

* Unable to locate a copy.

POLICY WITH REGARD TO
OTP AND W.H. COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

- 4/29/69 - ^{26.} Memo to the Secretary of Defense from the President indicating the Military Assistant to the President would be the point of contact in the White House for providing requirements and policy direction to the White House Communications Agency.
- 12/8/69 - Memo from Mr. Whitehead to Col. Hughes re relationship of OTP with WHCA.
- 12/15/69 - Memo from Col. Hughes to Mr. Whitehead re above memo; agrees on the method of handling the relationship between OTP and WHCA; feels the Director of OTP nor his staff should be involved in WHCA operations in any way; does not question the statement that the Director should be the President's principal adviser on telecommunications matter; however, has reservations on the degree to which Director needs to know about the "needs, capabilities, and activities of WHCA." Suggests they get together to draft a Presidential memorandum to clarify relations; feels it would be appropriate that the memorandum be signed prior to, or concurrently with, the publication of the OTP charter.
- 2/18/70 Memo from Gen. Hughes for Mr. Whitehead transmitting a draft Presidential memorandum -- since OTP could become a reality within the next sixty days; suggests getting together to work out details of a final memo.
- 3/9/70- Memo from Mr. Whitehead to Gen. Hughes; OTP expected to come into existence in mid-April; redraft of suggested memo for the President's signature, which Gen. Hughes had submitted with his 2/18 memo.
- * 3/11/70 - ? (probably the 3/9 memo)
↓
- 6/8/70 - Memo from Gen. Hughes for Mr. Whitehead referring to his memo of 3/11; asks what the status is now that OTP has been formally approved.
- 6/9/70 - Memo from Mr. Whitehead to Gen. Hughes advising that he proposes to have the President sign the memorandum they had agreed to at the same time the Exec. Order is signed (while OTP officially exists, it is not functioning until E.O. is signed)

9/8/70 - Memo from the President to Director, OTP, and the Military Assistant to the President stating that the Military Assistant would be the point of contact in the White House for providing requirements and policy direction to the White House Communications Agency (as stated in the memo of 4/29/69); the establishment of OTP does not change these responsibilities of the Military Assistant -- in particular, he is to have full responsibility for actual operation of Presidential communications activities; however, Director of OTP will also require some familiarity with W.H. and Presidential communications systems and plans in order to discharge his responsibilities as the President's principal telecommunications adviser and coordinator of all Exec. Branch telecommunications; accordingly, Director is authorized to coordinate with the Military Assistant any matters concerning Presidential communications when it is determined that such matters are of mutual concern.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Emergency

OCT 02 1972

Honorable E. Rechtin
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Telecommunications)
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Dr. Rechtin:

ATSD(T) letter of March 19 1971, stated that the NCS was in the process of updating the emergency plan for communications between national leaders, and requested revalidation of the requirement for the planning by the present Administration.

In view of the normal day-to-day commercial communications capability existing throughout the world today plus the improved diplomatic and defense communication capabilities, it is not felt that a requirement exists for additional preplanned communication circuits to national leaders in all other countries for emergency purposes. It is recognized that special situations may arise to warrant such circuitry; however, it is believed that existing emergency planning procedures and facilities are flexible enough to provide for these requirements on an ad hoc basis.

Accordingly, it is requested that no further action be taken on a plan for communications between national leaders (known as the Alpha-Delta Plan). Any future requirements of a special nature will be handled on a "case-by-case" basis.

In reference to NSAM 175, a White House memorandum of February 3, 1969, deleted it as an active NSAM and it is therefore considered as cancelled.

Sincerely,

Signed

Clay T. Whitehead

cc: DO Records
DO Chron
✓ Mr. Whitehead (2)
Mr. Joyce
Mr. Ward

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Authority	NFC waiver
By	SO NARA, Date 4/15/10

~~SECRET~~



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

DoD OIR Ltr. 5/17/2010
By WCC I500 Date 6/1/2010

18 MAR 1971

Honorable Clay T. Whitehead
Director of Telecommunications Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C. 20504

Dear Mr. Whitehead:

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Plan for Communications between National Leaders under the chairmanship of the Office of the Manager, National Communications System (NCS) has prepared the draft of an updated communications plan in response to NSAM 175. In the course of staffing the updated plan (known as the Alpha-Delta plan) with interested federal agencies, a DoD member received White House Communications Agency (WHCA) comments to the effect that there is no current validation of NSAM 175 requirements by the present Administration and that, within the present organizational framework, all "Presidential communications requirements" must be authenticated by the Military Assistant to the President.

