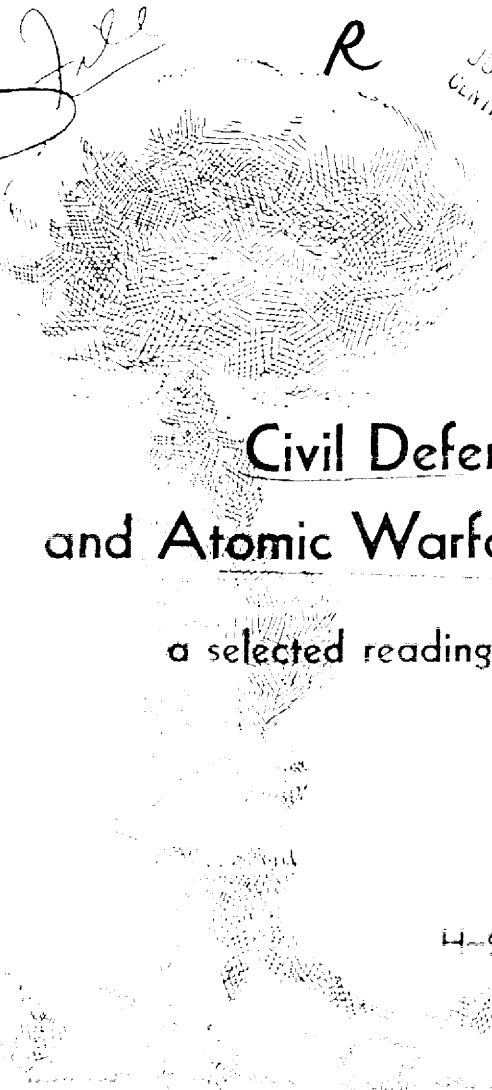


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CENTRAL FILES

**Civil Defense
and Atomic Warfare**
a selected reading list

H-25-1



FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION

Before we get into some of our newer headaches, I think we are all justified in looking back over the period since I've met and checking off some solid accomplishments. Here are a few that occur to me, in no particular order of importance:

- We staged the first joint front I about 10 weeks ago and was one of the finest ever. I am sure that the local, State and Federal people, together with our Yalta friends of the border, that I mean...
- The Washington Conference of Mayors, followed by a second one for the Governors, produced a consensus of vital importance and support for our objectives. I am sure that you all enjoyed it.
- We had a highly successful meeting of the National Executive Advisory Committee last fall and are looking forward to another next month. Incidentally, the Director of our staff, Mrs. Jean Wood Miller of the Ford, has recently joined our staff. She is here to stay and will greatly help us in our work through the Regions and States. This lady will find her work very hard as she is charming. The staff members, both men and women, are energetic and can be counted on to do their best. We can enlist their support.
- Next in our list of accomplishments is the increase in expenditures for the current fiscal year. As you know, this is the third year...

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. Another milestone of the past year was the public evacuation tests which have been held in a number of cities.

. During the past year we have, as you know, had a series of working meetings with small groups of you gentlemen, which we at least found to be highly beneficial.

. We have enjoyed increasingly closer working relationships, both with the Canadian Government and members of the NATO countries and have held a number of conferences with the civil defense officials of these governments, with the United States and others.

. The new operation program of the National Civil Defense Administration which, on the whole, has worked out very well so far.

. On the inland side, the National Civil Defense Administration with a group of some of its members, sponsored the National Chamber of Commerce Civil Defense Study Group and other meetings at the local level to try to get a better support on the part of business and labor, in respect to air plants and in community civil defense.

. In our country we have charged the National Civil Defense Administration, with an eye to the situation in Europe, to shake down all the major cities at this time. We are going to be in a position to do so even if it should be both for the states and for the Federal Government.

. Within the last year and a half there has been an even greater acceptance of civil defense as a key factor in national defense and also as a matter of Federal responsibility.

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Just last week in Houston, Texas, for instance, Dr. E. O. Rabinovich, Director of the Division of Energy and Health of the Atomic Energy Commission, made public these significant findings regarding fallout from atomic bombs:

"When the detonation is at high altitude, the fireball rises to a high altitude, great amounts of earth are drawn into the rapidly expanding fireball, resulting in coarse, highly radioactive particles which tend to fall rapidly while being carried merely a few miles. In such a case, there is an area of highly radioactive fallout in which the local lethality may be lethal following an exposure of only a few hours. The dimensions and shape are determined by the distance, altitude and wind patterns, but characteristic of this is a narrow, high intensity area of highest central lethality surrounded by a wide area of lower wind and cross-wind concentrations which is much less spectacular in intensity."

