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14 January 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Deputy Director/Administration

SUBJECT : Report on Central Intelligence Agency Participation
in the Air Raid Drill Staged by District of Columbia
Civil Defense Authorities on 12 December 1952

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1. Attached hereto is a detailed report by covering Central Intelligence Agency participation in the air raid drill held on 12 December 1952, along with a description of the District of Columbia Civil Defense system and an explanation of how we fit into it.

2. Set forth below is a brief summary of the most pertinent points of the report:

a. The drill was held in all Government buildings in the area between 1:50 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., pursuant to a Presidential Order issued on 11 November 1952.

b. Reports of the chief wardens of all Agency buildings, plus those of the members of the Security Patrol, and our own observations, indicated that the drill was, in general, a success. Its principal value was twofold: namely, it broke the ice and gave everyone a feeling of awareness of air raid drills as a part of today's pattern of living and, secondly, it pointed out to us the obstacles and deficiencies which must be overcome in the process of providing adequate protection to our personnel in event of actual enemy attack.

c. The time required for complete evacuation of each building, from the instant of the signaling of red alert, varied from one to ten minutes, depending principally upon the means of giving the alarm within the building concerned. The over-all average time required for all of our buildings was 3.75 minutes. These figures tend to lose their significance, however, when it is considered that this drill was staged at a time certain, which time was well known by all concerned for days in advance of the sounding of the alarms. It is not a realistic index of what will happen when an unannounced air raid drill is staged.

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d. It is believed that there should be one bell and light signal device (activated from the District of Columbia Civil Defense control post as part of their central alarm system) installed in every Central Intelligence Agency building. This will obviate the difficulty which resulted from having only four such devices (located in "I", "Q", Quarters "I", and Administration Buildings) in all of the Agency group, and, therefore, having to relay the alarm signal by telephone. The cost of installation of these devices is \$87.50 per building, with a maintenance and service charge of \$7.50 per month per building thereafter.

e. We are going to urge that the General Services Administration install electric bell fire alarms in those of our buildings which do not yet have them, in order to eliminate the confusion incident to using the horns as fire alarms in certain of the buildings when, as a matter of fact, they were installed for the original purpose of signaling air raids, and do, in fact, signal air raids in most of the buildings.

f. Police whistles will be issued to the wardens in all buildings for their use in case of power or mechanical failure of the electric horn systems. At the present time, only the wardens in those buildings which do not have horn systems are in possession of police whistles.

g. We are going to re-open the question with the Civil Defense Branch, General Services Administration, of adequacy of the shelter areas which they have designated within our buildings. Our observations during the practice air raid drill indicated that the space provided and protection afforded are not sufficient to be of proper avail in time of actual emergency.

h. We are studying the matter of having properly spaced, unannounced air raid drills from time to time in the future, either of our own accord or in coordination with city-wide drills staged by the Civil Defense Branch.

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[Redacted Signature]

Colonel, GSC
Assistant Deputy/Inspection & Security

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