Continuing efforts by the committee to develop a plan for communications between national leaders now appear to be in question due to lack of requirements validation. Therefore, it is recommended that a revalidation of NSAM 175 be obtained along with a more explicit endorsement as to whether the communications requirements expressed therein are valid and whether, as Presidential communications requirements, planning actions should be continued by the NCS or under the auspices of WHCA. Such review, revalidation, and endorsement are believed to be appropriate in order to assure that planning and tasking responsibilities in support of the President are properly assigned for efficient and effective execution.

To assist you in the review, attached is a brief history of actions in response to NSAM 175.

Sincerely,

Louis A. deRosa
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
(Telecommunications)

Also, Cont No. 71-0007

Enclosure

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ARE DETACHED

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HISTORY OF ACTIONS RELATING TO
NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM (NSAM) 175
DATED 21 JULY 1962

The requirement for rapid and survivable means of communications between the President of the United States and foreign national leaders prior to and during hostilities was first mentioned in a draft Basic National Security Paper (BNSP), April 1961. The draft led to JCS formulation of a "Basic National Security Policy - Communications Study", 14 February 1962, which was used in subsequent planning actions.

The general concept of the Communications Study was that the capabilities of the Department of State communications facilities might become impaired or might lack the flexibility to meet the need during a period of emergency or actual hostility. Under such conditions the President might place requirements on another agency's communications facilities above those required in the conduct of agency operations.

The Communications Study was approved for planning purposes on 21 July 1962 by National Security Action Memorandum (NSAM) 175 which requested the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense to initiate planning for improved means of maintaining communications between national leaders during emergency conditions. Subsequently, the Department of State (DOS) took certain actions to improve communications to their diplomatic posts in areas for which they were responsible and the Defense Communications Agency (DCA) developed a System Plan addressing situations for which DOD was responsible to provide communications.

The DCA plan was approved by the JCS on 21 October 1964 as JCSM 898-64. The JCS concluded that this plan should be utilized in the development of a consolidated NCS plan, the NCS having previously emerged as a joint planning mechanism. In a memorandum of 4 December 1964, ASD (Administration) advised the Manager, NCS of approval of the DOD System Plan and requested that further planning be on an NCS basis.

At this point in time an attempt was made to obtain formal input for a consolidated plan from the DOS covering its responsibilities under NSAM 175. The DOS took the position that it already had taken, or was in the process of taking,

Enclosure 1

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DOES NOT APPLY

DDI COM. NO 210450

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the actions it was being asked to provide plans for; that, as far as the DOS was involved, NSAM 175 had been overtaken by events and should be canceled.

By memo of 24 October 1966, the DOS reversed its position and provided to the NCS a summary of actions they were taking to satisfy NSAM 175 requirements. This summary was combined with the DCA plan and forwarded as the consolidated NCS Plan for Communications between National Leaders. In a 19 June 1967 letter to DOD, the Special Assistant to the President for Telecommunications (SAPT) approved portions of the NCS plan dealing with emergency or hostile conditions, authorized development of implementation arrangements, and requested alternative communications plans for those relying solely on HF radio. In addition, the SAPT indicated that "while the general concept was approved for planning purposes by NSAM 175, the requirement is deemed to be unique to the needs of the Presidency, in consonance with NSAM 252, and, therefore, should be considered as being within the scope of the National Communications System."

On 1 August 1967, the NCS requested the DOS to develop alternative plans for HF radio links. By letter of 15 August 1968, the DOS advised that they had developed alternative means of communications (other than HF radio) to all countries except Argentina, Bolivia, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru. This information was forwarded by the NCS to the NCS Executive Agent and, on 13 January 1969, the ASD (Administration) requested the JCS to implement the Plan for Communications between National Leaders as envisaged in the DCA plan.

On 17 March 1969 the JCS recommended that the DCA system plan not be implemented because it was over four years old and was based on political, operational, and technical concepts that prevailed in 1961.

At a meeting in July 1969 between the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP), SAPT, DOS, ASD (I&L), JCS, DCA, and NCS Representatives, it was decided that a working level ad hoc committee under NCS chairmanship be set up to review the whole concept of communications between national leaders. At the request of the committee, the JCS undertook to review, revise, and update their communications study of February 1962 so as to bring it more in line with current concepts.

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(Although National Security Decision Memorandum 5, 3 February 1969, provided a status review of outstanding NSAMs, NSAM 175 was not explicitly addressed. In August 1969 the SAPT was advised by the NCS that effort on NSAM 175 was continuing since the basic communications planning requirements had not been met.)

