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Letter to [unclear]

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1980

~~SECRET WITH  
TOP SECRET ATTACHMENT~~

Presidential Directive/NSC 58

TO:           The Vice President  
               The Secretary of State  
               The Secretary of Defense  
               The Director, Office of Management and  
                   Budget  
               The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
               The Director of Central Intelligence  
               The Director, Federal Emergency Management  
                   Agency  
               The Director, White House Military Office

SUBJECT:       Continuity of Government/C3I (U)

I have reviewed the recommendations of the Special Coordination Committee for improving our Continuity of Government system. It is essential that we establish and maintain a capability for the Presidency, under the most stressing conditions, to be able to:

- survive a nuclear attack, even one which involves repeated attacks over a long period of time;
- direct, as Commander-in-Chief, our strategic and theater nuclear forces, and all other aspects of a general war;
- conduct, as Head of State, negotiations with adversaries and with our allies during the conflict;
- control, as Chief Executive, domestic affairs during the conflict and the national recovery after the war has ended. ~~(S)~~

To support the development of a system to meet these requirements, I direct that the following actions be taken:

- 1) The concept put forth in the Special Coordination Committee paper on Continuity of Government (Tab A) is approved as the initial direction for program development. ~~(C)~~
- 2) The responsibilities of the various agencies, the development concepts, and the public posture will conform to section VI of the Special Coordination Committee paper. ~~(C)~~

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Review on June 30, 2000

Classified &amp; Extended by: Z. Brzezinski

Reason for Extension: NSC 1.13(e)

NSC Declassification Review [EO 13526]  
 DECLASSIFY IN PART  
 by John Powers on 5/25/2017

3) An interagency steering group, chaired by the NSC staff, and consisting of representatives of the White House Military Office, the Secretaries of State and Defense, and the Directors of Central Intelligence, FEMA, and OMB, will oversee the development and validation of the recommended concepts. (C)

4) A Joint Program Office will be established under the Secretary of Defense. It will work in close cooperation with the Director of FEMA to refine, develop, validate, and implement this concept, responsive to the requirements of the Secretary of Defense and the Director of FEMA. (C)

The Joint Program Office will:

- define overall responsibilities for development, management, and operation of a deployed system;
- prepare a detailed program for use of FY 1981 and FY 1982 funds;
- develop and refine the operational requirements;
- supervise the development of a series of tests and exercises to validate the concept;
- plan for the program to be fully operational to support at least five successors by 1984 and at least ten by the late 1980s;
- submit alternate program plans and budgets, a proposed exercise program, and recommendations concerning the division of funding responsibilities between FEMA and DOD and the degree of program classification to the Special Coordination Committee for review within three months. In the interim, program details will continue to be classified. (C)

5) Consistent with the above guidance, and in close cooperation with the JPO, FEMA will:

- continue to improve, pending development of a new system, the current capability [redacted] to disperse and support [redacted] successors in [redacted] facilities;
- continue to develop procedures and capabilities, in coordination with the Department of Defense, for

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locating, communicating with, identifying, and authenticating dispersed successors, as a basis for determining legal succession to the Presidency;

- coordinate the efforts of other government agencies to insure that their specific survival plans are compatible with the system for the Presidency. (S)

*Jimmy Carter*