

§ 2002.4 Responsibilities.

(a) Foreign government information transferred to the General Services Administration for accession into the National Archives of the United States shall be reviewed by the Archivist of the United States for declassification in accordance with Executive Order 12356, the directives of the Information Security Oversight Office, these general guidelines, and any specific systematic declassification guidelines provided by the agency with declassification authority over the information.

(b) Accessioned foreign government information in file series concerning intelligence activities (including special activities), or intelligence sources or methods created after 1945, and cryptology records created after 1945, shall be subject to review by the Archivist for declassification as it becomes 50 years old. All other accessioned foreign government information shall be subject to review by the Archivist for declassification as it becomes 30 years old.

(c) Agency heads who have declassification jurisdiction over permanently valuable foreign government information in agency records not yet accessioned into the National Archives of the United States are encouraged to conduct systematic declassification reviews of it in accordance with the time limits specified in paragraph (b) of this section. These reviews shall comply with the provisions of Executive Order 12356, the directives of the Information Security Oversight Office, these general guidelines, and specific agency systematic review guidelines that have been issued in consultation with the Archivist of the United States and the ISOO Director.

(d) Foreign government information falling within any of the categories listed in § 2002.6 of these guidelines shall be declassified or downgraded only upon specific authorization of the agency that has declassification authority over it. Such information shall be referred to the responsible agency(ies) for review. Information so referred shall remain classified until the responsible agency(ies) has declassified it. If the responsible agency cannot be readily identified from the document or material, referral shall be made in

accordance with § 2002.7 of these guidelines.

(e) When required, the agency having declassification authority over the information shall consult with foreign governments concerning its proposed declassification.

§ 2002.5 Effect of publication.

(a) Foreign government information shall be considered declassified when published in an unclassified United States Government executive branch publication (e.g., the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series) or when cleared for publication by United States Government executive branch officials authorized to declassify the information; or if officially published as unclassified by the foreign government(s) or international organization(s) of governments that furnished the information unless the fact of the U.S. Government's possession of the information requires continued protection.

(b) The unofficial publication, in the United States or abroad, of foreign government information contained in classified United States or foreign documents does not in or of itself constitute or permit the declassification of such information. Although prior unofficial publication is a factor to be considered in the systematic review process, there may be valid reasons for continued protection of the information which could preclude its declassification. In particular, the classification status of foreign government information which concerns or derives from intelligence activities (including special activities), intelligence sources or methods shall not be affected by any unofficial publication of identical or related information. The final declassification determination shall be made by the agency or agencies having declassification authority over it.

§ 2002.6 Categories requiring item-by-item review.

Foreign government information falling into the following categories require item-by-item review for declassification by agencies having declassification authority over it.