

March 30, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH DR. FLEMING  
March 30, 1956 10:15 AM

Others present: Dr. Flemming  
Office of Campaigns



Dr. Flemming first took up the question of preparation for an initial defense, giving the President the memorandum on this subject. After some discussion, Dr. Flemming's plan was adopted with the suggestion of the President that Civil Defense be made a part of the plan in order to create more general interest. It was decided to have a study further the possible role of Civil Defense in the Executive Offices. The President asked that a study be made at the next Cabinet Meeting to sound out the views of the other departments (DOD, DDM, FCDA, OSD) proposed to be part of the study. It was agreed that the study be coordinated with Secretary of Defense and General Eisenhower.

Dr. Flemming next handed the President a memorandum regarding the period for Operation Alert. It was agreed that the period for July 20-26, in order to be effective, must be preceded by a period of 7 days prior to the commencement.

Dr. Flemming next gave the President a memorandum regarding the question whether Operation Alert should be held for five days. The President questioned whether the first three days should be the first three days, all at the same time, or the first three days should be staggered mechanically. It was agreed that the President would ask the Under Secretaries to take a vote on this question. It was agreed that the President would approve holding the test for seven days.

Dr. Flemming next handed the President a memorandum regarding the test of readiness for government in a national emergency. The President approved the test with the test to be held in the next few days. Dr. Flemming and I studied the test and it was agreed that the test be set up, tentatively, and held on the 15th of April. It was agreed that the test be held on April 15th for the next few days.

*Handwritten notes:*  
... Eisenhower Library  
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... March 1956

Dr. Fremming finally gave the President a word about the possibility of whether the President would be a member of the special committee for a memorial to Woodrow Wilson in the Washington Monument. The President indicated some hesitations, for reasons including the fact that he now holds active office, but he would probably allow his name to be included if after further discussion it was determined that he could not, however, participate in any effort of the year. (After the meeting I discussed this suggestion with Governor Archer, who stated he was strongly opposed. I then told Dr. Fremming that I had expressed stating a final position. I think that perhaps the suggestion may have to be turned down or given to the President's office for consideration at the present time, and, as a result of our finished relationship, the relationship in groups such as that for the President.)

*W. H. Fremming*  
President, United States

