

ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

NATO UNCLASSIFIED  
and  
PUBLIC DISCLOSED

PALAIS DE CHAILLOT  
KLÉBER 50-20

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretaries of Delegations  
From: Acting Executive Secretary

LEAKAGES TO THE PRESS

At their meeting on 22nd July the Council approved the recommendations of the NATO Security Committee contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Document C-M(53)101. In approving these recommendations, the Council agreed:

- (a) that the Secretary General should issue a warning to all members of the International Staff reminding them of the need for discretion at all times and stressing that breaches of security may be subject to strong disciplinary action;
- (b) that the Secretary General should ask Heads of Delegations to bring home to their staff and advisers the dangers of careless talk and to indicate that instances of unauthorised disclosure of classified information will in the future require to be carefully investigated.

2. Attached is a copy of the circular\* that has been sent to the members of the International Staff in implementation of (a) above. I should be grateful if you would call this to the attention of your Permanent Representative together with the decision noted in (b) above.

(Signed) R.G. BARNES

\* ON(53)53

19th August, 1953  
RDC/449/53

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE N° 208  
COPY

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
10th August, 1953

NATO RESTRICTED  
OFFICE NOTICE  
ON(53)53

LEAKAGES TO THE PRESS

Memorandum by the Deputy Secretary General

The Council has considered with concern the number of recent serious leakages to the Press of NATO classified material. In some instances it has been noted that newspaper articles on NATO material have followed closely the wording of the original NATO classified material and have appeared soon after the distribution of the Council document on the subject, or after its discussion in the Council.

2. Certain member governments have stated that if such leakages continue, they will feel obliged to withhold from the Organization important classified NATO information. I need hardly say that the effect of this on the Organization would be most serious.

3. To prevent further possibility of leakages, the Council has adopted a number of recommendations made by the Security Committee. It has also asked the Secretary General to bring the seriousness of the problem to the attention of the delegations, and, in writing, to each individual member of the International Staff.

4. Accordingly, I wish to remind all members of the International Staff of their individual and collective responsibility to preserving the secrecy of NATO classified material.

5. The Security Regulations are explained to all members of the staff when they join the Organization, and each of us signs a Declaration of Security. I wish to recall that, in accordance with these Regulations, no member of the International Staff shall, except on the express instructions of the Secretary General, disclose the whole or part of any NATO classified document, or reveal classified information which comes into his possession, to a journalist or any other unauthorised person. Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that all staff members should be discreet in their conversation with outsiders, and should avoid discussing NATO classified subjects at times, or in places, where their conversation may be overheard by unauthorised individuals. Strong disciplinary measures will be taken against any member of the staff who, after investigation, may be found to be responsible for any subsequent leakage of NATO classified material.

6. Each member of the International Staff is asked to sign a copy of this Office Notice as evidence of having noted the contents, and to return it to the Security Bureau (Room 303) for record.

(Signed) H. VAN VREDENBURCH

Contents of the above read and noted

Signature :

Name Printed :

Date :

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIIe.