anticipated that such a procedure would significantly delay an already lengthy clearance process, degrade an agency's ability to discharge its mission and cause the subject considerable hardship.

On file OSD release instructions apply.

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Therefore, OSD recommends that draft Annex B be rejected and the following wording substituted:

"Each Senior Intelligence Officer shall establish formal procedures to ensure that individuals to be denied access to SCI are notified of the impending denial and the reasons therefor, and are afforded a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to denial of such access."

The above wording has the advantage of allowing each SIO some latitude in implementing due process when considering unique aspects of his agency's operation, while at the same time providing commonality on the key due process elements of notice, reasons for denial and the opportunity to respond. By adopting such a policy, the intelligence community would be in conformance with recent legal trends and would insure just and equitable treatment of applicants and employees.

It is requested that the OSD position as outlined in this memorandum be forwarded to the members of the NFIB for consideration along with the draft Annex B to DCID 1/14.

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