In March 1970 the JCS drafted a new communications-electronics study which contained coordinated JCS-State Department-CIA considerations and was intended to serve as a basis for further detailed planning by the ad hoc committee. Using the draft JCS study and incorporating suggestions from other participating agencies, the ad hoc committee produced a draft of a new Plan for Communications between National Leaders. Agency coordination on the new draft was initiated in January 1971.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Rec'd
9/19*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/GDS (12/31/78)

September 28, 1972

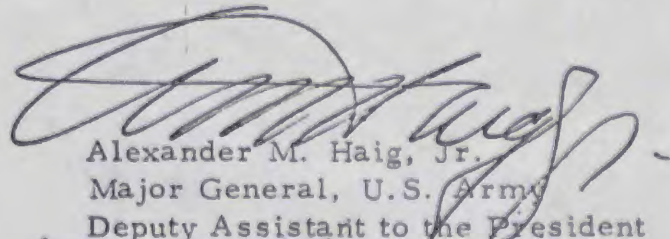
MEMORANDUM FOR

Clay T. Whitehead
Director
Office of Telecommunications Policy

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Planning for Backup Circuits

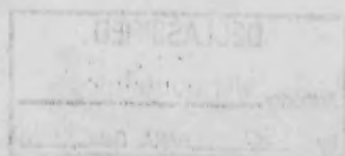
This is in response to your memorandum of September 11, 1972, forwarding the conclusions of your review on whether or not there continues to be a need for comprehensive planning for emergency communications between national leaders.

We appreciate your calling this matter to our attention and have no problems with your conclusions.


Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Major General, U.S. Army
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	WH guidelines
By	SO NARA, Date 4/15/10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/GDS (12/31/78)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEP 11 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR

Honorable Henry Kissinger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Brigadier General Brent Scowcroft
Military Assistant to the President

Efforts have been underway, off and on since 1961, to develop comprehensive plans for communications capabilities between the United States and other national leaders. These were primarily plans to provide backup for existing diplomatic and defense circuits, and in some cases to provide planning for new circuits for activation in the event of a possible conflict.

When this planning was initiated, the primary media for most of the diplomatic circuits was high frequency radio, which at times provides a marginal capability. It was felt that these circuits might become impaired or lack the flexibility to meet the need during a period of emergency or actual hostility. Subsequently, the Department of State took action to improve communications to their diplomatic posts and the Defense Communications Agency (DCA) developed a plan addressing situations for which DOD was responsible.

Recently the question of revalidating the requirement for these backup plans has arisen.

A review of the diplomatic communications capabilities today indicates that vastly improved means of communications are now available between national leaders. The present in-being diplomatic and defense circuits employing a combination of satellite, cable, and high frequency have improved to the extent that detailed, comprehensive planning for backup circuits is not worthwhile.

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Authority	NSC waiver
By	SO NARA, Date 4/15/10

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- 2 -

It is recognized that situations may develop requiring special communications capabilities for a specific purpose. However, our current emergency plans, restoration procedures, and improved capabilities of the commercial, diplomatic, and defense facilities are flexible enough to provide for this type of emergency requirement on a "case-by-case" basis, as required.

I note that NSAM 175, which originally validated the backup planning effort, was declared inactive on February 3, 1969. Unless I hear from you to the contrary before September 30, 1972, I plan to tell the Secretary of Defense that there is no need to continue overall planning for emergency communications between national leaders.

Clay T. Whitehead

cc: DO Records
DO Chron
✓Mr. Whitehead (2)
Mr. Joyce
Mr. Ward

DCWard/bss/8-29-72

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

*see reply
10/2/72*

19 MAR 1971

Honorable Clay T. Whitehead
Director of Telecommunications Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C. 20504

Dear Mr. Whitehead:

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Plan for Communications between National Leaders under the chairmanship of the Office of the Manager, National Communications System (NCS) has prepared the draft of an updated communications plan in response to NSAM 175. In the course of staffing the updated plan (known as the Alpha-Delta plan) with interested federal agencies, a DoD member received White House Communications Agency (WHCA) comments to the effect that there is no current validation of NSAM 175 requirements by the present Administration and that, within the present organizational framework, all "Presidential communications requirements" must be authenticated by the Military Assistant to the President.

