

January 6, 1950

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 12AVOIDANCE OF PUBLICITY CONCERNING
THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 101 and 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 as amended, and in accordance with Section 7 of NSC 50, the National Security Council hereby authorizes and directs that the following policy be established, since any publicity, factual or fictional, concerning intelligence is potentially detrimental to the effectiveness of an intelligence activity and to the national security:

1. All departments and agencies represented by membership on the Intelligence Advisory Committee shall take steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure for written or oral publication of any information concerning intelligence or intelligence activities. The head of each department or agency will determine his channel for granting such authorization as may be necessary.

2. The sense of the above directive shall be communicated to all other executive departments and agencies as an expression of policy of the National Security Council.*

3. In cases where the disclosure of classified information is sought from the Director of Central Intelligence, and he has doubt as to whether he should comply, the question will be referred to the National Security Council.

* See attached communication

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
26-Aug-2008

NSCID 12

HR 70-14
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

~~RESTRICTED~~

January 6, 1950

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Avoidance of Publicity Concerning the Intelligence Agencies
of the U. S. Government

The National Security Council, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 101 and 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 as amended, has this date taken the following action with respect to the above subject and has agreed that it should be communicated as an expression of policy to all executive departments and establishments.

The National Security Council considers that any publicity, factual or fictional, concerning intelligence is potentially detrimental to the effectiveness of an intelligence activity and to the national security. The Council has therefore authorized and directed the departments and agencies represented by membership on the Intelligence Advisory Committee* to take steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure for written or oral publication of any information concerning intelligence or intelligence activities. The head of each of these departments and agencies will determine his channel for granting such authorization as may be necessary.

SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Executive Secretary

*The Departments of State, Defense (the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff), Justice, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Central Intelligence Agency.

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