

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : Acting Director, Current Operations

SUBJECT : FEWA's Program Review Task Force Proposes Major  
Conceptual Changes in Emergency Planning

1. By White House direction, a Federal Emergency Management Agency task force has been engaged in a detailed review of the national civil preparedness program. The final draft of the task force's report has been forwarded to us for our information. Although we did not participate formally in its preparation, CIA perceptions and responsibilities have been cranked into the review, at least indirectly. Our participation last May in civil defense exercise REX-79 provided the task force useful information. Barring difficulties with the report by White House officials, it is FEWA's intention to put the report's recommendations on the NSC agenda. Highlights of the lengthy report are in the attached executive summary. The following information may be of assistance in relating the report's implications for CIA.

2. The report readily acknowledges that the present emergency preparedness program is ineffective, both operationally and as a positive factor in US nuclear deterrence strategy. The task force proposes a fresh start over the next 5-7 year period which virtually discards traditional arrangements in favor of totally new approaches. In effect, permanent relocation sites supporting the major institutional functions of the federal government give way to highly flexible and covert efforts to support small cadres of senior executives who may go to randomly selected bases upon receipt of strategic warning. In this approach, the current policy of supporting a large number of mini-bureaucracies scattered around the Washington area will be abandoned. Instead of worrying about all phases of preparation -- pre-attack, trans-attack, and post-attack -- the trans-attack period is the major focus. The objective is to maintain the nation's sovereignty in the person of the President or his successors.