Continuing efforts by the committee to develop a plan for communications between national leaders now appear to be in question due to lack of requirements validation. Therefore, it is recommended that a revalidation of NSAM 175 be obtained along with a more explicit endorsement as to whether the communications requirements expressed therein are valid and whether, as Presidential communications requirements, planning actions should be continued by the NCS or under the auspices of WHCA. Such review, revalidation, and endorsement are believed to be appropriate in order to assure that planning and tasking responsibilities in support of the President are properly assigned for efficient and effective execution.

To assist you in the review, attached is a brief history of actions in response to NSAM 175.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Louis A. deRosa
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
(Telecommunications)

Also, (1) Cont No. 71-0007

Enclosure

UNCLASSIFIED WHEN ATTACHMENTS
ARE DETACHED

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NOT FOR RELEASE

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

DoD OSR Hr. 5/17/2010
By WCC Tsoo Date 6/1/2010

HISTORY OF ACTIONS RELATING TO
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The Communications Study was approved for planning purposes on 21 July 1962 by National Security Action Memorandum (NSAM) 175 which requested the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense to initiate planning for improved means of maintaining communications between national leaders during emergency conditions. Subsequently, the Department of State (DOS) took certain actions to improve communications to their diplomatic posts in areas for which they were responsible and the Defense Communications Agency (DCA) developed a System Plan addressing situations for which DOD was responsible to provide communications.

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DOES NOT APPLY

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~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 8, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy
Military Assistant to the President

FROM: The President

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications
Facilities

In my memorandum of April 29, 1969, to the Secretary of Defense I indicated that the Military Assistant to the President would be the point of contact in the White House for providing requirements and policy direction to the White House Communications Agency (WHCA). The establishment of the Office of Telecommunications Policy does not change these responsibilities of the Military Assistant; in particular, he is to have full responsibility for actual operation of Presidential communications activities.

However, I recognize that the Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy, will also require some familiarity with White House and Presidential communications systems and plans in order to discharge his responsibilities as my principal telecommunications adviser and coordinator of all Executive Branch telecommunications. Accordingly the Director is authorized to coordinate with the Military Assistant any matters concerning Presidential communications when it is determined that such matters are of mutual concern.

Richard Nixon

W/d
OTP
Mil Asst.

June 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

General James D. Hughes
Military Assistant to the President

I propose to have the President sign the memorandum that you and I agreed to at the same time that the Executive Order is signed. While OTP officially exists, it is not functioning until the Executive Order is signed.

Clay T. Whitehead
Special Assistant to the President

cc: Mr. Whitehead
Central Files

CTWhitehead:ed

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

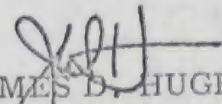
WASHINGTON

8 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CLAY T. WHITEHEAD

SUBJECT: Presidential Memorandum Pertaining to the Office of
Telecommunications Policy (OTP)

Reference our earlier discussions and my memorandum to you on the subject dated 11 March 1970. I would appreciate knowing the status of this memorandum, now that the OTP has been formally approved.


JAMES D. HUGHES

Brigadier General, United States Air Force
Military Assistant to the President

OTP

March 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL JAMES D. HUGHES

As you note in your memorandum of February 18th, the Office of Telecommunications Policy is expected to come into existence in mid-April. I have looked at your suggested memorandum from the President regarding relationship of OTP with the White House Communications Agency. I think it is basically the type of document we are looking for, and suggest the attached revision.

Clay T. Whitehead
Special Assistant to the President

cc: Mr. Kissinger
Mr. Flanigan
Mr. Whitehead
Central Files

CTWhitehead:jm

MEMORANDUM FOR

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY
MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

In my memorandum of April 29 to the Secretary of Defense I indicated that the Military Assistant to the President would be the point of contact in the White House for providing requirements and policy direction to the White House Communications Agency (WHCA). The establishment of the Office of Telecommunications Policy does not change these responsibilities of the Military Assistant; in particular, he is to have full responsibility for actual operation of Presidential communications activities.

However, I recognize that the Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy, will also require some familiarity with White House and Presidential communications systems and plans in order to discharge his responsibilities as my principal telecommunications adviser and coordinator of all Executive Branch telecommunications. Accordingly the Director is authorized to coordinate with the Military Assistant any matters concerning Presidential communications when it is determined that such matters are of mutual concern.

This was
in the
file

see also
complete
package

WH OFF
Communications

March 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL JAMES D. HUGHES

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Clay T. Whitehead
Special Assistant to the President

cc: Mr. Kissinger
Mr. Flanigan
Mr. Whitehead
Central Files

CTWhitehead:jm

MEMORANDUM FOR

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY
MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

In my memorandum of April 29 to the Secretary of Defense I indicated that the Military Assistant to the President would be the point of contact in the White House for providing requirements and policy direction to the White House Communications Agency (WHCA). The establishment of the Office of Telecommunications Policy does not change these responsibilities of the Military Assistant; in particular, he is to have full responsibility for actual operation of Presidential communications activities.

