

Val Peterson, Administrator

March 25, 1953

J. M. Chambers, Executive Assistant

National Security Council

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The National Security Council is the focal point for all security planning. Its organization is basically (a) the Council itself, with members established by law or appointed by the President, (b) a Security Planning Board, formerly called the Senior Staff, consisting of high level representatives from the agencies represented on the Council and certain other designated agencies, and (c) a paid Secretary.

Federal Civil Defense Administration is not a member of either the Council or the Security Planning Board. From time to time it has been invited to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis when matters of mutual interest to Civil Defense were being discussed.

Civil Defense does not have a direct interest in the details of the matters being considered by the National Security Council. However, Civil Defense is an integral part of the total security program, and practically everything that is done in the fields of military planning, production planning, psychological warfare, and intelligence is of vital interest to Civil Defense.

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In the past the Secretariat of the Council has been most helpful in endeavoring to invite us for matters in which they thought we had an interest. Considerable concern has been engendered on our part because we have not been included in the discussions of subjects where we feel we have a direct interest. Furthermore, many times we were invited to consider final drafts on major staff papers and not during the preliminary stages of the papers.

We recognize that in many of the matters before the Council and the Planning Board we could contribute little. We are, however, vitally interested in practically all of their discussions. If we are to keep the Civil Defense program in step with other security programs, we must have a thorough understanding of the total program, and our voice must be heard on those matters that affect us. We have been increasingly successful in recent years in improving the Agency's position through staff activities, and we believe that it should be even more effective in the future. (The number of staff activities, if possible it should be increased.)

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Val Peterson, Administrator

March 11, 1963

Accordingly, I recommend that you request of Mr. [redacted] if necessary, the President that (1) the Administrator of Federal Civil Defense Administration be made a full time member of the Council, or be invited to attend all meetings as an associate, (2) the Federal Civil Defense Administration be given membership on the Security Planning Board, or be given a standing invitation to attend meetings in a consultative capacity, and that copies of all agendas be furnished to the Board, and that all matters to be considered.

[Handwritten signature]
Val Peterson

Attachment 1