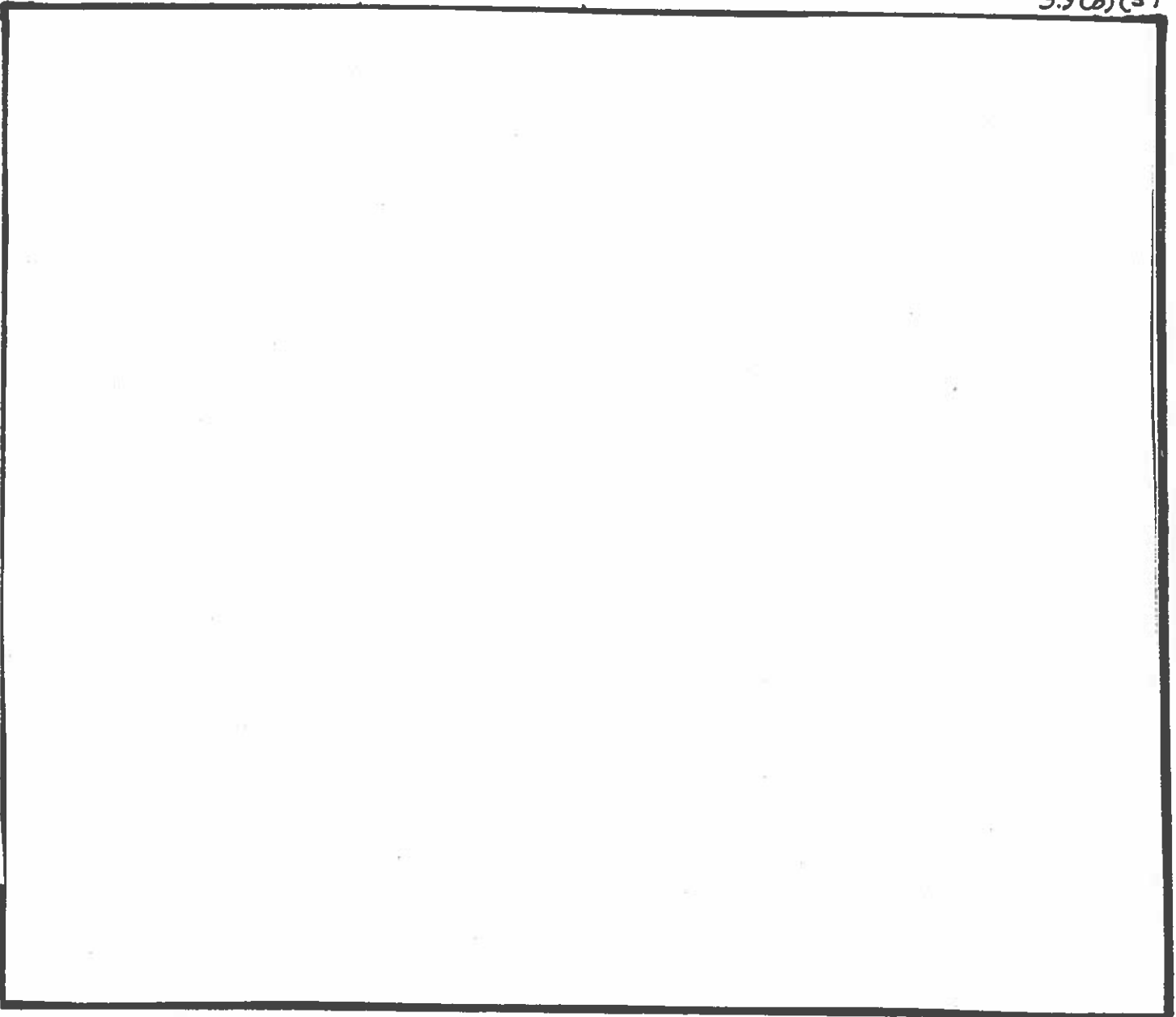


I

Although at present I ~~can~~ find nothing in writing ~~about this~~, the office of the Military Aide has understood that the following assignments of responsibility exist in connection with SIOP and PEAD's:

