

EYES ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENT

25

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH:

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLARK CLIFFORD	WALT ROSTOW
SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK	GEORGE CHRISTIAN
GENERAL EARLE WHEELER	TOM JOHNSON
ADMIRAL THOMAS MOORER	
GENERAL LEONARD CHAPMAN	
GENERAL JOHN McCONNELL	
GENERAL BRUCE PALMER	
BROMLEY SMITH	

JOINING THE MEETING:

SENATOR RICHARD RUSSELL  
GENERAL WILLIAM WESTMORE-  
LAND

OCTOBER 14, 1968  
Cabinet Room  
1:40 pm

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY  
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL.  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)  
ISCAP No. 2010-075, document 1

SECRETARY CLIFFORD: There have been instructions issued on authority to release nuclear weapons in the event the President has been killed or cannot be found. This is to prevent a breakdown in the chain of command.

The project's code-name is "Futherance."

We recommend three major changes:

- (1) Under the former orders, a full nuclear response against both the Soviet Union and China was ordered if we were attacked. Under the change, the response could go to either country -- not both. There could be a small-scale or accidental attack. We do not recommend full attack at all times. This would permit a limited response.
- (2) Instructions on the response to a conventional attack would be conventional, not nuclear as is now in the plan.
- (3) There was only one document of instructions beforehand. Now there would be two documents.

We all recommend this.

WALT ROSTOW: We think it is an essential change. This was dangerous. We recommend going forward.

GENERAL WHEELER: All the Joint Chiefs of Staff and commanders have been consulted. We recommend approval.

GENERAL McCONNELL: I concur, Sir.

GENERAL CHAPMAN: I concur.

ADMIRAL MOORER: I concur.

LBJ LIBRARY  
Mandatory Review  
Case # NLJ 02-273 ISCAP Appeal  
Document # 25

# # #

**NATIONAL  
SECURITY  
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, [nsarchiv@gwu.edu](mailto:nsarchiv@gwu.edu)