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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

TO: Lt. General J. E. Hull  
Commander, Joint Task Force Seven

FROM: Carroll L. Wilson, General Manager

THROUGH: Military Liaison Committee

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION GUIDE FOR OPERATION SANDSTONE

SYMBOL: GMSI-IScdcb:rah

The Classification Guide for Operation SANDSTONE which was submitted by Captain James S. Russell, USN, of the Division of Military Application, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, is approved as revised January 15, 1948, copy attached hereto.

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A P P E N D I X

CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

OPERATION SANDSTONE

January 15, 1948

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1. The following is prepared as a guide to proper classification and grading of documents, material or information involving or concerning Operation SANDSTONE.

PURPOSE

2. The purpose of classification is to effect the evaluation of the amount of protection which must be provided for documents, writings, sketches, drawings, photographs, plans, models, instruments, appliances, notes or information and the like, and to prescribe markings or labels which give notice of the results of such evaluation.

DEFINITIONS

3. a. As used in this guide, the words "documents, material and information" include all writings, reports, sketches, drawings, photographs, plans, models, instruments, appliances, notes, records and the like.

b. The term "restricted data" means all data concerning the manufacture or utilization of atomic weapons, the production of fissionable material, or the use of fissionable material in the production of power, but does not include any data which the Atomic Energy Commission from time to time determines may be published without adversely affecting the common defense and security.

c. For the purposes of this guide, the term "classified matter" means all information the disclosure of which is limited by authority of law. This includes information which is "restricted data" under the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, information which must be safeguarded under the Espionage Act (50 U.S.C. 31), and information which must not be disclosed to unauthorized persons by reason of obligations assumed in the course of privileged relationships, formal or informal, such as those of Government

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employees, contractors with the Government or their employees, members of the Armed Services, persons working in fields in which access to official information is required, and similar individuals.

CLASSIFICATION

4. a. The Atomic Energy Act of 1946 provides among other things that it shall be the policy of the Commission to control the dissemination of "restricted data" in such a manner as to assure the common defense and security. Furthermore, by this act, a person having control or access to restricted data, who discloses the same with intent to injure the United States or to secure an advantage to any foreign nation, may be punished by death or life imprisonment in certain cases or imprisoned for not more than twenty years and fined not more than \$20,000. If such disclosure is made with reason to believe that injury to the United States or an advantage to a foreign nation will result, the penalties are not more than ten years imprisonment and not more than a \$10,000 fine. Other penalties are also provided.

b. Briefly, the Espionage Act (among other things) provides a prison term of not more than ten years and a fine of not more than \$10,000 as punishment to a person, who, with intent or reason to believe that information relating to the national defense is to be used to the injury of the United States, or to the advantage of any foreign nation, wilfully or through gross negligence discloses or permits the disclosure of the same to a person not entitled to receive it.

c. The violation of obligations assumed in the course of a privileged relationship (see 3 c above) may subject the violator to a variety of legal or administrative actions such as the termination of contracts, the imposition of damages, an injunction against further disclosure, dismissal from employment, and others.

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GRADING

5. a. After determination that a document, material or information is classified (i.e., falls within the categories of paragraph 4) and hence should be protected, the amount of protection to be provided in handling and storage is fixed by the "grade" assigned to the same. The grade is a brief label which indicates to everyone (including persons not required to be familiar with the importance of the contents or characteristics of the classified matter) that certain precautions must be taken in the handling and safeguarding of the classified material. Instructions GM-2, GM-19, and GM-37, as well as regulations promulgated by the Armed Services such as AR-380-5 and Navy Regulations Article 76, cover various phases of processing classified matter and prescribe procedures therefor. Except for procedures specifically stated herein to be authorized exceptions, such instructions are to be followed where applicable.

b. To indicate the necessary procedure for transmittal, handling, storage, accountability and the like, the following grades of classified matter are established for the purposes of Operation SANDSTONE:

(1) TOP SECRET for classified matter which, if disclosed to a person not authorized to receive the same, would cause exceptionally grave damage to the nation. Matter thus graded usually concerns: particulars of future major or special operations of the Armed Services, new or specialized techniques to be used in future operations, critical information of important munitions and production thereof.