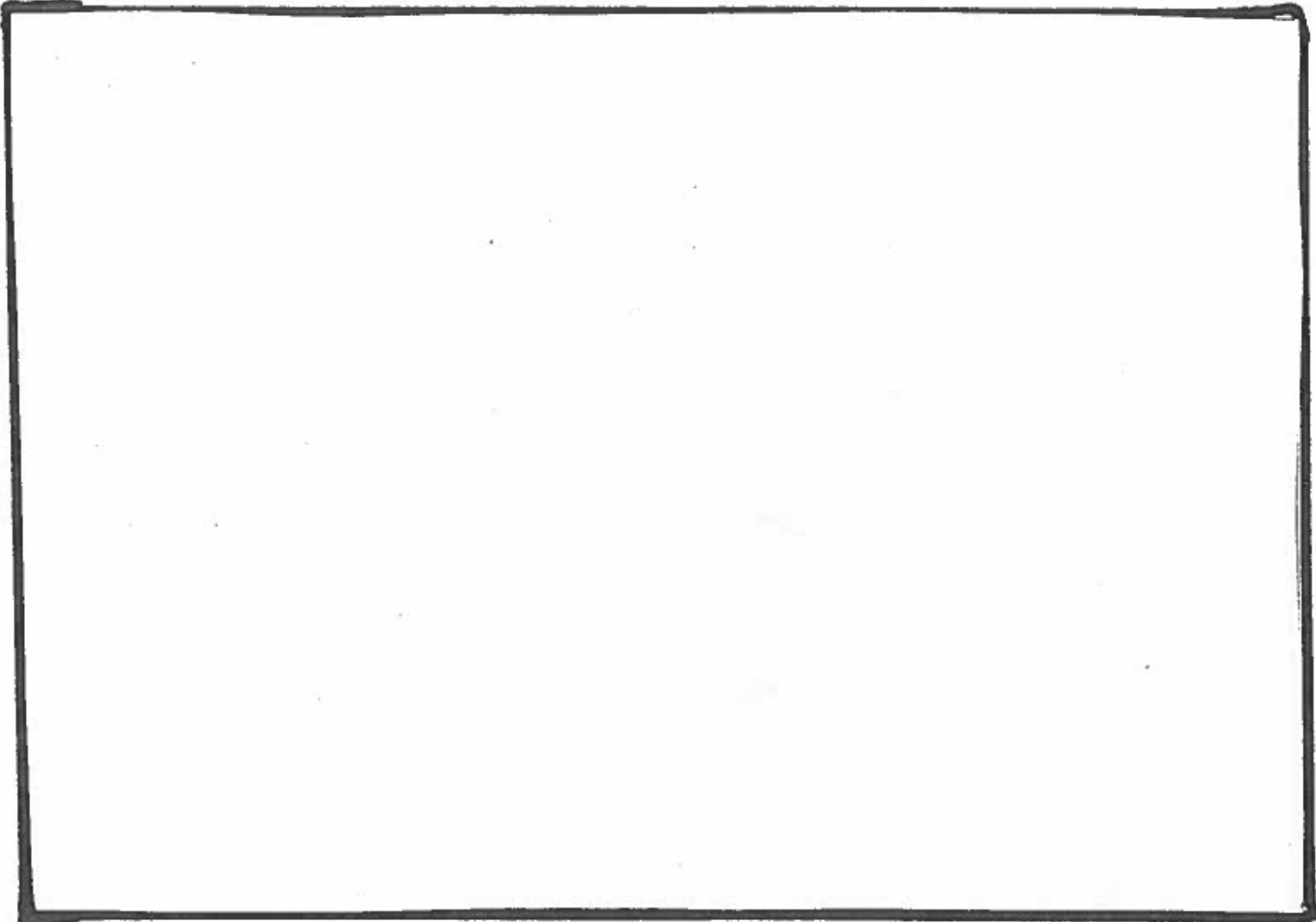
3.3(b)(5)



(5) WHCA is also charged with maintaining communications so that the President can be in touch with the National Military Command Center ~~Senior~~ or officers of the Defense Department almost instantly.

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SANITIZED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ/RAC 04-191
By sol, NARA, Date 3-7-08



President Johnson has indicated that he does not like this system. He does not want to be followed closely. The Secretary of Defense has been instructed to devise a system which will eliminate the need for an aide to be in constant attendance on him. I have examined this situation and would make the following recommendations:

