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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 18, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *jc*
SUBJECT: The Strategic Stockpile

The President has reviewed your memorandum of August 13th on the above subject and requested that the letter to Charles Bennett be revised to reflect the following:

"I will meet with him as soon as possible".

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld
Jack Marsh
Jerry Jones

Revised letter signed 8/26

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1975

MR PRESIDENT -

The attached letter to Charles Bennett has been revised to reflect the fact that you will meet with him as soon as possible. It is recommended that you sign the letter at Tab A.

Jim Connor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1975

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached memorandum was staffed to Jack Marsh. He commented as follows:

"doesn't respond to last paragraph of Bennett letter of April 16, 1975 (TAB C)"

For your information, Brent Scowcroft indicated he was aware of the request and feels that a meeting is not warranted and the best way to deal with the request is to ignore it.

Do you wish the letter to Charles Bennett revised to reflect his request for a meeting with you?

Yes

WCF

No

*I will meet with him
as soon as possible.*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your April 16 letter in which you express your concern over current strategic stockpile policies. I have also considered your previous letters in which you voice similar concerns.

First, let me reassure you that current Administration policy regarding strategic stockpiles is clear. Stockpile planning should be based on the following assumptions:

-- Stockpile levels will be required to support United States military forces of up to five million men during the first year of a war in both Europe and Asia.

-- Imports will not be available during the emergency from Communist bloc countries and countries in the war zones; imports from other countries where political disruption or hostile action at sea is expected will be reduced.

-- Domestic personal consumption will be reduced if necessary to sustain defense production; however, per capita living standards should not fall significantly below that of the last non-war year.

-- Specific material levels should reflect the national economy's capacity to adjust to rapid changes in demand for and availability of material, including substitution of non-critical for critical materials.

Because of the concerns you have expressed, the Executive Branch has undertaken a thorough review of stockpile policies, including each of the planning assumptions. On the basis of these studies, and taking into account the points you have raised, I am considering possible changes to the stockpile planning assumptions to see if a satisfactory compromise can be found.

Meanwhile, I will continue to request disposal bills, but only for materials clearly excess to national security requirements as determined under any of the options being considered -- as I have done throughout the period in which this matter has been under review. I hope that your committee will give such bills a full and prompt hearing.

My staff will be happy to discuss these matters with you in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Charles E. Bennett
Chairman
Subcommittee on Seapower and
Strategic and Critical Materials
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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