

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1960

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Agenda for the Next Cabinet Meeting

The following items will be ready for the next Cabinet meeting, which, to avoid a meeting the day before the President's departure, I recommend be held on Thursday, May 12 (NSC has been moved to Monday of that week):

1. Report of the Federal Radiation Council (Secretary Flemming)

✓ By Executive Order of last August 14, the President established the Federal Radiation Council with the assigned responsibility "for providing general standards and guidance to executive agencies for their use in developing operating rules and regulations for radiological health protection".

After nine months intensive work, the Council is now preparing its first Report to the President.

The Report makes recommendations as to radiation protection guides in normal peacetime circumstances (and also excluding weapons transport and storage and reactor accidents as sources of radiation). It clearly underscores that there is no absolute "threshold" but only a "guide", with present knowledge.

The Joint Atomic Energy Committee will be holding hearings on this very subject beginning May 24. Secretary Flemming is most anxious to have the Administration's own report approved and released at least a week before that date so that Administration witnesses can testify about and support the President's report at these hearings. Such a schedule means a Cabinet presentation for Presidential approval prior to the departure for the Summit.

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2. The State of the Economy

(Chairman Saulnier)

✓ Dr. Saulnier several weeks ago asked that we save some time on this Cabinet meeting for a review of the domestic economic situation. It will have been two months since the last such review.

3. USSR Manpower in the 1960's

(Director Allen Dulles)

✓ A few months ago when Secretary Mitchell presented his survey "Manpower - Challenge of the 1960's", the request was made at Cabinet that Allen Dulles do the same for the USSR manpower picture over the same period of time.

The CIA staff has finished this work now and their presentation is ready. This subject will be appropriate as background for the Summit meetings in which the President will be engaged.

4. OPERATION ALERT, 1960

(Director Hoegh)

✓ With the Exercise having been just completed and the President very likely not having had the opportunity to participate personally, Director Hoegh would be prepared to take two or three minutes to summarize the status of U. S. civil defense preparedness and continuity of government, as revealed by an interim evaluation of the Exercise.

5. (Post-Cabinet) Defense Briefing

✓ In order to equip members of the Cabinet for a) speechmaking on the continuing issue of alleged "missile gaps" and "inadequate defenses", and for (b) visits which are being planned to various Defense installations, Secretary Gates and his staff have prepared a 40-minute briefing especially for the non-NSC Cabinet officers. If time permits, this briefing can be scheduled after the meeting for those who wish it.



 Robert Gray