

though Top Secret EYES ONLY, gives no clue as to what the subject is of the extraordinary meeting of the National Security Council that was to be held from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the White House. It's clear it's a highly classified meeting since the statement is made "it is necessary to take special security precautions and to maintain absolute secrecy regarding participation in as well as the substance of the meeting. Your car should be discharged, not wait anywhere in the vicinity of the White House," etc. What is important here is that even though this is Top Secret and EYES ONLY there isn't the slightest clue as to what the subject of that meeting is. The same goes for the Cutler Twining memo. There isn't the slightest hint as to what the NSC/MJ-12 Special Studies Project is. Some people have insisted that in a highly classified memo they would of course give full details. I have seen many formerly highly classified memos (now declassified) that have no clue as to the subject. I have determined that this is standard practice on the part of government people. It makes life a lot simpler from a need-to-know viewpoint. So long as the recipient knows what is being discussed, then secretaries, and so forth in between, need not be made aware of what is being discussed, even though they have appropriate clearances.

Here are some examples of obscure language in TS items: from a MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT dated Dec. 30, 1958: "...3. The President indicated that he did not wish the specifics of covert operations to be presented to the NSC." Gordon Gray. Special Assistant for National Security and MJ-12 member. Originally TOP SECRET. Declassified 10/23/81 in response to 1977 request.

from a MEMORANDUM OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT dated June 26, 1959:

"4. The President then referred to one particular activity which he was disturbed about but said he assumed that it had been approved by the 5412 group. I reported that it had not been approved by the Group within the last eleven months." Gordon Gray. TOP SECRET, Declassified 12/16/86.

From a MEMORANDUM OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT dated April 6, 1959:

"4. I then discussed with the President 5412/2 activity to which he gave his approval. This is the subject of a separate memorandum dated April 6, 1959." Gordon Gray, TOP SECRET, Partially Declassified 9/3/81. (Eisenhower Library unable to locate separate memorandum. STF)

from a two sentence note to Eisenhower from Louis Strauss, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Aug. 3, 1954. We are prepared to furnish orally the most sensitive numerical information which has been omitted from the report for reasons of security" TOP SECRET TRANSMITTAL (only time I have seen this security stamp).