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*M. L. T.*  
*J. M. T.*

December 3, 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GOODPASTER

SUBJECT: NSC-Approved Project - "The Human Effects of Nuclear Weapons Development"

1. Governor Hough's memorandum to you (returned herewith), relating to the subject NSC-approved project, stated: (a) that on November 25 FCDA met with Dr. Kriston (of the American Assembly) and Mr. Mason (of the Foreign Policy Association) to discuss ways in which those organizations might take the lead in stimulating private group discussions on national security issues, in order to carry into effect the NSC Project; (b) that FCDA was advised that the funds and staff of the American Assembly are completely committed until the fall of 1959 and that the discussion program of the Foreign Policy Association is also completely set through the 1958 season; (c) that Mr. Mason, expressing a desire to be helpful, stated that he would get in touch with FCDA in the near future as to what the Foreign Policy Association might be able to do.

2. National Security Council records disclose the following:

a. On February 7, 1957, the Council discussed the report of a "Panel on Human Effects of Nuclear Weapons Development," which proposed a "nation-wide program of continuing discussion in small groups, designed to achieve maximum participation and involvement in the crucial issues raised by the development of nuclear weapons." The purpose of such a program was to bring home to the mass of the American people the significance of the facts (relating to nuclear warfare) already provided to them.

b. Because of concern over any precise definition of the suggested program and of its possible implications, the Council on February 7, 1957, recommended and the President directed that FCDA, after further study, make recommendations (1) as to whether some such program of public education should be undertaken, and, if so, (2) what its specific content and proposed limits should be. Having been authorized by the Council action to talk with non-governmental organizations, the FCDA got in touch with the Foreign Policy Association and the American Assembly.

Declassified/Released on 11/17/89  
under provisions of E.O. 12958  
By E. Keger, National Security Council

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c. On June 19, 1957, FCDA reported, as a result of its further study, recommendations as to the carrying out of quite a different program: i.e., a program of group discussions of national security issues aimed at small, elite groups, rather than the whole public; a program sponsored wholly by private organizations, instead of jointly with the government; and a gradual developmental approach rather than a dramatic nation-wide approach.

d. On August 5, 1957, after Council deliberations on August 1, 1957, the President approved this "new" approach put forward by FCDA, indicating that the Foreign Policy Association, the American Assembly, and other appropriate organizations be encouraged to take the lead; and designating the Federal Civil Defense Administrator, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, to make the initial contacts with the private organizations. No further coordination (such as OCE) was appointed to assure implementation.

3. About November 1, 1957, no information having been transmitted to the Council as to action taken to carry out the President's directive of August 5, I inquired of an FCDA official as to the status of this project. The FCDA advised that there had been delays in approaching the Foreign Policy Association and the American Assembly relating to absences for a time of Dr. Kriston and Mr. Mason from the country, but that the approach was about to be undertaken.

4. The delay from August 5 to mid-November in implementing the August 5 Presidential directive seems to have contributed to the present situation, under which Arden House cannot undertake this program during the 1958-1959 winter season and under which the Foreign Policy Association has not yet been able to promise support during such season. If it is to be assumed that the memorandum to you above-mentioned is a report by FCDA to the President and Council of its action in carrying out the President's directions of August 5, it may be transmitted to the Planning Board for appropriate action and consideration as to what should be done next. I enclose a copy of this memorandum for the FCDA Administrator.

Robert Cutler  
Special Assistant  
to the President

cc: Honorable Leo A. Hoegh, Administrator  
Federal Civil Defense Administration

*Mr. Lay*  
*Mr. Johnson*

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