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NSAM 200

OCT 29 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN TAZEWELL T. SHEPARD

SUBJECT: Civil Emergency Action Documents

The documents herewith provided substitute for those currently in the emergency file. Changes that have been made include:

1. Technical editing for currency.
2. Withdrawal of AI-66, List of Topics for a Presidential Address, on the grounds that it is superfluous.
3. Regrouping of documents according to their general purpose.
4. Elimination of detailed and generally obsolete background material. This material is, however, retained within the Office of Emergency Planning.
5. Provision of substitute cover sheets.
6. Provision of capsule summaries of the ability of the action to be executed, and the probable effects of its execution. (Note: These are new, and very incomplete. Data is being obtained, and the summaries will be completed as rapidly as possible.)
7. Provision of a simplified index.
8. Provision of a simplified general instruction for use.

As rapidly as possible, individual documents in this file will be further improved, and new ones added. I have assigned senior Office of Emergency Planning staff responsibility for insuring maximum currency.

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I am distributing, within the next few days, copies of revised or new documents to all holders.

The procedures for notification on signature have been coordinated with the White House Communications Agency and other appropriate agencies.

Edward A. McDermott

Attachments

cc: Central File2
D
DD ✓
PE-Quindlen
CA-Brewer
CA-Stokley
CA-Scott

CA/JScott/bip/5134/10-25-62

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OCT 26 1962

Mr. Edward A. McDermott
Director

Carey Brewer, Director
Civil Affairs Office

Civil Emergency Action Documents

Herewith is provided a proposed new file of emergency action documents for the Naval Aide. The substance of the changes is described in the proposed letter of transmittal. We are prepared to take companion actions on your approval. These are:

1. Substitute a simplified system of notification in case of signature. The present system is unnecessarily complicated, cumbersome and self-defeating. The suggested system has been discussed with White House Communications Agency staff, with the Commanding Officer of the Interagency Communications System, and with the OEP site staff. All agree. The materials for the Naval Aide prescribe the new system. Instructions to the communicators have been prepared.
2. Distribute to all appropriate holders copies of the revised actions and supporting documents, together with instructions as to their use.

The changes have not, of course, been coordinated with other Federal agencies. As time permits, staff will determine whether other agencies have further changes to suggest.

This is only a modest first step, which runs more to the elimination of gross inaccuracies and deficiencies than to any great improvement in the substance of emergency planning. However, this first step is in concert with the proposal for the comprehensive emergency plan which you have approved.

I recommend that you transmit the file to the Naval Aide on Monday, October 29. It will be possible, on that day, to make a near simultaneous distribution to other holders.

cc: Central File2
DD ✓
PE-Quindlen
CA-Brewer
CA-Stokley
CA-Scott

Carey Brewer

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NS file - Emergency Preparedness

D. J.

NSAM 200-

NSAM file

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October 24, 1962

MEMORANDUM TO: Captain Tazewell Shepard

1. Ascertaining, Naval Aide to the President

the ability to execute the actions involved by the documents

SUBJECT: Civil Emergency Action Documents

2. Determining the additional actions in the civil sector

There are in your emergency file 24 documents approved by President Eisenhower for civil emergency planning purposes. The actions prescribed are to respond to a nuclear attack emergency. President Kennedy has not, to my knowledge, approved any of them. They are a part of an intended larger group, known collectively as Plan D-Minus. The NSAM 127 Emergency Planning Committee on June 11th recommended that Plan D-Minus be eliminated in favor of a more comprehensive and logical arrangement. Since the President approved this recommendation, work has been proceeding toward the design of a new arrangement. D-Minus actions that are still pertinent will be retained.

The documents in the President's possession do not necessarily represent ability to execute programs. Some are obsolete in form; some are of doubtful legality. Consideration is now being given by OEP, the White House staff and others to possible legislative action to enhance Presidential authority. The presence of the existing documents in your file indicates only that they ran the clearance process--not that they are necessarily the 24 most important actions to be taken. Nevertheless, their inclusion has caused subordinate documents to be prepared and, in some cases, preparations for execution to be made.

The emergency file contains documents designed to clothe the President with formal emergency powers, to provide control over individuals for internal security purposes, to dispose of normal administrative requirements, to augment the armed forces, to

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Captain Shepard

2.

assume functions of State and local governments in exceptional circumstances, to mobilize resources, and miscellaneous others.

I am taking the following actions:

1. Ascertaining, from the heads of the agencies involved, the ability to execute the actions forecast by the documents in your possession and those of a similar intent but not in your file.
2. Determining the additional actions in the civil sector necessary to the national survival if a nuclear exchange should take place.
3. Determining the actions in the civil sector which will be necessary to the continued prosecution of the measures now engaged or that will likely be engaged, short of nuclear war.

I will, as soon as possible, substitute up-to-date versions of useful documents in the file and withdraw those no longer pertinent. As rapidly as possible, additional documents will be provided.

Edward A. McDermott

C Brewer

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