

~~SECRET~~

3

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

June 25, 1962

SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 166

TO: The Director, Office of Emergency Planning  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Director, Bureau of the Budget

SUBJECT: Report on Emergency Plans and Continuity of  
the Government

1. I have read the report and recommendations of the Emergency Planning Committee of June 11, 1962. I agree that the change in concept of emergency planning set forth in that report -- from the present plan of evacuation to distant sites to an examination of the possibilities of dispersion within the Washington metropolitan area and delegation to field offices -- is appropriate to the developing military technology. As the report states, this change requires corresponding changes in other elements of emergency planning, including the assignment of responsibilities for emergency functions within the government and the organization of communications. Accordingly, I endorse the substance of the report's conclusions.

2. I endorse the specific recommendations of the report. I shall expect the Office of Emergency Planning to monitor the progress of the studies, analyses, and emergency plan revisions which are called for, with the aid of the Emergency Planning Committee and other agencies as appropriate. The Director of the Office of Emergency Planning will keep me periodically advised of progress.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4  
NLK-89-101  
By SCF JARA Date 3/29/91

(Reproduction authorized by Mr. Charles Johnson, NSC, on 14 February 1964.)

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic

~~SECRET~~

**GROUP 1**  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

SECRET

The report addresses itself chiefly to the problems of survival of the central functions of the Federal Government and the facilities and communications which serve them. The principles and conclusions which lie behind the recommendations are broadly applicable to the plans for the proposed regional emergency centers and for the survival programs of state and local governments. I shall look to the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning, working with the Office of Civil Defense, with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and with state and local officials, to assure that this common guidance is applied to the problems of planning and preparing for emergency operations of all elements of government.

/s/

John F. Kennedy