

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President
The Secretary of Defense
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Information copy to: McGeorge Bundy

Subject:

The purpose of this memorandum is to fix the responsibility of the Military Aide to the President (and his assistants) in connection with:

- (a) Presidential signing of certain emergency powers executive orders,
- (b) Presidential authority in relation to the expenditure of nuclear weapons in case of attack, including SIOP option choices, and
- (c) Maintenance of secure communications for these purposes and other classified matters while the President is traveling.

Assumptions

A. That if the President is in the White House the responsibility for the actions cited in (a), (b) and (c) above rests with the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, assisted by the Military Aide's office as the Special Assistant requests.

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 04-191

By isl, NARA, Date 3-7-08

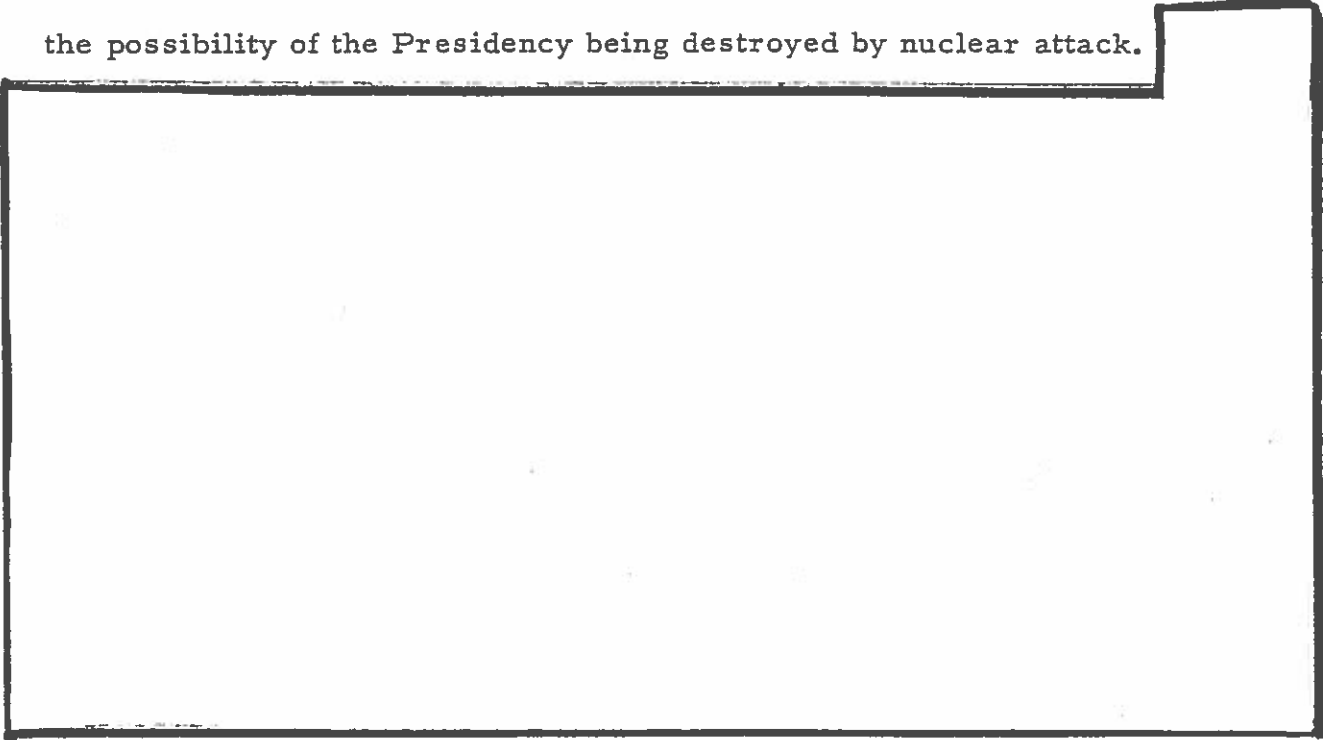
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B. That if the President is in the Washington area, but not in the White House, the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs will prescribe to the Military Aide his responsibilities in connection with the Presidential movement.

