

78/18/48

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August 16, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: The Director
Bureau of the Budget x79

The determination of the proper agency in which to lodge responsibility for the rehabilitation program for Korea should be made as quickly as possible.



Will you please review this problem with Messrs.

Hoffman, Lovett and Draper, and report to me your recommendations as to the appropriate action to be taken.

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(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

8/16/48

FJL:mc

[Handwritten signature]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 16, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: The President
FROM: F. J. Lawton



As I mentioned to you a few days ago, the question of the proper agency to administer the rehabilitation program in Korea has been under discussion between State, Army and ECA.

In view of the recognition of the new Korean Government, this question should be settled at an early date. Each of the three agencies concerned thinks that the administration of the program should be lodged with one of the other two. Mr. Hoffman told me that he would be willing to take it if ordered to do so, but felt that he should have an opportunity to state his case before an impartial arbiter and suggested the Bureau of the Budget. The State Department has made the same suggestion. Under Secretary Draper also agrees to this procedure, and suggests that the meeting be held as quickly as possible.

I am attaching a suggested memorandum to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, asking him to discuss the question with the parties involved and render a report to you with a recommendation as to the proper agency to administer the program.

F. J. Lawton

x426

1 attachment.