However, I recognize that the Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy, will also require some familiarity with White House and Presidential communications systems and plans in order to discharge his responsibilities as my principal telecommunications adviser and coordinator of all Executive Branch telecommunications. Accordingly the Director is authorized to coordinate with the Military Assistant any matters concerning Presidential communications when it is determined that such matters are of mutual concern.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CLAY T. WHITEHEAD

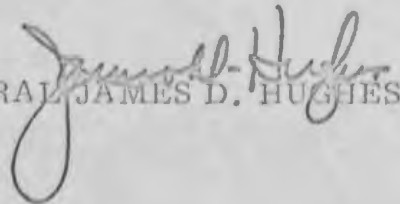
SUBJECT: Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP)

Reference: (a) Your memo, same subject, dtd Dec 5, 1969
(b) My memo, same subject, dtd Dec 15, 1969

In your memorandum, you suggested that a memorandum from the President be written which would outline the relationship of the OTP with the White House Communications Agency. In my memorandum, I agreed with this approach and suggested that it would be appropriate that such a memorandum be signed prior to, or concurrently with, the publication of the OTP charter.

Based on the transcript of a recent White House Press Conference on the subject, it appears that the OTP could become a reality within the next sixty days. With this in mind, I would like to propose the attached draft of a Presidential memorandum for your consideration. After you have had a chance to look it over, I would like to get together with you and work out the details of the final memorandum.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES D. HUGHES

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James D. Hughes", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

D R A F T

17 February 1970

SUBJECT: White House Communications Agency (WHCA)

In my memorandum to the Secretary of Defense on April 29, 1969, the Military Assistant to the President was designated as my representative for a point of contact for requirements and giving policy direction to DCA/WHCA concerning Presidential communications.

The establishment of the Office of Telecommunications Policy does not change the above responsibilities of the Military Assistant. However, the Director of Telecommunications Policy is authorized to coordinate with the Military Assistant any DCA/WHCA matters affecting Presidential communications when it is determined that such matters are of mutual concern.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter A. Flanigan

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

On February 9, the reorganization plan establishing a new Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP) in the Executive Office of the President was sent to Congress. In late March or early April you will be appointing a Director for the Office and signing an Executive Order establishing the full scope of the authority and functions of this office.

One important matter will not be resolved in these public documents. That is the role of the Director and the new office with respect to White House and other Presidential communications.

The Director will have broad responsibilities for coordinating and integrating the communications of the Executive Branch of the government. To perform this role effectively, the Director must be aware of the communications requirements of the Presidency, and of the technical characteristics, procedures and plans for Presidential facilities. This is necessary for two reasons.

1. So that the Presidency is supplied with all of the required links to the Executive Branch.
2. To clearly establish in the minds of departmental and other Executive Branch officials that the Director is the President's principal adviser on telecommunications matters.

It is not necessary that the OTP become involved in the day to day operations of the White House Communications Agency, nor that he assume any responsibilities previously delegated to elements of the White House staff. However, it is necessary to clarify:

1. The "need to know" of the Director, OTP with respect to White House and other Presidential communications.

2. The channels for processing recommended changes to White House/Presidential communications facilities or procedures.

The memorandum at Tab A recognizes that the Director, OTP has a valid "need to know" about some aspects of Presidential communications, and requires him to coordinate with the Military Assistant in matters concerning Presidential communications.

Recommendation

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A.

Pse draft & return

MEMORANDUM FOR

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATION
POLICY
MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

In my memorandum of April 29 to Mr. Laird I indicated that the Military Assistant to the President would be the point of contact in the White House for providing requirements and policy direction to the White House Communications Agency (WHCA). *However,* I recognize that the Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy, will also require some familiarity with White House and Presidential communications systems and plans in order to discharge his responsibilities as my principal telecommunications adviser and as coordinator of all Executive Branch telecommunications.

The establishment of the Office of Telecomm. Policy does not change
Accordingly the Director should ^{is authorized to} coordinate with the Military Assistant ^{any matters concerning Presidential} to the President his needs for information about, and any recommendations for improving, communications provided by the White House Communications Agency, *when it is determined that such matters are of mutual concern.*

He is to have full responsibility for actual operations of Presidential communications activities.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter A. Flanigan

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2. To clearly establish in the minds of departmental and other Executive Branch officials that the Director is the President's principal adviser on telecommunications matters.