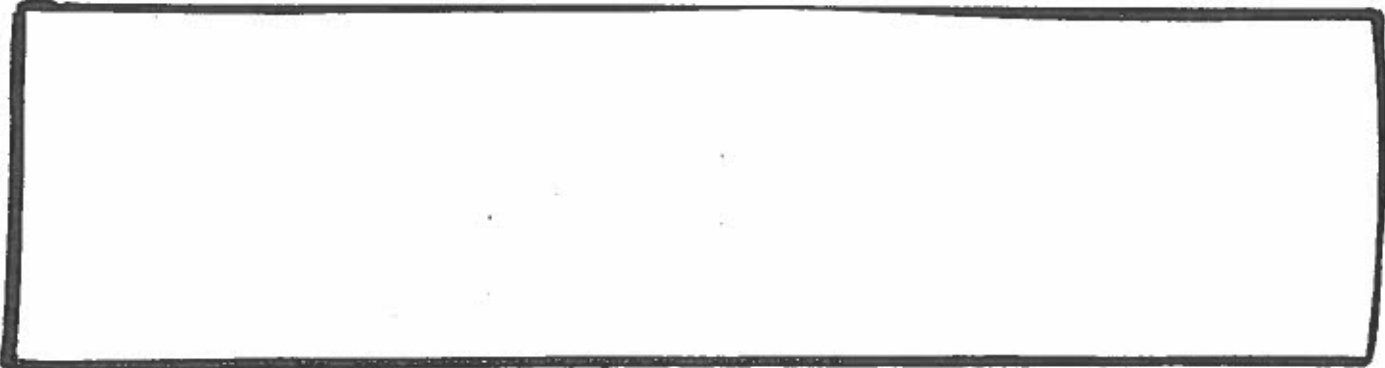
C. That when the President travels outside the Washington area, the Military aide or his properly cleared and trained assistants will carry out the responsibilities in connection with items (a), (b) and (c) above.

Discussion

The history of the development of the requirement for the President to have certain documents accompanying him and be made available to him on short notice has developed over the past 15 years, largely because of the possibility of the Presidency being destroyed by nuclear attack.



3.3
(b)(5)



The next place that the Attorney General became involved was when the law was passed that only the President could authorize the use of nuclear weapons, and again the Attorney General ruled that this had to be considered at the time of the event and that the authority had to be gotten from the President.

The Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff determined that during the 1950's the President would have three or four hours at least to determine whether or not we were going to use nuclear weapons. However, with the advent of missiles carrying nuclear warheads the time frame for Presidential authorization and decision gradually moved up to 15 minutes. as the warning time that they would have before enemy missiles could hit the United States (in my opinion, this is a little unrealistic now because surprise attack could come from submarine and other ways for which there would be no warning whatsoever).

The next refinement of this decision came in the early months of the Kennedy Administration when the Joint Chiefs of Staff developed the Single

Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP), in which options were available to the Commander-in-Chief in the use of nuclear weapons on the assumption that any nuclear response would be a graduated response rather than an all-out one with several selections available.

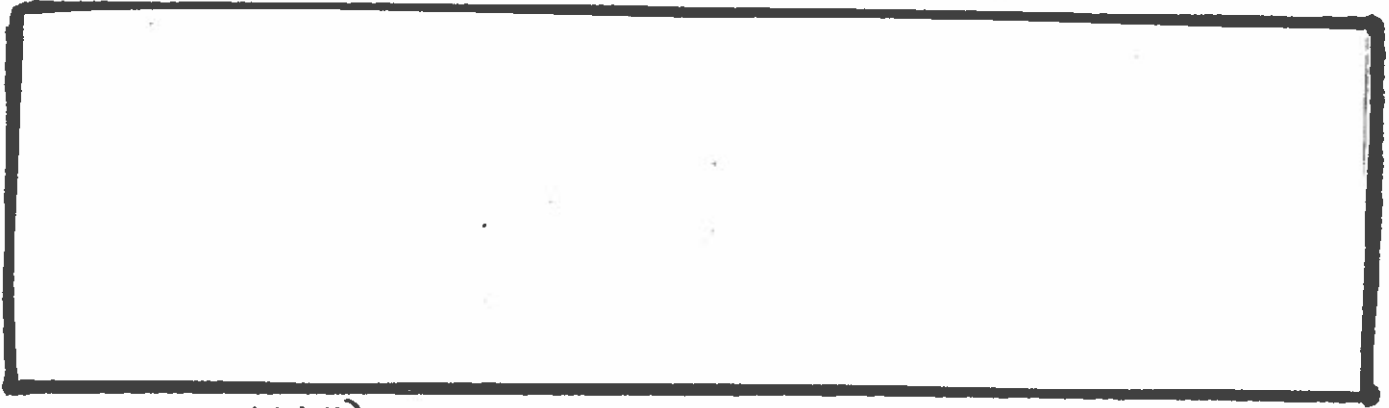
3.3
(b)
(5)

And this later requirement of selection of options plus executive authority being relayed to the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff by secure communications has led to the many developments and changes in the Presidential communication requirements.

Accompanying this evolution was the delegation of authority in regard to security of our forces, retaliation of our unified commanders when attacked, and finally delegation of authority in case of the President being incapacitated.

All of these considerations led to the assignment of responsibility to the White House Communications Agency (1958-59-60) for the and transportation of the emergency powers documents whenever the President moved out of the White House.

3.3 (b) (5)



3.3 (b)(5)

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