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THE CABINET

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPERATION ALERT 1956

Summary

The general instructions are in accordance with the recommendations contained in RA-25, July 5, 1955.

1. The Exercise will begin 10:00 A.M., EST, July 20 (Friday), and end 11:00 A.M., EST, July 26 (Thursday), 1956.

2. The Objectives are to acquaint personnel with the types of problems which a nuclear attack against the United States might generate, and to test our readiness to deal with such problems.

3. Participants include: Executive Branch agencies having essential wartime functions, the military services and seven unified and specified commands designated by the Secretary of Defense, and Civil Defense organizations at all levels. Canada has indicated its participation. Invited to participate are the Legislative and Judicial Branches, industries having continuity of production plans, and Executive Reservists. The Heads of all agencies concerned are particularly urged to be in personal attendance on the first two days (to assure rapid activation) and the last two days for the resolution of final problems.

4. Assumptions have been developed including an attack pattern of sufficient magnitude and variety to meet training objectives without reference to aggressor capabilities, or the revelation of information as to the most damaging targets and aiming points. Particular care was taken in designating the attack pattern to produce an unclassified document. This is essential for the wide distribution required.

5. Scope.

a. The Exercise will cover the first seven simulated days following an attack. While there will be no telescoping of time, preparation for actions which would not take place until after the simulated time will be encouraged.

b. Substantive problems involving both Headquarters and field interagency considerations will be emphasized. Each agency is submitting a vital problem. These will be analyzed for the purpose of selecting problems on which issues may be drawn to test alternative decisions.

c. The following operations will be tested:

- (1) Air Defense Warning.
- (2) Civil Defense Public Warning.
- (3) Conelrad.
- (4) Military Exercise of Forces.
- (5) Civil Defense Training Exercises.
- (6) Government Procedures on Receipt of Alert Signal.
- (7) Evacuation.
- (8) Activation of Relocation Sites.
- (9) Performance of Essential Wartime Functions.
- (10) Relief and Rehabilitation.
- (11) Military Support and Assistance to Civil Defense Operations Consistent with the Execution of Military Missions.
- (12) Military Support and Assistance to Civil Authority, Consistent with the Execution of Military Missions.
- (13) Regional Coordination.
- (14) Damage Assessment.
- (15) Determination of Surviving Resources and Survival Requirements.



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- (16) Allocation of Resources.
- (17) Control Measures.
- (18) Certain Wartime Organizations.

6. Performance Standards are being developed as a basis of evaluating the Exercise, and for the award of incentives including a Presidential Unit Commendation for meritorious performance.

7. Public Information.

a. Public announcement of these instructions to be embargoed until announced by White House release, or jointly by Federal Civil Defense Administration, Department of Defense, and the Office of Defense Mobilization.

b. The White House Emergency Information Group is developing instructions to insure maximum release of information to the public, consistent with security requirements.

Arthur S. Flemming
Director



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For Information