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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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March 23, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have been on the hook for a couple of months to include the President in a very small-scale "command post exercise" where they run through with the President a typical situation involving SIOP and the Gold Book -- national decisions, etc., and the choices he would have to make. They now have a scenario and are prepared to do this.

It will take about one hour of the President's time and the Chiefs think it is very worthwhile.

The Chiefs feel that this exercise should be gone through with the President, Mr. Bundy, the Aides who are going to cart the Gold Book around, and other key members of the staff so that they will understand what the problem is and would be able to help the President in an emergency. The staff members would not have to participate in the CPX but they could be observers in one of our meetings.

// The Chiefs await our call. Who will try to set this up with the President and organize it? //


C.V. CLIFTON

P.S. They feel that if the President at any time this summer goes out to SAC Headquarters to look over the SIOP business, the CPX would be a most helpful prelude to this trip. But whether or not he goes, the Chiefs feel that the CPX would be a valuable part of the President's orientation on this subject.

General Goodpaster points out that if we enlarge the staff for the CPX (they recommend it), we will have to be mighty careful that we do not slip into a discussion of the Furtherance procedure.

JCS Proposal attached.

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