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April 18, 1963

Dr. Max F. Roy  
Assistant Director for Production  
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory  
P. O. Box 1663  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Roy:

Mr. Leonard M. Brenner, AEC Deputy Chief of the Joint Atomic Information Exchange Group, asked us to review the letter by F. J. Dunn dated March 28, 1963 (W-7-6116), addressed to Mr. E. T. B. Scott. He brought the letter to us for advice as to the classification of the sizes of the samples of various weapons which are mentioned. The letter is presently classified Secret-Restricted Data.

As you know, there are rather rigid rules as to what information may be transmitted to other nations (including the United Kingdom) concerning our weapons program, therefore, it is particularly important for the JAIEG to be advised as to the proper classification of individual items of information in documents intended for transmission. The sample size which is mentioned in F. J. Dunn's letter is an example of such an item of information.

I am sure you know that information concerning the numbers of nuclear weapons in stockpile is considered by both the Commission and the BOD to be among the most highly sensitive information generated within the AEC program. Any information which might tend to reveal stockpile size is also highly classified. The question has often been raised as to whether certain data which would permit estimates of stockpile size to be made could be considered unclassified because of their extreme inaccuracy. The net result of our consideration of the problem has been the realization that any general rule which would permit unclassified approximate values of any degree of accuracy must fairly quickly result in defining the actual numbers of weapons in the stockpile. This becomes apparent if one considers that declassifications must be of  $\pm$  inaccuracies.

Considering the high degree of sensitivity which is assigned to information concerning the size of the weapon stockpile or of any specific

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DATE                       
BY Mark J. J. 3-28-77 (1045)  
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2 - Max F. Roy

type of weapon in the stockpile, and considering the ease with which inaccurate statements can, if declassified, bracket with impunity accurate values for the size of the stockpile or of any specific type of weapon in the stockpile, you will see why it has been necessary for us to adopt the rule that there can be no unclassified discussions concerning the size of the weapon stockpile or any unclassified data permitted from which even highly inaccurate estimates of the size of the stockpile or of any specific type of weapon in the stockpile can be computed.

I recognize that this is an interpretation of the present classification rules and I certainly do not intend to imply that the rules cannot be changed. However, to change the rules we would have to present a convincing argument to the Commission, and if they approve of the change, to submit the question to the Department of Defense for concurrence.

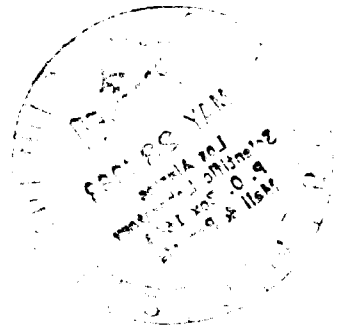
If you feel that the estimate of the level of sensitivity and, therefore, the classifications assigned to the numbers of weapons or of each type of weapon in our stockpile are too high, we would appreciate your recommendations. We should have not only very convincing technical arguments, but also some indication that the recommended relaxation of the rules will have a beneficial effect on operations.

Sincerely yours,

G. L. Marshall, Director  
Division of Classification

cc: L.Redman, LASL  
L.H.Brenner, JAICG  
A.W.Betts, EMA

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