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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Washington, D.C. 20472



The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

JUN 4 1980

Dear Mr. President: -

(C) At your request, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) conducted an exercise, NINE LIVES, during the period May 6-8, 1980. NINE LIVES was designed to exercise, at national level, those individuals and organizations directly involved in planning for continuity of government leadership.

(U) Organizations participating in this exercise consisted of the White House Military Office (WHMO), White House Communications Agency (WHCA), Department of State (DOS), Department of Justice (DOJ), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), National Communications System (NCS), JCS and FEMA. Assistance in planning for the exercise was also provided by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

(C) The players participating were confronted with a rapidly deteriorating worldwide situation leading to nuclear war. Sufficient time was allowed to disperse selected Presidential successors to pre-identified locations prior to the attack. These successors were played by surrogates from the White House, Department of the Treasury, and FEMA.

(C) The following emergency plans and procedures were reviewed, exercised on a coordinated basis, and evaluated by the JCS/FEMA/and the White House Military Office during this period:

- The decision process for selecting Presidential successors to be dispersed.
- Successor dispersal under strategic warning when time is available.
- Successor TREETOP TEAM plan to support a dispersed successor.
- Successor dispersal under tactical warning when only minimal time is available.
- White House Communications Contingency Team movement to an emergency location for Presidential support.
- Dispersal of the Vice President under tactical warning.

Classified by iductor FEMA  
[ ] Declassify [x] Review for  
Declassification on June 1976  
Extended by \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason for extension \_\_\_\_\_

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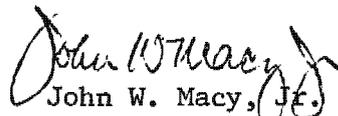
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- Joint Emergency Evacuation Procedures for the dispersal of senior government officials other than successors.
- Utilization of two National Emergency Airborne Command Post aircraft for Presidential survival.
- Rendezvous procedures between dispersal helicopter and National Emergency Airborne Command Post.
- Single Integrated Operations Plan execution exercise.
- Communications connectivity between dispersed successors.
- Presidential Emergency Action Documents and their implementation procedures.
- Activation of Emergency Broadcasting System from the National Emergency Airborne Command Post.

(U) To my knowledge, this was the first time a coordinated and concurrent exercise of emergency plans in support of the President and his potential successors has been conducted, and I feel we accomplished our objective. The deficiencies encountered during the exercise will be addressed by FEMA and the other participating organizations, and actions will be taken to correct them as soon as possible. A detailed report of identified problem areas, with recommendations for corrective actions, is being prepared.

Respectfully,

  
John W. Macy, Jr.  
Director

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