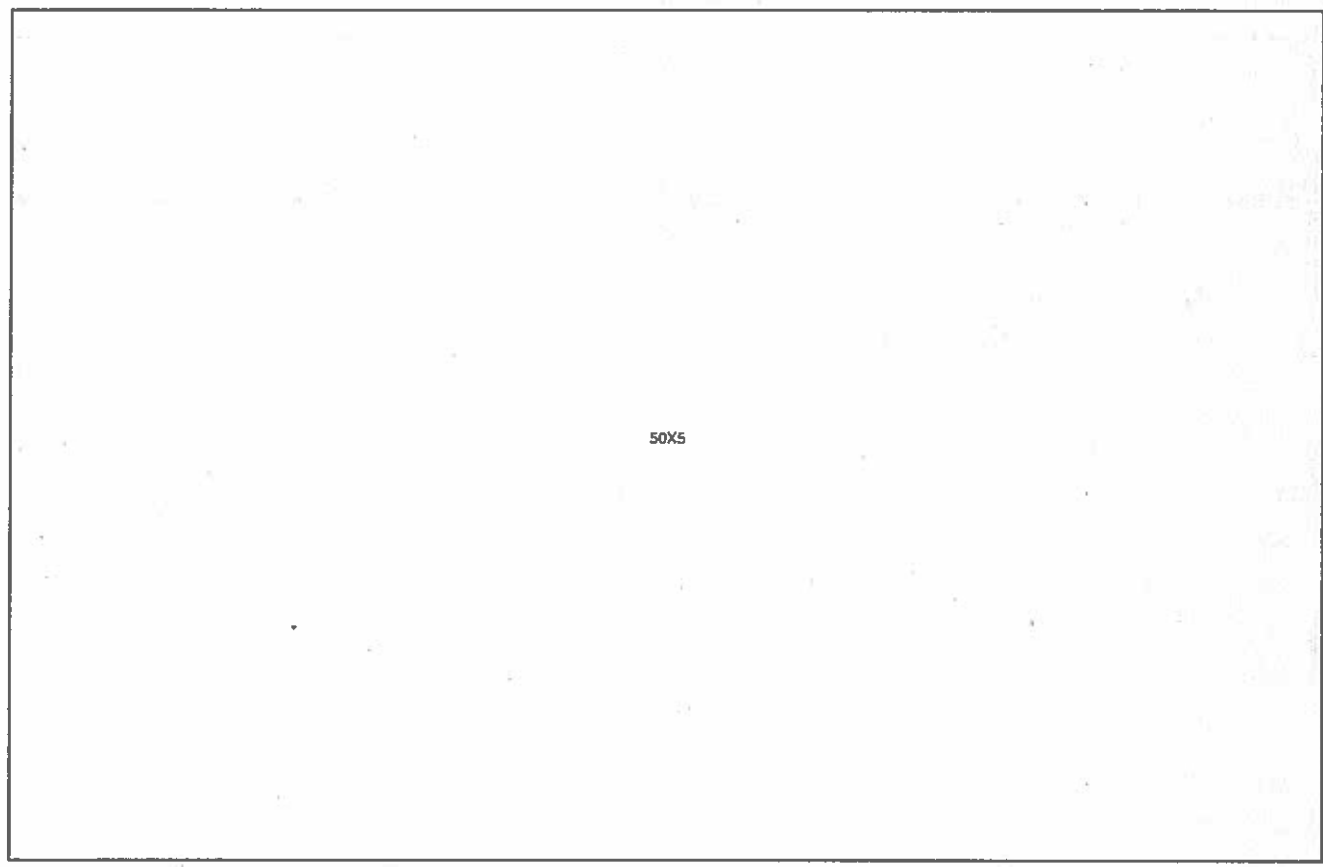
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DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

From the viewpoint of the President's desires in regard to the bag containing the SIOP and the Presidential Emergency Action Documents, we have analyzed the present requirements and believe the following changes can be made.



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(3) The White House Communications Agency would be charged with the responsibility of maintaining communications wherever the President goes so that he could be reached 50X5

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
E.O. 13526

Authority NLS/RAC 04-191, #8-Append
NARA DMH Date 7/21/2015

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50X5

These directives should be written up by the Department of Defense and the Office of Emergency Planning and the responsibilities as well as authorities in these matters carefully assigned to the appropriate staff officers and staff agencies with Presidential approval.

(One of the deficiencies right now is that none of these responsibilities are assigned in writing, nor are the location and time element requirements firmly established. The present system has been carefully followed and the responsibilities conscientiously carried out, but their assignment has never been made definite.)

Our quick review of the Presidential Emergency Action Documents indicates that there are several which are not of vital concern to the President in any measure of promptness. They could be reduced to two or three papers which he needs very quickly. They were last reviewed by OEP in 1962, and I would certainly recommend an early review in connection with the establishment of a new system.

The communications continue to be a vital link between the President and the Department of Defense. From four years' experience, I believe that the communications, including secure voice, have been nearly always sufficient.

50X5

50X5

50X5

While this is being reviewed, careful consideration should be given to the coordination of these matters with the Presidential successors. There are three pertinent subjects in connection with the Presidential succession: (a) Delegation of authority in these particular matters; (b) The responsibility or the location of, and communication with, the Presidential successors while the President is

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- 4 -

traveling; and (c) The proper briefing and assignment of responsibilities in these matters for Presidential successors.

I believe the Vice President and the two next successors should be briefed on the SIOP and the PEAD's. I recommend that a system be established that the President and the Vice President coordinate their travel plans so that one of them is always available at the seat of government and in instant communication with both the President and the National Military Command Center, and that these communications be checked frequently when the President travels; and I recommend also that the President decide which Presidential successors and key staff officers need to be informed about the delegation of authority in these matters.

Respectfully,

cc: Mr. McGeorge Bundy

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