It is not necessary that the OTP become involved in the day to day operations of the White House Communications Agency, nor that he assume any responsibilities previously delegated to Dr. Kissinger, Colonel Hughes, or other elements of the White House staff. However, it is necessary to clarify:

1. The "need to know" of the Director, OTP with respect to White House and other Presidential communications.
2. The channels for processing recommended changes to White House/Presidential communications facilities or procedures.

It would be appropriate at the same time to recognize that Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Erlichman also have coordination and information handling responsibilities which require them to be concerned with the capabilities and performance of White House and Presidential communications facilities.

I recommend that you issue a memorandum establishing a broad policy concerning need to know and ask that specific privacy requirements be identified and submitted for your approval.

The broad policy guidance should be that:

1. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs, and the Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy should have sufficient information about White House and Presidential communications facilities, procedures and plans, to be able to discharge their respective responsibilities.

2. That the above named officials need not be concerned with the day to day operations of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA).

3. That Colonel Hughes continues to be the single channel for providing requirements and direction to the WHCA.

4. That the need for privacy with respect of the use of communications should be respected.

Recommendation

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A establishing your general policy and requesting that specific guidelines be developed for your approval.

Attachment

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN D. ERLICHMAN
HENRY A. KISSINGER
(DIRECTOR, OTP)
JAMES D. HUGHES
WILLIAM J. HOPKINS

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

Communications facilities at the White House, and other communications facilities operated by the White House Communications Agency, perform in several roles. They serve me, they serve several staffs, and they serve all Executive Departments and Agencies in their need to communicate with the White House. I know that all of you are concerned about the design or performance of present and future communications facilities. This is an area in which full and effective coordination is required, with due respect for the privacy each of us should enjoy with respect to our use of the communications facilities.

I have directed that the Military Assistant to the President be the single channel within the White House for providing requirements and day to day operational direction to the White House Communications Agency. In addition, I want each of you to have sufficient information about the White House and other Presidential communications facilities, procedures and plans, to be able to perform your respective responsibilities. I would like Colonel Hughes to develop specific guidelines for achieving this end, to obtain the views of the other addressees on these guidelines, and to submit them for my approval within one month.

2 -

Recommendations you may have for improving White House or Presidential communications should be coordinated among yourselves and implemented through the Military Assistant to the President. Any matters which cannot be resolved in this way should be brought to my attention.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CLAY T. WHITEHEAD

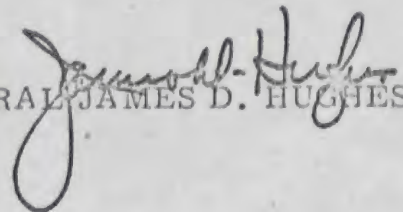
SUBJECT: Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP)

Reference: (a) Your memo, same subject, dtd Dec 5, 1969
(b) My memo, same subject, dtd Dec 15, 1969

In your memorandum, you suggested that a memorandum from the President be written which would outline the relationship of the OTP with the White House Communications Agency. In my memorandum, I agreed with this approach and suggested that it would be appropriate that such a memorandum be signed prior to, or concurrently with, the publication of the OTP charter.

Based on the transcript of a recent White House Press Conference on the subject, it appears that the OTP could become a reality within the next sixty days. With this in mind, I would like to propose the attached draft of a Presidential memorandum for your consideration. After you have had a chance to look it over, I would like to get together with you and work out the details of the final memorandum.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES D. HUGHES



D R A F T

17 February 1970

SUBJECT: White House Communications Agency (WHCA)

In my memorandum to the Secretary of Defense on April 29, 1969, the Military Assistant to the President was designated as my representative for a point of contact for requirements and giving policy direction to DCA/WHCA concerning Presidential communications.

The establishment of the Office of Telecommunications Policy does not change the above responsibilities of the Military Assistant. However, the Director of Telecommunications Policy is authorized to coordinate with the Military Assistant any DCA/WHCA matters affecting Presidential communications when it is determined that such matters are of mutual concern.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter A. Flanigan

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

On February 9, the reorganization plan establishing a new Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP) in the Executive Office of the President was sent to Congress. In late March or early April you will be appointing a Director for the Office and signing an Executive Order establishing the full scope of the authority and functions of this office.

One important matter will not be resolved in these public documents. That is the role of the Director and the new office with respect to White House and other Presidential communications.

The Director will have broad responsibilities for coordinating and integrating the communications of the Executive Branch of the government. To perform this role effectively, the Director must be aware of the communications requirements of the Presidency, and of the technical characteristics, procedures and plans for Presidential facilities. This is necessary for two reasons.

