

EVIDENCE DICK DIDN'T DECLASSIFY THE NIE

As part of Dick Cheney's attempt to regain the love of his adoring Fox viewer supporters the other day, he threw in a tidbit completely unrelated to the accidental shooting of his friend.

QÂ Â Let me ask you another question.Â Is it your view that a VicePresident has the authority to declassify information?

THE VICE PRESIDENT:Â There is an executive order to that effect.

QÂ Â There is.

THE VICE PRESIDENT:Â Â Yes.

QÂ Â Have you done it?

THE VICE PRESIDENT:Â Well, I've certainly advocateddeclassification and participated in declassification decisions.Â Theexecutive order –

QÂ Â You ever done it unilaterally?

THE VICE PRESIDENT:Â I don't want to get into that.Â There is anexecutive order that specifies who has classification authority, andobviously focuses first and foremost on the President, but also includesthe Vice President.

As a result, a number of very smart people have revisited the question of whether Dick Cheney does, in fact, have the power to unilaterally declassify something. But I think we're getting distracted from the matter at hand.