

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 14, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES WILDEROTTER
FROM: R. C. MC FARLANE *RCM*
SUBJECT: Procedures for Safeguarding
Classified Information



The following points are raised in reply to your request for NSC staff comment on arrangements discussed with members of the Select Committee staff under which classified material would be provided to the Committee.

First, the position expressed by the Committee Chairman and reaffirmed by Mr. Miller that the Committee reserves the right to make public any document provided to it is a matter of most serious concern. It is the NSC view that the responsibility of Executive agencies to safeguard classified information is defensible and cannot be abdicated. While the acceptance within the Executive Branch of the legitimacy of the Committee's purpose implies a willingness to cooperate, there must be a parallel recognition by the Committee of the need to safeguard the sensitive information being provided. It is believed further that executive responsibility in this regard cannot be selectively applied by allowing some classified information to be made public while other information is not. It is the NSC view that where the Committee wishes to make public certain classified information, that such a request should be considered in accordance with established procedures. In the event an exception is to be considered to past policy in this regard it is the NSC position that the decision should be made by the President.

Second, it is noted that informal discussions have been held with the Committee Staff Director and General Counsel for the purpose of establishing mutually agreed special procedures for handling particularly sensitive information. While it is believed that these discussions are useful, in light of the ultimate responsibility reposing with the President on this matter, and of its importance in terms of our ongoing foreign relations, it is recommended that Executive Branch concerns be conveyed directly to the Committee Chairman and Ranking Republican Member. Pending the resolution of this matter, it is the NSC position that no classified information should be provided to the Committee.

WHOPns: Robert K. Wolthuis Files, subject series, b. 2, f: "Intel Investigations - Church Com (2)."
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