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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

11 AUG 1980

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Chief, Records and Declass Div, WHS
Date: 10SEP2024

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (C³I)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
MANAGER, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

SUBJECT: Continuity of Government/C³I (U)

~~(S)~~ The President has directed me to develop and implement a new concept for enhancing the survivability and continuity of the Presidency to improve our Continuity of Government (COG) System. To carry on this work, I am establishing a Joint Program Office (JPO) that will be manned by representatives from DoD, FEMA, the DCI and the Department of State. The JPO will be headed by a permanent Director, and operate under the oversight of an interagency steering group, chaired by a representative of the NSC staff.

~~(S)~~ The JPO has been empowered to task government agencies for required support. Its initial responsibility will be to develop further the COG concept. It will then develop and refine the operational requirements, define a proposed program of exercises for developing the system, and prepare a detailed program and budget plan. I would like to complete this phase of the work by October 1, 1980. Given subsequent NSC approval, the goal is to be able to support at least five Presidential successors simultaneously by FY 1984.

(U) Initially the JPO will report jointly to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (C³I) and the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy Review). As the concept and plan are developed, the ASD(C³I) will assume ultimate responsibility for the JPO. The ASD(C³I) and the DUSD(PR) will represent the Department on the Interagency Steering Group.

~~REGRADED Secret~~

~~DATE Dec 6, 2001~~

~~AUTHORITY DoD (C³I) EO 12958~~

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(U) The JPO should be staffed and prepared to operate as soon as possible. To provide initial staffing, I request the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chairman, JCS, and the Director, Defense Communications Agency assign representatives to this project on a full-time basis. Additional staffing requests can be expected to follow by separate memorandum. The point of contact is Dr. Kostas J. Liopiros, ODUSD(PR), x74540.

Harold Brown

cc: DUSD (Policy Review)
DASD (Administration)

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Office of the Secretary of Defense Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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