

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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(CONFIDENTIAL (CDS))

January 20, 1977

National Security Decision Memorandum 347

TO: Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Administrator, Energy Research and
Development Administration

SUBJECT: The Classification of Sensitive Nuclear Safeguards
Information

The President has reviewed the interagency study conducted pursuant to National Security Study Memorandum 216 and has determined that, owing to the potential consequences of loss or diversion of significant quantities of strategic nuclear material (plutonium, uranium-233, or uranium-235 enriched above 20%), or sabotage of any facility or activity involving such material, unauthorized disclosure by any person of certain information relating to the protection of such material, facilities or activities could reasonably be expected to cause some degree of damage to the national security. Consequently, the following information should be classified, when appropriate, under Executive Order 11652 and implementing directives of that order:

- Information concerning measures for the physical protection of significant quantities of strategic nuclear material by whomever possessed at fixed sites or in transit or for the physical protection of nuclear facilities (i. e., production or utilization facilities or any other facilities or activities) involving such material if the disclosure of such information may be reasonably expected to facilitate theft, diversion or sabotage.
- Information concerning control and accounting procedures for significant quantities of strategic nuclear material, including but not limited to inventory discrepancy data generated under such procedures. This information shall remain classified for at least a period of six months after it is generated, or any longer period of active ongoing investigation. At the expiration of six months or the conclusion of a related investigation, whichever is later, such data classified on the basis solely of this directive may be declassified.

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Declassified/Released on 2/29/96
under provisions of E.O. 12958
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council
F96-98

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The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Research and Development Administration shall each prescribe such regulations or orders additional to those already issued as they may deem necessary to implement fully the above classification directives. All such regulations should be carefully tailored so as to be as consistent as practicable and to apply the minimum restrictions needed to achieve safeguards objectives.

The decision as to the applicability of the foregoing directive to physical security plans of licensed, privately-owned nuclear reactors is deferred until completion of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Use of Mixed Oxide Fuels.

This directive is not intended to preclude classification pursuant to E. O. 11652, of any nuclear safeguards information otherwise requiring protection in the interest of national security.


Brent Scowcroft

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cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

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