SUBJECT: Gas Centrifuge Classification Guide

The Department encloses a classification guide relating to gas centrifuge information prepared by the AEC's Division of Classification. The addressee posts are requested to give this guide to the appropriate authorities in accordance with the understandings reached in our recent discussions in Bonn, London, and The Hague on the gas centrifuge problem.

The guide is for USEC's information only.

HERTER

Enclosure:

Classification Guide for the Gas Centrifuge Program.
CLASSIFICATION GUIDE FOR THE GAS CENTRIFUGE PROGRAM

I. Purpose

This document provides guidance for the classification of information concerning ultra centrifuges and the "gas centrifuge" program for the development of the gas ultra centrifuge for the separation of isotopes. (It is understood that equipment is to be classified in accordance with the information revealed by the equipment.)

II. Basic Principles

(1) Authoritative information (credible technical publication of technical information or official statements concerning the program planning and direction aspects of the program) which is already in the public domain cannot be classified. Further developments and improvements (including comparisons of current work with published designs) are, however, classified "Secret".

(2) Equipment is to be classified in accordance with the information it reveals. Procurement of classified equipment is to be conducted under appropriate security safeguards.

(3) Information which, by itself, is declassifiable may not be released when it explicitly or implicitly discloses classified information through association with classified processes. In some cases, deletion of the association may allow declassification. In others, any disclosure will make the association obvious and declassification is not possible.

(4) Care should be taken that the declassification of a document does not violate provisions of the guide when evaluated in connection with information already unclassified.

(5) In the United States of America information on the gas centrifuge is "Restricted Data" as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (cf. Section 11w of Public Law 703, 83rd Congress). This definition is:

"The term 'Restricted Data' means all data concerning (1) design, manufacture, or utilization of atomic weapons; (2) the production of special nuclear material; or (3) the use of special nuclear material in the production of energy, but
but shall not include data declassified or removed from the Restricted Data category pursuant to section 142."

III. Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and definitions are used in this Guide:

U - Unclassified.

C - Confidential - "information or material the unauthorized disclosure of which could be prejudicial to the defense interest of the nation."

S - Secret - "information or material the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in serious damage to the Nation, such as by jeopardizing the international relations of the United States, endangering the effectiveness of a program or policy of vital importance to the national defense, or compromising important military or defense plans, scientific or technological developments important to national defense, or information revealing important intelligence operations."

IV. Specific Gas Centrifuge Information which should be Classified

1. All information as to the design, construction and operation of cascades of centrifuges for separation of isotopes.

2. Plant and pilot plant design (both technical and economic features).

3. Information on design, construction and operation of centrifuges operating at peripheral speeds greater than 7000 m/sec or on new or improved units regardless of peripheral speed.

4. Hydrodynamics of gas flow in centrifuges or cascades.

4.1 Separating efficiencies

5. Designs of bearings for gas centrifuge units other than those designs already in the public domain.

6. [pagination issue]
6. Existence of major new steps

6.1 Fact of continuing or newly imposed classification of centrifuge work (U)

6.2 Level of effort on centrifuge program (C)

6.3 Other information on new steps (S)