

INFORMATION

March 6, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
FROM: TOM LATIMER  
SUBJECT: NSSM 113 - Declassification Study

Attached is the draft of the new Executive Order which John Ehrlichman discussed with you in Florida. Approval of this draft has been obtained from State, Defense, AEC, CIA and Justice. Dick Kennedy and Al Haig have also read it and have no problems.

The key new elements of this Executive Order are the following:

1. The old system of placing documents in four groups, three of which exempted the material from automatic declassification, has been abolished. Under the new system, TOP SECRET material may be declassified after ten years, SECRET after eight years and CONFIDENTIAL after six years.
2. Material believed to be too sensitive to be automatically declassified can be excluded for an indefinite period of time from declassification by the head of an agency or his designee.
3. All such excluded material must be reviewed for declassification after ten years upon request by any one inside the government.
4. After thirty years everything will be declassified except for those few items which the head of an agency exempts because their disclosure would jeopardize an individual or which need continuing protection in the interest of national security.
5. The new Executive Order also calls for the creation of an inter-agency review committee to monitor the implementation of the Order.
6. The new Order also restricts the number of people authorized to originally classify information TOP SECRET.

This Executive Order is being prepared for the President's signature and should be ready within a day or two.

NSS Review Completed.

TL:nm:3/6/72