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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

file

June 20, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICK HUTCHESON
FROM: CHRISTINE DODSON *ChD*
SUBJECT: NSC Meeting with Representatives of
Montana Energy and MHD Research and
Development Institute

On June 8, 1978, representatives of the Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute met in Guy Erb's office with NSC and AID staff. The meeting followed-up an exchange of letters between Dr. Brzezinski and Blu Middleton, Deputy Director of the Montana Institute, about Mr. Middleton's letter to the President of February 8th and the President's reply of February 23rd.

The conversation on June 8th is summarized in the attached memos from Anthony Schwarzwald and Christian Holmes of AID (Tab A). Guy Erb has also sent a memo to Frank Press about the Montana Institute's interest in Science and Technology issues. (Tab B)

Further action will depend on the response of the Montana Institute to the meeting of June 8th. We do not feel the issue requires Presidential attention at this time.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20523

ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR

JUN 14 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GUY F. ERB
National Security Council
The White House

SUBJECT: Presentation Made by the Montana Energy and MHD Research
and Development Institute, Inc.

Attached is a memorandum of conversation regarding our recent meeting
on the above subject.

It is our understanding that the Institute agrees with your suggestion
that they meet with Dr. Frank Press to pursue their interest in the
transfer of appropriate technology. We also understand that the Insti-
tute will send you another letter providing more detail to their
proposal.

Anthony M. Schwarzwald

Anthony M. Schwarzwald
Acting Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Private and
Development Cooperation

Attachment:
Presentation Made by the Montana
Energy and MHD R&D Institute, Inc.,
Regarding Disaster Assistance

June 8, 1978

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Presentation Made by the Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute, Inc., Regarding Disaster Assistance

PREPARED BY: Christian R. Holmes, IV, Deputy Director, Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) *C. R. Holmes*

On June 8, 1978, Dr. Jerry Plunkett, Director of Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute, Inc., and Dr. Edgar O'Hair and Mr. David Brown, also of the Institute, met in the Office of NSC staff member, Mr. Guy Erb, to discuss the use of Glasgow Air Force Base as the center for the provision of U. S. disaster assistance and certain forms of applied technology which relate to disaster assistance. Dr. Plunkett made his presentation to Mr. Erb and Mr. Les Denend, NSC staff members, and three representatives of the Agency for International Development: Mr. Anthony M. Schwarzwald, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Private and Development Cooperation, Mrs. Anne C. Martindell, Director, Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, and Mr. Christian R. Holmes, IV, Deputy Director, Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. The representatives from the Montana Institute explained that they were exploring possibilities for reuse of the former Air Force base.

Essentially, Dr. Plunkett and Mr. O'Hair stated they felt:

- Disaster assistance could be provided more effectively out of one central location which was staffed with standby teams to provide both supplies, relief assistance, and such forms of applied technology as improved systems for provision of fuel to areas without sufficient energy sources.
- Disaster assistance and provision of human rights should be interlinked.
- Centralizing disaster assistance at one location, such as a former Air Force base, would serve as a way in which to highlight the President's commitment to human rights through the provision of disaster assistance. Dr. Plunkett stated that he felt that the President's human rights policy was not as well known as it should be, particularly the linkage between disaster assistance and human rights.
- The base could also serve as a point from which appropriate forms of technology could be identified and transferred to a less-developed world.

- That the Research Institute was more interested in the above concept, per se, than in assigning the responsibility for implementing the concept to Glasgow Air Force Base or any other base in particular.

In response to the points made by the Institute representatives, Mr. Schwarzwaldler said that:

- He was impressed by their concern and felt that both the Agency for International Development and the Institute were on the same philosophic base.
- A.I.D., however, has either already experimented with, or is now actively undertaking, the majority of the activities which the representatives of the Institute feel should be conducted by a disaster unit at Glasgow Air Force Base. For example, the U. S. Government has, in the Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, centralized the coordination and the mobilization of all U. S. disaster relief, rehabilitation and preparedness activities. Additionally, this office can draw down on a variety of U. S. Government agencies, including the Department of Defense, to provide immediate assistance to disaster-affected populations.

The Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance also coordinates its activities with other A.I.D. offices to insure that short-term relief assistance is integrated into long-term development and reconstruction assistance:

- Under a Carter Administration reorganization, disaster assistance functions have been more tightly integrated by placing the offices responsible for private voluntary organization activities, disaster assistance, and the provision of Food for Peace commodities in one bureau (the Bureau for Private and Development Cooperation).
- The Agency for International Development is reviewing a variety of ways in which to apply appropriate technologies; in some cases there is considerable debate between the less-developed countries and the U. S. Government on the definition of "appropriate" technology.

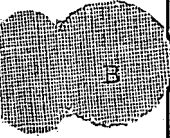
Other representatives from A.I.D. pointed out that:

- The provision of disaster assistance presently is very cost-effective; a staff of 22, with a payroll of about \$700,000, is capable of coordinating a provision of up to \$100 million of assistance in a year. This is to be contrasted against the Institute's proposal to have 200 to 300 people involved in these activities.
- It is the policy of the Carter Administration to link human rights and disaster assistance. For example, the President recently, in his decision to provide food aid to Laos, clearly linked human rights to disaster assistance.

Mr. Erb stated that he remained to be convinced that the technological impetus should be at the Glasgow Air Force Base and suggested that the

Institute representatives pursue their idea regarding the application of appropriate technology with Dr. Frank Press.

AID representatives invited the representatives of the Montana Institute to visit AID's International Disaster Assistance Operations Center and pursue their interest in this matter if they so wished.



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM FOR: FRANK PRESS
Director
Office of Science and Technology
Policy

SUBJECT: The FITC and Appropriate Technology

In the course of a conversation with representatives of the Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute (See Tab A for background) they expressed an interest in technology transfers to LDCs and in the research, development, and experimentation that would be encouraged in LDCs by the FITC.

I informed Mr. Jerry Plunkett of the Montana Institute that your office might be interested in reviewing technology issues with his staff. You may therefore receive a letter on technology issues from the Montana Insitite.



Guy F. Erb