

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MARCH 30, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JACK WATSON *Jack*

SUBJECT:

Federal Contingency Plans -
Three Mile Nuclear Facility

At the meeting this afternoon in the Situation Room the following decisions were made:

- ° I will assume the chair of the interagency task force to coordinate Federal assistance to Pennsylvania as needed and approved;
- ° In this role, I will serve as the federal link to the Governor, local authorities and all relevant federal officials in the field who may be called upon to assist.

All that follows is focused on the operations and support by federal agencies of state and local government in coping with the effects of the accident. Separate lines of control and communication are in place for handling the technical and scientific issues via NRC's man in the field, Dr. Harold Denton.

I have convened the appropriate agencies to begin coordinating the extant federal presence and to initiate necessary advance planning. I have done the following:

- ° Called Governor Thornburgh and advised him of my actions (detailed below). He was most appreciative. We will keep in continuing contact with each other as the situation unfolds.
- ° Directed the Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) in Philadelphia to proceed to Harrisburg to assume lead responsibility for the Federal government in planning operations and support to meet the needs of the people in the area.

POOR ORIGINAL

8001170 909 P

- Sent the Assistant Director of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA) to Harrisburg to coordinate Federal consultation with state and local officials on existing evacuation plans. If evacuation is called for, the system would be operated by the four affected county governments. Currently evacuation plans exist to move people up to ten miles from the site. I have asked that plans be set if evacuation must extend to 15 and 20 miles from the site.
- Asked that DoD's Director of Military Support prepare plans to provide temporary housing and feeding of people if evacuation occurs.
- Asked Frank's office to brief the Pennsylvania delegation on our activities and staff coordination lines.
- Asked HEW and its Center for Disease Control to prepare plans to provide necessary medical screening and services in the event of (a) a worsening of the exposure and/or (b) an evacuation decision.
- Asked that FDAA work with the Governor's office to prepare necessary emergency and/or disaster declaration requests so that a minimum of time is taken in processing them if the Governor decides to make such requests.

There is no question that we are operating on a contingency and stand-by basis. We want to be ready to act if called upon, but there is agreement at every level that the lead remains with the state officials.

POOR ORIGINAL