THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 10, 1980

Presidential Directive/NSC-55

TO:
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Attorney General
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:
Intelligence Special Access Programs:
Establishment of the APEX Program

The President has approved establishment of the APEX program, a single special access system to protect particularly sensitive intelligence sources and methods. APEX conforms with Executive Order 12065 and will be implemented for the National Security Council by the Director of Central Intelligence as the Council's Executive Agent. The National Security Council will be the forum for any appeals arising during implementation of the APEX program.

The APEX program will control the nature, attributable collected information, and operational details of the most sensitive intelligence sources and methods, as determined by the Director of Central Intelligence. Uniform security standards established by the Director of Central Intelligence will govern access to, distribution of, and protection of intelligence sources and methods, subject to any specific statutory requirements applicable to any department or agency.

This memorandum supersedes the Presidential memorandum of August 26, 1960.

Zbigniew Brzezinski

UNCLASSIFIED
Review on January 10, 1986

Partially Declassified/Released on FY-35Y
under provisions of E.O. 12355
by T. Rege, National Security Council

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