"In general," Dr. Rabinovich continues, "the probability of 50% lethality at a point 100 meters from the point of gamma radiation from the bomb is about 100 meters. The amount of local radioactive fallout in the vicinity of a high altitude explosion at the surface, about one-half of the total, is delivered within the first 24 hours. It is estimated that a limit such exposure must therefore be limited to 100 mrem to be effective."

"We must face the tremendous possibility of atomic warfare in atomic warfare. Not only must we be prepared for the possibility of

casualties on a scale we have never known before, and we must recognize that their economic impact will be severe. The immediate effects to deny the civilian population are not limited to those of large areas outside the zone of immediate danger.

Now what does this mean to us in terms of civil defense planning?

One obvious conclusion from Dr. Bucher's report is that we should have realized all along that we ought to start thinking about wind currents. I think you will find the weather data people extremely helpful in this respect, although the data available is not sufficient to enable us to begin to think in terms of operational planning.

The second take home message is that the wind direction is nothing new, nor are the wind speeds with which we must deal.

Dr. Bucher speaks, for instance, of the wind direction being a function of the wind speed, which is a function of the wind speed. It is not seen to indicate time of day.

1. That as a result of the wind direction is a function of the wind speed, and that this is a function of the wind speed.
2. That wind direction is a function of the wind speed, and that this is affected by all of the atmospheric conditions, and that this is a function of the wind speed.
3. That wind direction is a function of the wind speed, and that this is a function of the wind speed.

The wind direction is a function of the wind speed, and that this is a function of the wind speed. The wind direction is a function of the wind speed, and that this is a function of the wind speed.

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Secondly, the possibility of lateral expansion should be considered, particularly from the elliptical, rectangular, or circular wind from the assumed point of contact.

I suspect that these two points will receive sufficient attention enough until the scientists are able to give us more definite answers.

Finally, we should bear in mind, for consideration, all aspects of the radiation hazard, that almost certainly whether or not it is appreciable.

An ordinary frame house with the usual type of floor joists, for instance, will afford some protection against radiation, but not as wide as we hope. A simple wall made of brick with three feet of earth cover will give virtually complete protection from both directions.

* * * * *

Now at this point let me refer to that article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists I mentioned earlier. At the time of writing it seemed to break our hearts, but in other sections of the Bulletin let me quote one sentence.

In speaking of the Administration's attitude during the past years, the article declares that the Government's attitude shows clearly that the Administration has no right to be asked to take account of the public interest in radiation and notes.

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Third -- Civil defense while it must be dynamic and flexible, actually has only two basic weapons in the defense of people against nuclear attack -- evacuation and shelter. These two weapons, however, be used in an almost infinite variety of combinations, to meet both the nature of the threat and the characteristics of the community.

Fourth - Against the earlier types of atomic weapons, with an assumed warning time of 15 minutes or more, the basic survival tactics was on shelter, though evacuation before or after an attack of the sick, aged and children was included to the extent feasible.

Then the advent of the so-called "witness" type of potential damage and loss of life to a high degree, the focus shifted to planning for mass pre-attack evacuation, and the time when longer warning could be available, and shelter provided for those who remained behind to non-essential facilities, and those who remained evacuation was not completely realizable.

That now a shift to a pre-attack shelter was all that was in each community any and all that might effectively be available for the pre-attack must be against the new atomic weapons and their potential damage.

But the challenge came and did demand

and I want to make a few points on a program which I think is already enough information available, and I shall try to give you a good start on local planning. But this is a very big problem. There are some answers available at the local level, but the basic civil defense action must be based on the national level.

What I want to propose is that you gentlemen name a small committee of your own members who are "de" cleared, to sit down with us and evaluate this classified material, as rapidly as it is made available to us by AAS and the AF, from the standpoint of local civil defense planning.

I would suggest that as far as possible you select men representing in their experience different sections of the country and different local operating conditions.

I think this approach to what may well be one of the most challenging and complex problems we have yet been called upon to deal with, is in the best tradition of our 130-year partnership in which the business of civil defense.

In these three days you will find all hands and feet who are here willing or anxious to help with you in any way they may have, and to lend any assistance if it is within our power. Good luck to you in the pursuit of what you have asked.