

# WHITE HOUSE ASKS WHO SEES SECRETS

**Calls for Names of All Those  
With Authority to Handle  
Classified Documents**

**JUL 8 1971**

**By JOHN HERBERS**

Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July

7—The White House said today that it had ordered the compilation of a list of all persons who have authority to see top-secret documents.

Gerald L. Warren, assistant White House press secretary, said in response to questions that a confidential memorandum signed by Brig. Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security, had gone to departments and agencies directing them to compile lists of those having top-secret clearance.

Mr. Warren said the memorandum, issued June 30, was part of a review of the process of classification and declassification ordered by President Nixon on Jan. 15.

He was vague about the details of the memorandum, whose existence was disclosed today in The Washington Post. But other officials said it was part of an Administration effort to reduce the number of security clearances both in and out of Government.

## **Pentagon Is Complying**

In Washington, a spokesman said that the Department of Defense was compiling its list. The spokesman said Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird had ordered the step about three days ago.

The memorandum set this coming Sunday as a deadline for compilation of the lists, but it was considered doubtful that the departments could comply that quickly. Because of unclear regulations about security clearances, there was some doubt about the ability of the agencies to compile comprehensive lists at all.

There were indications that no one in the Government knows how many persons have security clearance and that Mr. Nixon is trying to put the entire disputed matter of classified documents under central control for the first time.

Various laws and regulations

**Continued on Page 13, Column 1**

**Continued From Page 1, Col. 1**

apply in departments and agencies dealing with sensitive matters. Estimates of the number of those with some authority to see top-secret documents run as high as many thousands.

Members of the armed forces, the Central Intelligence Agency, the White House, the State Department, the Justice Department, defense contractors and consultants are heavily involved in security matters.

About the time the White House memorandum was drafted, Mr. Laird ordered tightened security at the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, Calif., which conducts defense research on a contract basis.

Daniel Ellsberg, a former Rand employe and Pentagon official, is under indictment for alleged misuse of top-secret documents and has said publicly he passed copies of a study of the Vietnam war to newspapers.

Documents published by The New York Times and other papers carried top-secret classification.

## **Seeks 'Immediate Reductions'**

The Haig memorandum says in part that "each responsible department and agency" must initiate at once "a review and screening of each top-secret and compartmented clearance presently held by individuals with a view to effecting immediate reductions of all clearances which cannot be demonstrated to meet the requirement of strict need to know."

Mr. Nixon arrived at the summer White House here last night for a two-week stay, accompanied by Secretary of State William P. Rogers; the director of Central Intelligence, Richard Helms; General Haig and other officials. He conferred at length with Mr. Helms about the latter's recent trip to the Middle East.

The Pentagon spokesman, Brig. Gen. Daniel James Jr., said that as of April, 1971 803 in the defense establishment had authority to classify material as top secret. But the department was unable to say how many had access to top-secret material.

The list of 803 began with the Secretary of Defense and went through 12 categories of descending rank.

The last category was: "commanders and deputy or vice commanders and chiefs of staff of major field and fleet commands, forces or activities, as designated by the chiefs of the military services or the commanders of the unified and specified commands concerned."

On Capitol Hill, William B. Macomber Jr., deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration, told a House Government Operations subcommittee that the State Department now classified as secret 200,000 documents a year. He said the average over the last 20 years had been about 100,000 a year.

Mr. Macomber conceded, under questioning, that too many documents were classified, and remained classified for excessive periods.

Asked if the State Department had requested that the Justice Department seek injunctions against The New York Times and other newspapers to halt publication of the Pentagon study, Mr. Macomber said it had not. But said that the State Department concurred with the Justice Department because of "deep concern" over disclosure of some of the material.

Asked if a substantial portion of the Pentagon study could be declassified without harming national security, he replied: "Some of it."

He said that only about 10 to 15 per cent of the material in the 47-volume study should remain classified on the ground of national security.