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43872

Chief, Security Division

3 November 1953

Chief, Physical Security Branch

Security Violation - Exposed Classified Material

1. On 27 October 1953 at 7:10 P.M., during a security inspection of Room 2426, "Quarters Eye", Guard T.F. Bryant found a TOP SECRET document on the desk assigned to Mr. Arthur S. Turner. The material was identified as "Progress Report," TS Document #75160. It was on top of several unclassified technical magazines and its folder bore no classification marking. Night Security Officer Ray C. Colton responded to the telephone call from the Guard Office and secured the material in his safe at 8:15 P.M., after leaving an explanatory note in the area.

2. On 28 October 1953 Mr. ⁰³(Edward E. Scholtz), of this Branch, accompanied by Mr. Bernard P. Doran, Security Officer, DDP/TSS, investigated the violation. During the course of the investigation Mr. Arthur S. Turner, Project Engineer, Mr. David L. Christ, Deputy Division Chief, and Mr. Walter G. Driscoll, Division Chief, all of DDP/TSS, were interviewed.

3. Mr. Turner advised that he was custodian of the document on the date in question. He stated that, after placing all classified material in a safe at about 5:00 P.M., he had occasion to search for another document and that apparently he had placed the instant document on the pile of magazines while making such search. He stated that the room was vacant when he departed at about 5:10 P.M.

4. Mr. Christ advised that he was responsible for conducting the Staff Duty Officer inspection of Room 2426 on the date in question. He stated that he had conducted his inspection but that apparently he had overlooked the instant document, explaining that a considerable amount of unclassified material was in the room and on the desk. He stated that the room was vacant when he departed at about 5:35 P.M.

5. Mr. Driscoll advised that the document was overclassified and that, in his opinion, its exposure would jeopardize no personnel, plans or operations. He explained that the material had not been prepared by or for the Agency, but that it was a copy of a private industry report containing information in which CIA was interested.

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CONCLUSION:

6. The circumstances in this case indicate that Mr. Tamm and Mr. Coker are jointly responsible for the security violation.

SECURITY HISTORY:

7. No previous security violations have been charged to Mr. Tamm. Mr. Coker previously was charged with an internal safe security violation which occurred on 12 June 1952.

John H. Ball

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