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WASHINGTON

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION  
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 188

September 16, 1985

GOVERNMENT COORDINATION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (U)Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the United States to have sufficient capabilities at all levels of government to respond to a spectrum of National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) contingencies, from major natural calamities to hostile attacks on the Nation. This national policy includes an emergency mobilization preparedness program which provides an effective capability to meet defense and essential civilian needs during those emergencies. This policy directive defines the interagency structure for NSEP planning. (C)

Principles of Government Coordination for National Security  
Emergency Preparedness

Coordination of NSEP matters will be pursued in accordance with the principles that follow:

- The National Security Council (NSC) shall be the principal forum for consideration of NSEP policy. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs in consultation with regular members of the NSC shall be responsible for developing, coordinating, and ensuring implementation of NSEP policy approved by the President. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will assist in the implementation of this policy through a coordinating role with the other Federal Agencies.
- NSEP planning, including Emergency Mobilization Preparedness planning as prescribed in NSDD-47, will be pursued through government planning structures established under the Senior Interagency Group/Interagency Group (SIG/IG) process. The work of the existing Emergency Mobilization Preparedness Board (EMPB) will be phased into this new process.

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under provisions of E.O. 12958  
by L. Salvetti, National Security Council

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- FEMA is to be a support agency, for NSEP planning, facilitating coordination between Federal Agencies and state and local governments. It is responsible for reporting to the SIG/IG established by this directive on Federal Agency implementation of NSEP policy. (C)

The Senior Interagency Group for National Security Emergency Preparedness

To advise and assist the NSC in exercising its authority and discharging its responsibilities for NSEP, the Senior Interagency Group on National Security Emergency Preparedness (SIG-NSEP) is established in accordance with the provisions of National Security Decision Directive 2, "National Security Council Structure." This group will report to the President through the National Security Council and will be chaired by the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Member agencies will be Defense, Treasury, Justice, and OMB. Other agencies will be invited to meetings where issues involving those agencies are to be discussed. The Director of FEMA will be an advisor to the SIG-NSEP. (C)

Any issues which cannot be resolved by SIG-NSEP will be referred to the National Security Council for Presidential decision. (U)

The SIG-NSEP shall:

- establish NSEP policy objectives, develop policy options, make appropriate recommendations, consider the implications of agency programs and undertake such other activities as may be assigned by the NSC.
- oversee the implementation of the goals and principles set forth in NSDD-47;
- replace the EMPB and establish subordinate interagency working groups as necessary;
- maintain a National Plan on NSEP initiatives; the existing National Plan of Action on emergency mobilization preparedness, prepared by the EMPB, will be reviewed by the SIG-NSEP, but remains in effect until so revised;

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- . oversee agency compliance with the Plan;
- continually assess the effectiveness of Interagency Groups dealing with issues and review the missions and functions of these groups in light of current requirements. (U)

### Interagency Groups

To assist the SIG-NSEP, Interagency Groups will be established by the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs as required. After an Interagency Group has been established, the head of the organization having primary responsibility for the Group's functional area will designate the Group Chairman who, in turn, will determine Group membership (subject to approval of the SIG-NSEP). (U)

The working groups which were established under the EMPB in accordance with NSDD-47 are disestablished. The missions and functions of these Groups will be reviewed by the SIG-NSEP in light of current NSEP requirements and new ad hoc interagency groups will be established by the SIG-NSEP as required. To assist the SIG-NSEP in its initial assessment of needed Interagency Groups, each EMPB Working Group Chairman is requested to prepare a final report on activities of its group, with recommendations concerning the need to establish an Interagency Group in the respective functional area. This report is due to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs within 45 days. The NSC through the SIG-NSEP will establish new Interagency Groups where appropriate. (U)

### NSC Focal Point .

Interagency Groups will report to the SIG-NSEP through a single NSC focal point. The President's National Security Adviser will appoint a member of the NSC staff to serve as Director of NSEP Programs who will determine meeting schedules, develop options papers, and, where appropriate, refer NSEP policy issues with major domestic policy implications to the Executive Secretary, Domestic Policy Council. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will assist by providing staff support as requested by the Director NSEP Programs to perform the functions described herein. (U)

To the maximum extent possible, the Director NSEP Programs will handle issues through the preparation of options papers reflecting agency positions, which could be acted upon through the NSC process in lieu of SIG-NSEP and NSC meetings. (U)

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Implementation

In order to implement the new NSC oversight role, and the interagency support role for FEMA, a policy-level steering group, chaired by the NSC staff and composed of representatives from the Departments of Defense, Justice, OMB and NSC will be established to review and recommend approval of rewritten executive orders pertaining to FEMA responsibilities, any needed legislation, and prior NSDDs that have been superseded or require revision. This group will report initially on its work to the SIG-NSEP within 45 working days. (C)

NSEP telecommunications functions and responsibilities have been assigned by Executive Order 12472, "Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Telecommunications Functions" and NSDD-97, "National Security Telecommunications Policy (C)." The NSDD-97 Steering Group will address all NSEP telecommunication issues. (C)

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