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MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
March 30, 1956, 10:15 AM

Other persons present: Dr. Flemming
Chief of Central File



Dr. Flemming first took up the question of organization for military defense, giving the President the memorandum on this subject. After some discussion, Dr. Flemming said he would study and report the suggestion of the President that the FBI be organized into a special division in order to create more rapid response to these activities. He would also study further the possibility of setting up a Department of Executive Offices. The President asked that he be given a copy of the next Cabinet Meeting to sound out the other members. Regarding the Committee (ODM, FCDA, OSD) proposed by the President, Dr. Flemming said they must be coordinated with Secretary Nichols and Governor Nichols.

Dr. Flemming next handed the President a memorandum regarding the period for Operation Alert. He suggested that the period be July 20-26, in order to allow for a month of preparation by August 1, prior to the commencement.

Dr. Flemming next gave the President a memorandum on the question whether Operation Alert should be extended for five days. The President questioned whether the military forces should be on alert for the first three days, if at the moment the first three days are on a largely mechanical basis. There would be a suspension of the system of day Under Secretaries take over the day after the first three days. The President would approve holding the alert for five days.

Dr. Flemming next handed the President a memorandum on the test of readiness for government in a national emergency. The President approved the test with the test to be instituted every two years. Dr. Flemming and I studied the President's memorandum and the program set up, tentatively, and scheduled for Monday, March 26, 1956, at 2:00 PM on April 15th for the first test.

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Dr. Flemming finally gave the President a word of advice in asking whether the President would be willing to consider the possibility of a committee for a memorial to Woodrow Wilson in the Washington area. The President indicated some misgivings, for reasons including the fact that he now holds active office, but he would join up with the memorial if included if after further consideration it was found desirable. He could not, however, participate in any effort of the year. (After the meeting I discussed this suggestion with Governor Anderson, who indicated he was strongly opposed. I then told Dr. Flemming that I had explained stating a final position. I said that it perhaps he would have to be turned down or perhaps the President's office would have to be present time, and as a result of this I had been asked to join in membership in groups such as the American Association.)

W. B. Fleming
President, American Association

