



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13 FEB 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Exposure to Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreements

Inquiries continue to be received regarding the appropriate action that should be taken to release veterans from secrecy obligations so they may justify medical treatment for conditions allegedly arising from exposure to nuclear radiation. Congressman Bill Richardson has specifically requested a public statement be issued announcing personnel are relieved of any security obligation they may have incurred in connection with their military involvement in nuclear testing to establish the validity of a service-connected disability.

In the interest of fairness to the many veterans who have so honorably served our country, in coordination with the Department of Energy, I hereby authorize veterans seeking to establish a medical disability in connection with exposure to nuclear radiation to divulge to the Department of Veterans Affairs the name and location of their command, duties performed, dates of service, and related information necessary to validate exposure to nuclear radiation. This authorization does not relieve veterans of responsibility for continuing to protect specific technical information that could contribute to the development of a weapon of mass destruction or the application of nuclear technology.

William J. Perry

cc: Honorable Bill Richardson
U.S. House of Representatives
Secretary of Energy
Secretary of Veterans Affairs