1. So that the Presidency is supplied with all of the required links to the Executive Branch.

2. To clearly establish in the minds of departmental and other Executive Branch officials that the Director is the President's principal adviser on telecommunications matters.

It is not necessary that the OTP become involved in the day to day operations of the White House Communications Agency, nor that he assume any responsibilities previously delegated to elements of the White House staff. However, it is necessary to clarify:

1. The "need to know" of the Director, OTP with respect to White House and other Presidential communications.

2. The channels for processing recommended changes to White House/Presidential communications facilities or procedures.

The memorandum at Tab A recognizes that the Director, OTP has a valid "need to know" about some aspects of Presidential communications, and requires him to coordinate with the Military Assistant in matters concerning Presidential communications.

Recommendation

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A.

Pse draft & return

MEMORANDUM FOR

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATION
POLICY
MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

In my memorandum of April 29 to Mr. Laird I indicated that the Military Assistant to the President would be the point of contact in the White House for providing requirements and policy direction to the White House Communications Agency (WHCA). ^{However,} I recognize that the Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy, will also require some familiarity with White House and Presidential communications systems and plans in order to discharge his responsibilities as my principal telecommunications adviser and as coordinator of all

Executive Branch telecommunications.

re: The establishment of the Office of Telecomm. Policy does not change
re: Accordingly the Director should coordinate with the Military
any matters concerning Presidential
 Assistant to the President his needs for information about, and any
 recommendations for improving, communications provided by the
 White House Communications Agency when it is determined
 that such matters are of mutual concern.

discharge is thus responsibilities of Military Assistant; in particular, the latter is to have full responsibility for actual operations of Presidential communications activities.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter A. Flanigan

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

On February 9, the reorganization plan establishing a new Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP) in the Executive Office of the President was sent to Congress. In late March or early April you will be appointing a Director for the Office and signing an Executive Order establishing the full scope of the authority and functions of this office.

One important matter will not be resolved in these public documents. That is the role of the Director and the new office with respect to White House and other Presidential communications.

The Director will have broad responsibilities for coordinating and integrating the communications of the Executive Branch of the government. To perform this role effectively, the Director must be aware of the communications requirements of the Presidency, and of the technical characteristics, procedures and plans for Presidential facilities. This is necessary for two reasons.

1. So that the Presidency is supplied with all of the required links to the Executive Branch.
2. To clearly establish in the minds of departmental and other Executive Branch officials that the Director is the President's principal adviser on telecommunications matters.

- 2 -

It is not necessary that the OTP become involved in the day to day operations of the White House Communications Agency, nor that he assume any responsibilities previously delegated to Dr. Kissinger, Colonel Hughes, or other elements of the White House staff. However, it is necessary to clarify:

1. The "need to know" of the Director, OTP with respect to White House and other Presidential communications.

2. The channels for processing recommended changes to White House/Presidential communications facilities or procedures.

It would be appropriate at the same time to recognize that Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Erlichman also have coordination and information handling responsibilities which require them to be concerned with the capabilities and performance of White House and Presidential communications facilities.

I recommend that you issue a memorandum establishing a broad policy concerning need to know and ask that specific privacy requirements be identified and submitted for your approval.

The broad policy guidance should be that:

1. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs, and the Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy should have sufficient information about White House and Presidential communications facilities, procedures and plans, to be able to discharge their respective responsibilities.

2. That the above named officials need not be concerned with the day to day operations of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA).

3. That Colonel Hughes continues to be the single channel for providing requirements and direction to the WHCA.

4. That the need for privacy with respect of the use of communications should be respected.

Recommendation

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A establishing your general policy and requesting that specific guidelines be developed for your approval.

Attachment

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN D. ERLICHMAN
HENRY A. KISSINGER
(DIRECTOR, OTP)
JAMES D. HUGHES
WILLIAM J. HOPKINS

SUBJECT: White House and Presidential Communications Facilities

Communications facilities at the White House, and other communications facilities operated by the White House Communications Agency, perform in several roles. They serve me, they serve several staffs, and they serve all Executive Departments and Agencies in their need to communicate with the White House. I know that all of you are concerned about the design or performance of present and future communications facilities. This is an area in which full and effective coordination is required, with due respect for the privacy each of us should enjoy with respect to our use of the communications facilities.

