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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

COMMANDANT
U.S. Coast Guard
Headquarters
Washington 25, D. C.

CAM

December 22, 1952

Honorable Jack Gorrie
Chairman, National Security Resources Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Gorrie:

With respect to the Port Capacity Protection Survey, the comments of the various Federal agencies have been reviewed. Since differences of opinion were expressed over some of the recommendations stemming from a consideration of alternate port facilities General R. H. Wylie, who headed Task Unit B which developed that phase of the report, has been consulted and his further opinion considered.

The main difference between the opinions expressed by the agencies and that of the survey group relates to the method of control of port facilities. The deliberations of Task Unit B, as well as those of an earlier Port Utilization Survey, resulted in a conclusion that during a real emergency there is a great need for positive control of such facilities. The various agencies in dissenting from this view apparently believe the method of World War II and the present, control by a Committee, to be adequate. As long as an emergency is limited so that the demand upon the facilities of a port is less than absolute, a committee or cooperative form of control would be satisfactory. Should the demand increase so a prompt determination of priority becomes essential, it seems imperative that the agency exercising control have full and positive authority and that it not be subjected to the delays and inefficiency which often accompany committee actions.

It appears that the term "allocation of ocean lift" as used by the task group may have been misunderstood. In view of certain of the comments it is believed that "allocation of quotas of ocean lift to ports" would be more indicative of the Task Group's intent. Accordingly, it is desired that the survey report be considered as modified to the extent of substituting the latter for the former in the General Chairman's Report paragraphs A(2)(b) and B(2)(b)2, in Task Unit B Report, paragraph 3**4**b, and at any other place where it may have been used.

Otherwise, there does not appear to be any notable difference in concept between the survey report and the agency comment. Brief reference is made below to several recommendations to clarify questions in the comments.

DHS review(s)
completed.

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Commandant to
Hon. Jack Gorrie

The recommendations concerning protection of facilities were confined primarily to piers, wharves, docks and related structures. The need for security measures for protection of facilities behind the water front was recognized. However, the Task Group felt that this, though related to port protection, was part of a broader problem requiring separate consideration.

The recommendation with respect to "vesting in the Coast Guard continuing responsibility and authority *** for regulations governing type of construction, equipment and operation of water front facilities" extends only to fire prevention and other safety aspects of construction and operation of water front facilities. (General Chairman's Report, paragraph B(1)).

The recommendation in the General Chairman's Report, paragraph B(1)(g) respecting facilities for loading of explosives is deemed to include that of Task Unit B, paragraph K-11, page 23, with respect to allocation of such facilities.

With respect to the organization for port restoration, it was recommended that the Corps of Engineers be designated to provide the Port Utilization Controller with technical advice. Task Unit C envisaged that all available technical services would be utilized by the Corps of Engineers and recognized the potential of other engineering groups. However, it was felt that one agency should be designated and assigned prime responsibility. (Task Unit C Report, Part VI).

It was also realized that interrelationships exist between the Federal Civil Defense Administration, the military, other government agencies, and private organizations. The Task Group called attention to several points of overlap and recognized that they would have to be reconciled during the development of civil defense plans.

The recommendations, respecting the utilization of small ports and stockpiling of certain materials that would be required in rehabilitation of a port, the design of port facilities, and others were made for the purpose of bringing attention to unresolved problems which were encountered. In themselves they were not solutions to the problems. It is agreed that further specialized study is required before a policy is formulated and a specific plan adopted in those cases.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Merlin O'Neill

MERLIN O'NEILL
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

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3-6085

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY RESOURCES BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

JAN 8 1953

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Honorable Walter Bedell Smith
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

We have received from Vice Admiral O'Neill, Commandant of the Coast Guard, the enclosed letter dated December 22, 1952, reviewing the comments of Federal agencies on the report of the Port Capacity Protection Survey which, as General Chairman of the Survey Group, he conducted for the Resources Board.

The second paragraph of the letter recognizes that in a partial emergency the present committee or cooperative form of control for port utilization would be satisfactory but adheres to the view that, in a full-scale war emergency, more positive authority to the control agency would be necessary.

The remaining explanations and certain changes made by the letter will, it is believed, clarify other points raised in the agency comments. The Report, as thus amended and clarified, is available to the agencies concerned for planning purposes in their respective areas of responsibility.

Two copies of the Report were sent with our original request for comments. As the available supply of the Report is limited, it is requested that as far as possible those copies be used to meet your needs and that the enclosed copies of Admiral O'Neill's letter be attached thereto.

Attention is invited to the fact that the Inventory of U. S. Port Capacities as of January 1, 1951, which appeared as Appendix B to the report of Task Unit B in the original Survey Report, is now obsolete. It has been replaced by a later form of inventory prepared for the Resources Board by the Maritime Administration, Department of Commerce. This inventory, which is to be revised periodically, is classified "CONFIDENTIAL - Security Information." It will be treated as a separate document and the classification of the Port Capacity Protection Report will continue as "RESTRICTED - Security Information."

Sincerely,

(Signature) JACK GORRIE

Jack Gorrie
Chairman

Enclosures

See file. B-12-20. 3-6085. 1000001. 2 copies encl. O.C.