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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#1a memo	R.W. Komer for the President secret 1 p <i>open 5-30-95 NLJ 93-320</i>	12/16/65	A
#3 memo	R.W. Komer for Secretary Freeman secret 1 p <i>open 5-30-95 NLJ 93-320</i>	12/15/65	A

FILE LOCATION

National Security File, NSAM File, NSAM 339

RESTRICTION CODES

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December 17, 1965

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 339

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

SUBJECT: Critical Indian Food Situation

I am deeply concerned on humanitarian grounds with the near famine conditions which are developing in India, and which may require a dramatic rescue operation on the part of those nations able to assist. As you know, I have already announced that the United States would participate in such an effort.

I further understand from my discussions with you that the key bottle-neck may be less the availability of sufficient foodgrains from abroad than lack of available shipping, inadequate Indian port facilities, and inefficient food distribution facilities within India. These factors could critically hamper any international effort to get enough food to India's hungry.

Therefore, I request that you establish a special committee, including representation from the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, the Agency for International Development, and such other Departments and Agencies as you deem necessary, to examine urgently how to cope with the looming Indian famine problem. I want you to regard all available resources of the U.S. Government as being at your disposal in planning for such an effort. After assessing the likely dimensions of the crisis and what would be required to meet it, you and your group should recommend whatever imaginative emergency techniques and devices which may be necessary to help prevent mass starvation in India.

I would like personally to review your recommendations as soon as they can be made available, before deciding what action I will take along with other interested governments.

cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Commerce
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Administrator, Agency for
International Development
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

15/

DECL
Authority NSC 1-23-71
By AK, NADA, Date 4-11-90

LBJ:RWK:tmt 12/16/65

*Net 12-18-65
Pres 12-19-65
9:50a*

NSAM 339

✓ 1a

~~SECRET~~

December 16, 1965
Wednesday, 3:00 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

As an added follow-up to your injunction Tuesday to get Freeman going on what's needed to unclog Indian ports, I suggest the attached NSAM. It rightly puts the bee on Freeman to mastermind any famine rescue effort, but tells him to draw on everybody else as needed to get an imaginative program in order. Of course, it reserves all final decisions to you.

I also thought that at some point down the road we might want to let the public know that you had issued such a directive.

For signature if you approve. Freeman, Bell, State and BOB are on board.

R. W. Komer
R. W. Komer

cc: McGeorge Bundy
Bill Moyers

McG.B.
this is a good idea

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NIJ 93-320
By cb, NARA, Date 5-22-95

~~SECRET~~

Signature
12/17/65

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1965

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 339

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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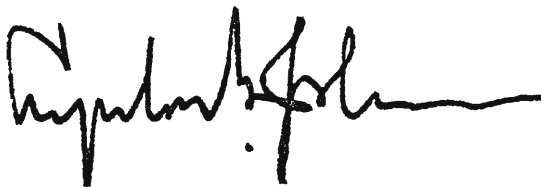
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cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Commerce
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Administrator, Agency for
International Development
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

~~SECRET~~



Authority NSC 123-71
By put, NARA, Date 4-11-70

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1965

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 339

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cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Commerce
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Administrator, Agency for
International Development
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

~~SECRET~~



Authority NSC 1-23-79
By DWA, NARA, Date 4-11-90

~~SECRET~~

December 15, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY FREEMAN

Attached is my idea of a memo that the President would enjoy signing and that you would enjoy receiving. Equally to the point, I think that it would give you the kind of mandate you may want for any new and imaginative ways of meeting what may otherwise turn out to be a staggering human catastrophe in India.

My thought has also been to draft a memo which could be made public, or at least backgrounded at some future date.

The sooner I know this is OK with you, the sooner I can send it to the Boss.

R. W. Komer

Attach. RWK draft NSAM/ subj. Critical Indian Food Situation

3/

✓
No Bundy

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NIJ 93-320
By cb, NARA, Date 5-22-95

~~SECRET~~

3a

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. _____

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

SUBJECT: Critical Indian Food Situation

I am deeply concerned on humanitarian grounds with the near famine conditions which are developing in India, and which may require a dramatic rescue operation on the part of those nations able to assist. As you know, I have already announced that the United States would participate in such an effort.

I further understand from discussions with you that the key bottleneck may be less the availability of sufficient foodgrains from abroad than lack of available shipping, inadequate Indian port facilities, and inefficient food distribution facilities within India. These factors could critically hamper any international effort to get enough food to India's hungry. I desire that you regard all available resources of the U.S. Government as being at your disposal in planning for such an effort. After assessing the likely dimensions of the crisis and what would be required to meet it, you and your group should develop whatever imaginative emergency techniques and devices which may be necessary to prevent mass starvation in India.

Therefore, I request that you establish a special committee under your chairmanship, and including representation from the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, the Agency for International Development, and such other Departments and Agencies as you deem necessary, to examine urgently how to cope with this looming problem.

I would like personally to review your recommendations as soon as they can be made available before deciding what action I will want to take along with other interested governments.

cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Commerce
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Administrator, Agency for
International Development

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NSC 1-23-79
By DLK, NARA, Date 4-11-90

~~SECRET~~