# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

16 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The President

Subj: JCS Emergency Actions File

Attached hereto are questions relating to the JGS Emergency Actions File which you may wish to ask General Lemnitzer at your meeting with him at 4 p. m. today.

These questions are designed to bring out whether or not the JCS Emergency Actions File in its present form is adequate if the action launching a nuclear strike were to originate at the White House without prior staffing at the Pentagon.

With great respect,

TAZEWELLT, SHEPARD, Ir.

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## ALERT PROCEDURES

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## JCS EMERGENCY ACTIONS FILE

#### Question Number 1.

Assuming that information from a closely guarded source causes me to conclude that the U.S. should launch an immediate nuclear strike against the Communist Bloc, does the JCS Emergency Actions File permit me to initiate such an attack without first consulting with the Secretary of Defense and/or the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

### Question Number 2.

I know that the red button on my desk phone will connect me with the White House Army Signal Agency (WHASA) switchboard and that the WHASA switchboard can connect me immediately to the Joint War Room. If I called the Joint War Room without giving them advance notice, to whom would I be speaking?

# Question Number 3.

What would I say to the Joint War Room to launch an immediate nuclear strike?

#### Question Number 4.

How would the person who received my instructions verify them?

#### Question Number 5.

Can the Joint War Room always connect me with the Secretary of Defense or one of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

#### Question Number 6.

- a. If the Secretary of Defense contacts me by telephone and requests authority to use nuclear weapons, and if I grant this authority, how would the message transmitting this decision be authenticated?
  - b. Is authentication of such a message necessary?

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