(2) SECRET for classified matter which, if disclosed to a person not authorized to receive the same, would endanger the national security, would cause serious injury

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to the interests or prestige of the nation or any governmental agency thereof, or would be of great advantage to a foreign nation. Matter thus graded usually concerns: Plans or particulars of operations not included under Top Secret, instructions regarding the employment of new munitions, certain development projects.

(3) CONFIDENTIAL for classified matter which, if disclosed to a person not authorized to receive the same, would be prejudicial to the interests and prestige of the nation, any governmental agency or an individual, and thus would be of advantage to a foreign nation. Matter thus graded usually concerns: Subjects of minor importance which should be denied circulation to more than limited groups of authorized personnel, certain types of technical information which are a distinct asset and not a matter of general knowledge but which do not reveal (either directly or by inference) matter graded Top Secret or Secret. Documents, material and information involving or incorporating restricted data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 will not be graded lower than CONFIDENTIAL.

(4) RESTRICTED (not restricted data) for matter not graded Top Secret, Secret or Confidential, which requires protection to the extent that it should be denied public circulation for official reasons, including patent reasons, or reasons of administrative privacy which do not affect the prestige of the nation, any governmental agency or an individual. Matter thus graded usually concerns: Information which is declassifiable under announced standards (e.g., the AEC Declassification Guide) but which is not determined to be unclassified by competent authority in accordance with announced standards: for example, instru-

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ments or appliances (without revealing the motivation for the construction or employment thereof if graded higher than restricted) in relation to which patent or other property rights must be protected.

MARKING

6. For the marking of classified matter generally, see GM-19 and GM-37. However, in order to expedite the handling and transmission of classified matter between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Armed Services in connection with Operation SANDSTONE, and to indicate clearly when restricted data is involved or incorporated, the General Manager, AEC, has made an exception to the provision of Section 4b(3) of Instruction GM-37 for Operation SANDSTONE activities. This exception is conditioned upon (a) the employment of a stamp which reads "RESTRICTED DATA ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1946" on all classified matter in which restricted data is involved or incorporated; and (b) the processing of all Operation SANDSTONE classified matter through separate channels and accountability. (See Para. 10a, infra)

In the event restricted data is not involved, i.e., the document, material or information is classifiable under 4 b or 4 c above, the appropriate grade will be marked thereon but the stamp reading "RESTRICTED DATA ATOMIC ENERGY ACT 1946" will not be used nor will the stamp prescribed by GM-37 sec. 4(b)3 be used.

GENERAL GUIDES

7. a. The determination of whether a document, material or information is classified or not, and if classified, the proper grade to be applied thereto, cannot simply be made on the basis of content or apparent characteristics. The implications to be drawn by connecting certain information with information already published may compel the conclusion that the information being considered is classified.



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b. Furthermore, the association of the subject or author with a particular site or subject may, in itself, require that the information be classified and properly graded.

c. Information should not be disclosed from which classified details can be inferred. For example, no information is to be disclosed from which specification or process details of manufacture of classified substances can be inferred.

d. Unnecessary references to classified installations or to classified documents and materials should be avoided in all cases.

INTERPRETATION

8. a. In case of conflict between the various topics and criteria hereinafter given, the question of whether or not documents, material or information are classified will be decided under the most restrictive topic or criteria. Overclassification should be avoided as it causes unnecessary delay in transmission or depreciates the importance of classified information in the minds of handling personnel.

b. All doubts must be resolved in favor of classification and a grade assigned in keeping with the degree of protection necessary. Thereafter, normal AEC declassification procedure, initiated at Los Alamos, may be employed to obtain a final decision in keeping with established policies.

MILITARY CRITERIA

9. The criteria set forth in AR 380-5 and Navy Regulations Article 76 at present govern the grading of documents, material or information of purely military nature. The following examples, some of which may also be examples of restricted data, are presently deemed to be classified and graded as indicated.

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(1) Time schedules for Operation SANDSTONE, graded SECRET.

(2) Target date for a particular test, graded TOP SECRET.

(3) Detailed composition or strength of entire Task Force, graded RESTRICTED.