I have directed that the Military Assistant to the President be the single channel within the White House for providing requirements and day to day operational direction to the White House Communications Agency. In addition, I want each of you to have sufficient information about the White House and other Presidential communications facilities, procedures and plans, to be able to perform your respective responsibilities. I would like Colonel Hughes to develop specific guidelines for achieving this end, to obtain the views of the other addressees on these guidelines, and to submit them for my approval within one month.

Recommendations you may have for improving White House or Presidential communications should be coordinated among yourselves and implemented through the Military Assistant to the President. Any matters which cannot be resolved in this way should be brought to my attention.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CLAY T. WHITEHEAD

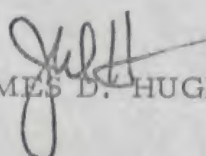
SUBJECT: Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP)

In your 8 December memorandum to me, on the subject, you indicated that you believed that it would be more appropriate to handle the matter of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) in a memorandum from the President. I agree to your proposed method of handling the relationship between WHCA and OTP. Also, I agree with your thoughts that neither the Director of OTP nor his staff should be involved in WHCA operations in any way. Further, I do not question the statement that the Director be the President's principal advisor on telecommunications matters. I do, however, have some reservations on the degree to which he needs to know about the "needs, capabilities, and activities of WHCA." For example, communications support provided by WHCA to the President basically falls into three categories, as follows:

- a. Personal communications.
- b. Communications in support of the President as the head of the Republican Party.
- c. Those communications in support of the President as the head of state and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

In viewing the above categories, I believe it is apparent that only the latter of these three categories should be of any direct interest to the Director of OTP. I do not believe that it would serve any useful purpose to have the Director of OTP nor his staff involved in any way with the WHCA needs, capabilities or activities associated with the first two categories.

I would like to suggest that we get together soon to draft a Presidential memorandum to clarify these relationships. Further, I believe it would be appropriate that this memorandum be signed prior to, or concurrently with, the publication of the OTP charter.


COLONEL JAMES D. HUGHES

Fed Comm
Org.

December 8, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL HUGHES

Attached for your information is a copy of the final version of our Recommendation on Executive Branch Organization for Telecommunications Matters. You will note that I have adopted many of your suggestions. I have, however, omitted any reference to the White House Communications Agency since I feel that this is not a matter appropriate for discussion and comment throughout the Administration.

I agree only in part with your view that WHCA should be totally outside the purview of the new Office of Telecommunications Policy. Neither the Director of Telecommunications Policy nor his staff should be involved in WHCA operations in any way. However, it is important that the Director be the President's principal advisor on telecommunications matters. It is essential, therefore, that he personally be fully informed about the needs, capabilities, and activities of WHCA.

I believe that the appropriate way to handle this very confidential matter is through an understanding between the President, his immediate staff, his Military Aide, and the Director of Telecommunications Policy. This is more appropriately handled through a memorandum from the President outlining how that matter is to be handled than in an Executive Order establishing organizational responsibilities throughout the executive branch. Such a procedure would provide more flexibility and more confidentiality.

I would welcome any further views you have on this document, since it is now being circulated for comment among the various Federal departments and agencies.

Clay T. Whitehead
Staff Assistant

Attachment

cc: Mr. Flanigan
Mr. Kriegsman
Mr. Whitehead
Central Files

CTWhitehead:jm/ed

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

W/VCAT

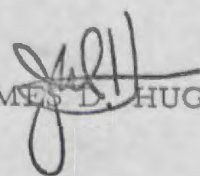
June 16, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WHITEHEAD

I have queried Defense on two points as follows:

1. The recommendations which are forthcoming from Governor Miller after he meets with the task force appointed by Secretary Hickel and with the Mayors of Anchorage and Fairbanks.
2. The views of the Attorney General on Anti-trust considerations which are pending.

Defense informs me that you are working on these items.


COLONEL JAMES D. HUGHES

THE WHITE HOUSE

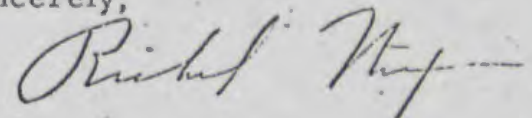
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1969

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Defense Communications Agency, is responsible for Presidential communications. In establishing this responsibility, it was determined that DCA/WHCA should be directly responsive to Presidential requirements. Direct contact and continuous liaison between DCA/WHCA and my designated White House representative are authorized and directed. Colonel James D. Hughes, the Armed Forces Aide to the President, has been designated my representative for a point of contact for requirements and for giving policy direction to DCA/WHCA concerning Presidential communications.

Sincerely,



Honorable Melvin R. Laird
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

WH 7761