

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1955



MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT  
2:00 p.m. - May 25, 1955

Others present: The Vice President  
Mr. Arthur S. Flemming  
L/Gen Willard S. Paul  
Mr. Hagerty  
Mr. Shanley  
Comdr. Beach

1. Mr. Flemming gave the President two summary documents relating to Operation ALERT 1955 which included a proposed schedule for the President. The President and Mr. Flemming discussed his proposed schedule and it was agreed:
  - a. The President would leave the White House enroute to High Point at the start of the alert at 1205 EDT June 15 and remain there as long as required.
  - b. The President would return to High Point on the third day of the exercise, June 17, to participate in the evaluation scheduled to begin at 2:45 p.m., EDT. The President's participation was desired for about 45 minutes according to Mr. Flemming. The President further indicated that he doubted whether he would follow any set schedule, and that while at TALL TOP during the second day he might be interested in inspecting the recommended Congressional dispersal site should the Army Engineers by that time have a firm recommendation for same. Such recommendation was expected by 1 June 1955, according to Mr. Flemming.
2. There was further discussion relating to the secrecy of the President's movements. The President desires no one know where he will be. His movements will be unpredicted and spontaneous.

The President then further expressed himself regarding the ability of the government in general to keep secrets. Reference was had to "Petty's oil letter" which Mr. Flemming said repeated verbatim some of his comments at an NSC meeting. There was general discussion over the matter of leaks in government circles.

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3. The Vice President asked a question relating to participation in the drill by Congress and was answered by Mr. Flemming that there would be 10 to 15 of the leaders there. They are to be briefed on Thursday, June 16, on the results to date of the Army Engineers' survey for their site in the hope that they might move toward a selection.

It was generally agreed that as a basic modus operandi the Vice President would not be in the same place as the President and that if both happened to head for the same place steps would be taken to cause the Vice President to go some place else.

4. The President indicated that he was not pleased with the "succession law" and that the present situation where the third man in succession was of a different party was an illustration of one of the reasons for this attitude.
5. Mr. Hagerty briefed the President on the press pool which would accompany him during the drill and also in emergency.
6. In parting Mr. Flemming discussed briefly with the President the selection of the head of the war-time agencies. The President suggested a luncheon for them at which the Secretaries of State and Defense and Mr. Rockefeller, Governor Peterson and others might be present.
7. The conference was terminated at about 2:25 p.m.



*Edward L. Beach*  
EDWARD L. BEACH  
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Naval Aide to the President

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