(4) Internal organization of Task groups, graded RESTRICTED.

(5) The manner of shipment of classified material, instruments, assemblies and the like, graded SECRET.

(6) Certain details of construction and operation plans related to a particular test, graded SECRET.

(7) Notification of personnel of prospective overseas service, graded RESTRICTED.

#### RESTRICTED DATA CRITERIA

10. a. The following are some guiding examples of information or matter which at present are deemed to be "restricted data" because they involve data concerning the manufacture or utilization of atomic weapons. (The stamp required by section 6 above must be employed and normally a grade of not less than CONFIDENTIAL applied. In the event the appropriate grade is not marked, classified matter involving or incorporating restricted data will be treated as graded not lower than CONFIDENTIAL and will at least be given the same protection as if they were so marked until officially graded.)

b. Experimental results of the equations of state of elements with atomic number greater than 90, graded SECRET.

c. Theoretical work on shock hydrodynamics and detonation waves except the theory of blast in air, (however, experimental results from atomic bomb explosions may not be used for purposes of combining theory and experiment), graded SECRET.

d. Efficiencies of atomic weapons, including calculations and actual values, graded SECRET.

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e. Destructive effects of specific bombs, except those which have already been used and then only to the extent of official releases approved by the AEC, graded SECRET.

f. Descriptions, behavior and characteristics of individual components of weapons where the association with atomic weapons is clear or indicated by context or otherwise, graded SECRET.

g. Reports of experiments on nuclear weapons which include information indicating the mode of operation or nature of the construction of the weapon, graded SECRET or TOP SECRET depending on the amount of detail disclosed.

h. Chain reaction physics, including the constants connected therewith, graded SECRET.

i. Reactor physics theory, graded SECRET.

j. Neutron diffusion theory, graded SECRET.

k. Critical mass values or information from which such values may be calculated or approximated, graded SECRET.

l. Extraction and decontamination chemistry and all other chemistry relating to the efficiency of utilization of active materials, graded SECRET.

m. Parameters which are related to the mode of operation or efficiency and which alone or in combination with known or given parameters indicate the mode of operation or efficiency of an atomic weapon, graded SECRET, e.g.

- (1) neutron multiplication rates
- (2) radiation as a function of time or distance
- (3) blast as a function of distance
- (4) peak pressure as a function of time or distance
- (5) radiation spectra

n. Slant ranges in detonation of an atomic weapon, graded SECRET.

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o. Methods and specially designed equipment for the remote detection of the occurrence of a nuclear explosion, graded SECRET.

p. Exact composition of fall-out or indications of the active materials employed or efficiency of utilization, graded SECRET.

q. Damage as a function of radius of damage, graded SECRET.

r. The relative effects of damage producing phenomena, graded SECRET.

s. Instruments, appliances or components thereof (including drawings and photographs) which reveal restricted data, for example which reveal neutron multiplication rates in atomic weapons graded SECRET.

UNCLASSIFIED MATERIAL

11. a. There is a considerable body of information, related to the work of the AEC and associated agencies, which is not classified. This includes information which the Commission has determined may be published without adversely affecting the common defense and security. Specific reference to published work should appear whenever possible.

For example, information may be unclassified if it has already been published in "Atomic Energy for Military Purposes," by H. D. Smyth, or in other documents the publication of which has been approved by the AEC. In addition, it should be noted that declassification by constituted authority of information already published from reputable sources in the scientific or technical literature, which was developed outside the Atomic Energy Project (formerly Manhattan Project), is justified. The following reservations should, however, be noted. Reference to obscurely published or not fully documented information must not be invoked to justify repeated publication. It must be borne in mind that independent confirmation of results may be harmful by increasing

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confidence in their accuracy. The previous mention of a particular result does not justify disseminating as unclassified information going beyond that actually disclosed. It is also not permissible to reveal the special importance to the Project of a certain fact unless its importance was already evident from previous publication. Moreover, essentially classified information must not be revealed by selection or by selective averaging of published data.

b. For the purposes of Operation SANDSTONE, unmarked documents, material or information will be treated in accordance with section 10a above. To be treated as unclassified the documents, material or information must be so marked or indicated by authority of the Test Director or his designee.