

produce an intelligible record which is not distorted out of context and does not contradict the record being withheld.

§2004.5 Classified records and information from other agencies.

(a) A Classification Review Committee is hereby established within STR to make determinations on the applicability of the exemption for classified documents. The Committee will be chaired by a staff official designated by the Special Representative and will consist of the Chairman and 2 STR Officials designated by him who have authority to classify and declassify documents.

(b) The applicability of the exemption for classified information requires a determination that the record in question is specifically authorized under the criteria established by Executive Order 11652 to be kept classified and is in fact properly classified pursuant to that order. This determination shall be made whenever possible before the initial denial under §204.4(a)(1). It must in any case be made prior to the decision of an appeal under §2004.7. No denial should be based solely on the existence of a classification marking on the record, and there shall be a substantive review of the validity of the classification to the maximum extent feasible within the time limits for a denial under §2004.4.

(c) When a request for a STR record encompasses classified information originated or received from another department or agency, the request for that information shall be referred to the originator or other source. The person requesting the record will be advised of the date and the addressee of the referral.

(d) The Classification Review Committee will, at the request of another agency, make recommendations on the release of material concerning "national defense or foreign policy" originally classified by another agency but which is of significant subject-matter interest to STR.

§2004.6 Release or denial of request for records.

Written requests for inspection or copying of records shall be granted or

denied only by the Freedom of Information Officer or his designee. Responses to written requests shall be in writing, shall specify the reasons for any denial therefore, and shall advise the person requesting of the right to appeal any denial to the Freedom of Information Appeals Committee.

§2004.7 Appeals.

(a) A Freedom of Information Appeals Committee is hereby established, consisting of the Special Representative or his designee as chairman, and 3 STR staff officials designated by the Special Representative, none of whom were members of the Classification Committee which originally made the determination on the requested information.

(b) Review of an initial denial under §2004.6 may be requested by the person who submitted the original request for a record. The review (hereinafter the appeal) must be requested in writing within 30 days of the date that the person requesting the record is informed either:

(1) That the request is denied completely, or

(2) That all records which are being furnished in response to his request have been released and he has been so informed.

(c) If the appeal is granted, the person making the appeal shall be immediately notified and copies of the releasable documents shall be made available promptly thereafter upon receipt of appropriate fees as set forth in §2004.9. If the appeal is denied in whole or part, the person making the request shall be immediately notified of the decision and of the provisions of judicial review of STR's denial of the request.

(d) In the event a determination is not issued within the appropriate time limit and the person making the request chooses to initiate a court action against STR, the determination process shall continue and the Freedom of Information Appeals Committee may review any initial denial of the requested record.