

DEPARTMENTAL ORDER

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To insure the use of the proper code in connection with the dispatch of outgoing telegrams, the responsibility for indicating on the signed originals the degree of their confidentiality shall be assumed by the drafting officer, effective immediately.

The descriptive terms to be used and their significance are given below:

CLEAR -- Text of message to be sent in plain language. (Non-confidential code may be used if economy can be effected thereby).

RESTRICTED -- Matter of such a nature that its disclosure should be limited for reasons of administrative privacy; or matter not classified as "Confidential" because the benefits to be gained by a lower classification outweigh the value of the additional security obtainable from the higher classification. (To be sent in non-confidential code).

CONFIDENTIAL -- Matter of such a nature that its disclosure, while not endangering the national security, would be prejudicial to the interests or prestige of the Nation or any Government activity thereof. (To be sent in confidential code).

SECRET -- Matter of such a nature that its disclosure might endanger the national security, or cause serious injury to the interests or prestige of the Nation or any Government activity thereof. (To be sent in the most confidential code).

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These indications should be placed by drafting officers on the upper right-hand corner of outgoing telegrams. No message should be designated "Confidential" or "Secret" if its text is at any time to be made public by the press, or otherwise, or if it is to be communicated to others in plain language.

CORDELL HULL

Department of State,
October 29, 1941.