

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 29, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The attached Top Secret letter and supporting memoranda have just been received from Bob Lovett. I have read the letter and note the urgency of his request so I felt you should see these papers now in order that some reply could be given to Lovett Saturday morning inasmuch as you leave on Sunday.

Very respectfully,

 -

CLARK M. CLIFFORD

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By NLT, NARS Date 2-9-73

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

August 29, 1947

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing herewith three documents which represent certain preliminary work of the Department of State setting forth the problems of European Recovery.

The complexity of the subject is such that it has taken some time to formulate worthwhile specific views on this question. It has also been necessary in order to reach this stage to obtain some concept of the developments in the Paris Conference on European Economic Cooperation. I feel now that progress has been sufficient to lay a basis for effective interdepartmental consideration of the policy issues involved in any European recovery program. It is especially necessary to have applied to this problem the best thinking of the interested Departments in order that a sound governmental position may be developed.

I should like to emphasize particularly the urgency of action on this question since the conference at Paris is expected to present a plan to the United States Government around September 15.

The documents enclosed herewith consist of:

(1) Memorandum entitled "Certain Aspects of the European Recovery Problem from the United States Standpoint." This is a background study prepared in the Policy Planning Staff of the Department during July. It is outdated in certain respects by the rapid march of recent events, particularly in con-

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The President,  
The White House.

~~TOP SECRET~~

By MLT, NARS Date 2-9-73

- 2 -

nection with the British dollar position.

(2) A summary statement of the Department of State's present views on the content of a European Economic Recovery Program, which has been communicated to Under Secretary Clayton in Paris, to guide him in his informal discussions with representatives at the Conference. It should be noted that no U.S. representative has taken any part in the meetings of the Paris Conference, and that Mr. Clayton has at all times explicitly stated to representatives of other governments that he can in no way commit the United States Government to any course of action.

(3) A report, entitled "Problems of European Reconstruction" which the Department of State is considering releasing informally at the appropriate time as background material on the nature of the economic problems being faced by European countries.

I hope to send you shortly (4) a more detailed statement of the Department's present views and (5) a rough draft of possible required legislation.

You will note that the documents enclosed do not touch upon the capacity of the United States to aid Europe since this is a subject for study by the Committees appointed by the President on June 22, 1947.

I trust you will agree with me as to the urgency of arriving at an interdepartmental position on the host of complicated issues raised by these problems. I should appreciate it if you would designate someone on your staff to work with representatives of the Department of State. I have appointed Mr. Charles H. Bonesteel to coordinate work within the Department of State on the problems of European Recovery.

It seems to me essential to have a first meeting toward the end of next week to discuss the problems presented in the three documents enclosed with this letter.

In addition

~~TOP SECRET~~

By N&T, NARS Date 2-9-73

- 3 -

In addition to your views on the substantive issues, I should very much appreciate your guidance on questions of procedure, particularly on the time and manner of getting the views of the members of the Non-Partisan Committee on Foreign Aid (Harriman Committee) and those of the Congressional leaders.

At your request these matters are being handled for the time being on a Top Secret basis.

Faithfully yours,

