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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~Date:~~ 1/17/89

FOR: Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.

FROM: WILLIAM J. LANDERS
Associate Counsel to the President

We should still send this as a
back-up to the efforts with
Archives.

~~THE~~ WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 1/9/89

FOR: Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.

FROM: **WILLIAM J. LANDERS**
Associate Counsel to the President

Attached is a draft response to Ed Dennis' letter regarding the Inter-Agency group. The unresolved issue is the employment status of Patti and John.

*Bill - Do we
still need to do this?*

WJL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ABC:WJL:nge
ABCulvahouse
WJLanders
Chron

January 17, 1989

Dear Ed:

I have your letter of December 22, 1988 concerning the Inter-Agency Review Committee that has been working on declassification issues under the auspices of my office.

We have had discussions with both the Archives and the Counsel to the President-Elect's Office with regard to the documents and working space that are utilized by the Inter-Agency Review Committee. The Archives, which will have custody of any Presidential records at the end of the Administration, understands the need for continued access to the Iran/Contra documents by the Executive branch during the upcoming trial. Consequently, the Archives has agreed to leave the documents in place and not transfer them to the President's library in California. The Counsel to the President-Elect has assured us that appropriate consultation will occur before any commitment is made concerning use of the facilities now used by the Inter-Agency Review Committee. We believe this will assure that there will be no disruption in access to the documents and working space for the Inter-Agency Review Committee.

Whether Counsel's Office will continue to co-ordinate the efforts of the Inter-Agency Review Committee or whether that supervision will be transferred to the Department of Justice or some other agency will have to be determined by the new Administration. We strongly recommend that the Department of Justice continue to employ Patricia Aronsson, who presently is a Staff Assistant in Counsel's Office and who supervises the entire Committee operations. Ms. Aronsson is absolutely critical to the smooth functioning of the Inter-Agency Review Committee. Therefore, the Department should contact her to determine if she would consider a position with the Department, and the terms of any such employment.

The other personnel who make up the Inter-Agency Review Committee and who actually review and declassify documents are employees of the affected agencies and departments. We are confident that the various agencies will continue to make these individuals available to perform any necessary review. In addition, there are four individuals detailed to Counsel's Office who provide logistical support for the Inter-Agency Review Committee and who actually maintain the records. The Archives is attempting to have three of these people detailed to the Archives as of January 21st. The fourth individual, Sgt. John Kowal, may need to be placed on the Department's payroll since he cannot extend his detail because of orders to report to Germany. He has indicated, however, that he would resign from the military and accept civilian employment in order to continue to fulfill his current responsibilities. Since Sgt. Kowal has a familiarity and knowledge of the documents that is important to their maintenance, he should be contacted immediately to make whatever arrangements may be necessary to ensure his continued employment.

If you have any questions concerning the space available or the arrangements with Archives, you can contact William J. Landers of my staff. Bill can assist in the orderly transition of any responsibilities or personnel.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by ABC

Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Edward S.G. Dennis, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Room 2107, MAIN
Washington, D.C. 20530

cc: C. Boyden Gray

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 3, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL LANDEPS

FROM: DIANNA HOLLAND *DH*

Attached is a copy of a letter from Ed Dennis to A.B. regarding the Iran-Contra Transition. I wanted to make sure you were aware that A.B. has requested that you prepare a response.

Thank you.



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

DEC 22 1988

Mr. Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear ~~Mr. Culvahouse:~~

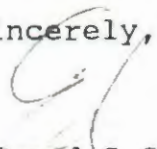
Re: Iran-Contra Transition

As President Reagan turns over the reins of power to President-Elect Bush, we hope that some attention will be paid to continuing in place the interagency group that has been working on classified information in connection with the Iran-Contra cases and its records. If no one focuses on this important aspect of the cases, it is possible that group members might be reassigned, that their office space might not be available, and that their records might be archived. Disruption of the interagency group could be embarrassing to both the outgoing and incoming Administrations.

We hope that the cases are disposed of as quickly as the fair administration of justice will allow. But, absent some extraordinary events, the probability is high that the litigation will continue for some time during the tenure of President Bush. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to formulate a new group and educate it on the classified information issues that have been previously litigated. Moreover, any disruption of the records might disable efficient future responses to classified information issues.

On behalf of the Department of Justice, I ask that you do what you can to see that during the transition the interagency group is kept in place to the greatest extent possible. The Department of Justice will benefit along with the U.S. District Court and the Independent Counsel from stability in the ranks of the interagency group.

Sincerely,


Edward S.G. Dennis, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 3, 1989

Ju/s Ho 1/9

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL LANDERS

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U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

Copy sent to
Bill Landers
stop to houses
for response
nsf
12/27

DEC 22 1981

Mr. Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. A.B. Culvahouse:

Re: Iran-Contra Transition

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Edward S.G. Dennis, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division