

November 23, 1953

ACTION
NUMBER

969. PREVENTION OF UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OF CLASSIFIED
NSC INFORMATION



Noted the following statement by the President:

"Executive Order No. 10501, 'Safeguarding Official Information in the Interests of the Defense of the United States', will become effective on December 15.

"Its purpose is to insure that no information is withheld from the people of the United States which they have a right to know, and to insure that classified defense information is properly safeguarded. The Executive Order defines the kind of information which is subject to classification and makes the requirements of the defense interests of the United States the test as to whether information may be classified. If this new approach to the authorized disclosure of information is to succeed, without prejudicing the national security or confusing the American people, we should take positive steps to halt the unauthorized disclosure of classified information.

"Because the national security has been prejudiced by past unauthorized disclosures of classified information contained in NSC documents or discussed at NSC meetings, I shall hold the heads of departments and agencies, which originate or receive classified NSC information, responsible for taking all practicable steps necessary to prevent further unauthorized disclosures. I wish that every Government official and employee having access to such classified documents and information would realize his personal responsibility to his country for preventing any unauthorized disclosures of classified defense information.

"In the event of future unauthorized disclosures of classified NSC information, I intend

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to direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct investigations to identify the sources thereof in order that appropriate administrative action may be promptly taken."

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