

Re Pres. K.  
1-d

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

4 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Bromley Smith

Subj: Changes in Defense Readiness Conditions as a Result of  
the Assassination of President Kennedy

1. By the authority granted under the Joint Chiefs of Staff Emergency Action Procedures (SM-600-63) dated 12 June 1963, the JCS, commanders of unified and specified commands, CINCNORAD or higher authority are authorized to declare Defense Readiness Conditions (DEFCONS) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. A copy of Chapter Four of this publication is appended as Tab A.
2. Acting on this authority, the JCS, after news of the Dallas shooting was received, issued their message 3675, appended as Tab B, at 2:15 p.m., 22 November.
3. Acting on this message, USCINCSO declared an increase in readiness to DEFCON 4 at 2:50 p.m. That command attained DEFCON 4 readiness at 4:28 p.m. and returned to a DEFCON 5 status two days later, 24 November, at 12:20 p.m. Copies of the three messages advising of these actions are appended under Tab C.
4. CINCPAC, at 3:13 p.m., 22 November, directed his forces to take actions consistent with a DEFCON 3 unless those actions would indicate heightened tensions. A copy of his directive is appended under Tab D. *(U.S. forces in Viet Nam are in DEFCON 3 on a continuing basis.)*
5. Each unified or specified commander is required to inform the JCS whenever he increases or decreases the DEFCON status in his command. The NMCC received no notifications of such change other than those specified above and appended. If a commander took precautions within his command other than changing DEFCON status, he need not necessarily inform the JCS of them. NMCC received no other message notifications.

*O. S. Hallett*

O. S. HALLETT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JFK 4177-10001-10000

By JW, NARA, Date 4-17-98

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