

Kennedy
Death - ✓ *Staff* *Info* ✓
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1963

Mr. Bundy:

In the absence of Mr. Sylvester, his deputy,
Mr. Lennartson, reports:

Defense received numerous queries on the days immediately following the assassination as to whether U.S. military forces have been put on alert. Reporters were told that no command to increase the status of alert was given from Washington, but that certain unified commanders on their own had reminded their subordinate commands of the importance of maintaining their *existing* alert status. For example, CINCPAC forces in Vietnam have been and continue to be in DEFCON III.

No recent requests for information on this subject have been made.

The DEFCON definitions are classified, but reference has been made to the word "DEFCON" since the time of the Cuba missile crisis.

We will receive in the morning a copy of the press guidance given by Defense.

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OKS