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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

DATE: April 7, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: William H. Wilcox  
Administrator, FDAAFROM: Robert J. Adamsik  
Lead Federal Official, HarrisburgFEDERAL REGISTER  
ASSISTANT  
ADMINISTRATION-BAA

SUBJECT: Three Mile Island Incident

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Your memorandum of March 30, 1979 advised me that Jack Watson, Assistant to the President, had appointed me as the Lead Federal Official in Harrisburg and assigned me the missions and activities you desired me to accomplish in this role.


This report will describe in seriatim, the methodology and current status of these tasks.

1. I had established contact with Colonel Henderson and advised him of my concern and availability as early as Wednesday evening, March 28, and maintained open lines with him until my arrival at the State EOC on Friday evening, March 30, 1979. As you know, my field office and staff then became co-located with him.
2. Since NRC had established a relationship with Met Ed prior to my arrival, I thought it appropriate to have Mr. Denton facilitate my contact with Met Ed. During my conversations with Mr. Denton, I indicated that I was interested in meeting with some representatives of Met Ed. Mr. Denton said he would try to arrange that for me. However, after giving this some thought, I concluded that it would not be advisable for me to interfere with any activities related to the technical aspects of this incident. Consequently, I did not pursue this course of action.
3. During the first days after my arrival on the scene, a contact was made with the offices of Congressman Goodling and Ertel. However, the majority of questions which they asked were related to the technical aspects of this incident, and consequently, I deferred providing information which was beyond my scope of authority or understanding.
4. My Public Information Officer established contact with the Governor's office and provided technical advice and assistance to the State in establishing the Rumor Control Center. For use of the Rumor Control Center, it was decided to use the Governor's Hot Line facilities which had been recently deactivated. The center had six lines and was opened on Wednesday evening, April 4, with the Governor and Mrs. Thornburgh taking some of the early calls. During the first two days of the operation, the center was able

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to accept 4,800 of the 14,000 incoming calls placed from the outside. An additional 1,000 calls have been received since last evening. Most of the callers have sought information as to "when can we return home."

5. I established telephone contact with Mr. Denton after my arrival. I also attended the daily briefing which Mr. Denton gave to the Governor. Mr. Denton designated his deputy, Boyce Grier, as his liaison agent with my office.
6. I considered convening a meeting of federal employees in Harrisburg. However, logistically this would have been an impossible task due to the number and location of federal employees working in the Harrisburg area. Since I felt that it was vital to maintain a low level presence in the area, I concluded that a meeting of this nature would be counterproductive to my mission. Rather than a general meeting, I met with federal agency heads and advised them to inform their staffs of my presence and mission.
7. Staff coordination meetings were held each evening with officials from federal and private relief agencies who were either actively assisting in the technical operation underway at the site or were engaged in assisting the state in the development, refinement or possible implementation of its evacuation plans.
8. Reports on significant events were phoned daily to the National Operations Center for inclusion in the Administrator's daily report to the Assistant to the President. Other information was reported to the NDC as an event occurred. Urgent reports were made directly to the White House. I also reported to the Administrator several times daily on matters which required his consideration.
9. Upon arrival on the scene, I immediately contacted John McDonnell and was successful in establishing and maintaining a coordinated working relationship.
10. A member of my staff collaborated with state officials in developing a letter for the Governor's use in requesting emergency assistance should problems deteriorate to that level. The decision on whether a request would be made or a declaration would be necessary was a policy matter which was handled directly between the Governor and the President.

  
Robert J. Adamcik