

28 March 1955

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Security Arrangements for Secret Documents

My attention has recently been drawn to a serious leakage of information contained in a secret document. It is clear that any repetition of an incident of this kind would be seriously prejudicial to the future work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and I therefore appeal for the co-operation of all concerned in enforcing the security regulations.

Under the present arrangement, only one copy of any secret document is given to each contracting party, which is responsible for its safeguarding. The document will only be delivered to an accredited official of the government who is required to sign a receipt for it. In case of communication by mail the document will be accompanied by a receipt which should be signed and returned. It is thereafter the responsibility of the government concerned to ensure that the document does not find its way into unauthorized hands. When not in use by officials it should be kept under lock.

On a number of occasions recently there have been requests for additional copies of such documents. I have been most reluctant to meet such requests since the multiplication of copies inevitably increases the risk of leakage. In view of the leakage which has occurred I regret that I shall be able to meet such requests in the future only in the most exceptional circumstances and subject to the concurrence of the government furnishing information which is embodied in the document.

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*English only*