

Chief of Staff

26 January 1955

Special Assistant

Declassification of NSA Film "MISSION."

1. The Classification Advisory Panel met on 18 January 1955 to review the motion picture film which was recently produced by the Training Division and which is now under consideration for release to certain Service Schools.

2. This film is now classified TOP SECRET and if this classification were maintained this would obviously greatly restrict the usefulness of the film for Service Schools.

3. a. The Advisory Panel considered the matter with the view toward ascertaining whether the film could be downgraded to SECRET or even to CONFIDENTIAL. The Panel regarded the latter classification entirely too low and it was eliminated from further consideration.

b. The Panel was divided in its opinion with respect to the advisability and permissibility (under current USCIB Directive No. 16, approved 29 December 1954) of downgrading the film to SECRET.

c. Moreover, there was some expression of opinion as to the desirability of showing the film, at least in its present state, to Service Schools because of doubts as to its suitability to the purpose in mind in showing it in the first place. The Panel felt that the film attempts to convey much more information within one hour than can possibly be conveyed, and that the quality of the production should be improved before releasing the film to any groups outside NSA.

4. The Panel discussed a suggestion that guidance and assistance, in respect to the question of proper classification of the film, might be sought from the Security Committee of USCIB. This suggestion met with unanimous concurrence. Accordingly, it is recommended that the members of the Security Committee be invited to view the film and render its opinion as to the accuracy of its present classification or its possible modification so as to permit a lower classification.

5. This memorandum has met with the concurrence of all members of the Panel. In addition, one of the members added the suggestion "that this film should be 'guinea-pigged' to determine whether viewers having little or no knowledge of NSA's functions and responsibilities are able to grasp its content."

cc: Col. Campbell  
Mr. Kilbos, SEC  
Mr. Densmore, PROD  
Mr. Callimahos, TRG

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN  
Chairman  
Classification Advisory Panel