

document consists of 2 pages
No. 2 of R Series 4

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August 6, 1947

14. General L. B. Swenson, Chairman
Military Energy Committee
P. O. Box 1804
Washington, D. C.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
DATE 6-14-73
By The U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Handwritten: R. B. Jackson
Nation of Origin

Dear General Swenson:

The Commission has considered the request contained in the JCS memorandum dated 10 April 1947 on the subject of the dissemination of CROSSROADS information, and agrees with the recommendation that dissemination of this information fairly widely within the Armed Forces is essential in the interests of the common defense and security. We have been of the opinion that the JCS proposal should be held abeyant pending the adoption of a joint Armed Forces-NSC security plan. In view of the time elapsed and the likelihood of even more delay in the adoption of an over-all security plan, the Commission is prepared to cooperate in a specific plan for the dissemination of CROSSROADS information.

In accordance with the terms of the Atomic Energy Act, any information which pertains to the "utilization of atomic weapons" (Section 10(b)(1)) is restricted data except that data which the Commission from time to time determines may be published. If such data is of a classified nature and cannot be published, it is our present interpretation of the Act that it remains restricted data. The objective of the Armed Forces is not the publication of the CROSSROADS data but the dissemination, usually in a classified category, throughout the Services. Thus it does not appear necessary to resort to removing information from the category of restricted data in order to bring about a result in keeping with the real objective of the Armed Forces.

It is believed that this result can be achieved under the terms of the Atomic Energy Act which charge the Commission with the dissemination of restricted data in a manner to assure the common defense and security. Under this provision the Commission may, in the interest of common defense and security, authorize the dissemination of restricted data within the Armed Forces.

The specific objective of the JCS memorandum, as we understand it, is to bring about the fairly wide dissemination of information within the Armed Forces for all the so-called CROSSROADS information described

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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5-18-51
Merrill...
to...

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COPY FOR MR. *Handwritten:* Tolson

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In that memorandum except that defined in paragraph 5a through 5c should like to suggest one change in a portion of that paragraph so believe paragraph 5a(4) should be modified to read as follows:

"Results of radio-chemical analysis of samples or other nuclear information from which the nuclear efficiency of the bomb might be derived."

With this modification in paragraph 5a(4), we are prepared to authorize dissemination by the Armed Forces of the CONFIDENTIAL information that would then be covered by paragraph 5b, but with the understanding that this action would not of itself effect the removal of any information from the category "restricted data." This authorization is also to be subject to the understanding that the information will be disseminated in accordance with the security standards and practices provided through the various applicable military classifications. We should like to be informed in advance of the military classifications placed upon the material and the Armed Forces' security standards and practices that will be applied.

It should also be understood that this authorization is being given at this time pending the adoption of a joint security plan because of the nature of the information and the urgent need for it within the Armed Services.

It is requested that you inform us if the Armed Forces consider the above proposal satisfactory, and, if so considered, it is requested that it be effected within the Armed Forces.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel T. Piles
Acting Chairman

William "Redacted"
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