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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 23, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Vice President (Attention: C. D. Ward)
Secretary Hickel (Attention: Mr. Alan Kirk)
Secretary Shultz
Secretary Finch
Secretary Romney
Director Rumsfeld (Attention: Mr. Maldonado)
Administrator Kunzig (Attention: Mr. Daniel Kingsley)
Director Mayo (Attention: Mr. Kenneth Kugel)

SUBJECT: Indians on Alcatraz

The Indians are continuing to demonstrate on Alcatraz and each day brings some new account of demands or proposals.

The analysis and evaluation of these proposals, and the formulation of some response from this Administration is a task which will involve some interagency consideration.

In San Francisco, the Regional Council has met on this subject several times and is a mechanism on the spot for coordination of agency positions, locally. Some Washington backstop is needed, and therefore I am establishing an ad hoc group here to give the needed policy direction to the Regional officials in San Francisco.

I suggest that the group be composed of:

Mr. C. D. Ward of the Vice President's office,
assisted by Mr. Bob Robertson
Mr. Alan Kirk, Interior
Mr. Joseph Maldonado, OEO, assisted by Mr. James Wilson
Mr. Daniel Kingsley, General Services Administration
Mr. Kenneth Kugel, Bureau of the Budget, assisted by
Stanley Doremus
A designee from the Department of Labor
A designee from the Department of Health, Education
and Welfare
A designee from the Department of Housing and Urban
Development
Myself and Mr. Bradley Patterson

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The first meeting is hereby called for January 6, 1970 at 10:00 AM in my office, Room 128, Executive Office Building. I would ask that Secretaries Shultz, Finch and Romney notify Mr. Patterson of this office by telephone who will be attending as their designees.

The agenda for the first meeting will include:

1. A discussion with the Counsel for the Alcatraz Group, Mr. Bruce Montgomery and Mr. Browning Pipestem (Arnold and Porter firm) on what the hard proposals of the Alcatraz group are.
2. A discussion of whether and how the various agencies can jointly fund a planning/coordinating committee of representative Bay Area Indians with a planning grant to make specific proposals for what they want with Alcatraz and what they propose to meet other needs of the Bay Area urban Indians.
3. The possible designation of one of the San Francisco Regional Council Members as the principal negotiator on program matters with the Indian committee (GSA will of course continue to deal with custody and maintenance questions).
4. Discussion of the extent to which an Indian National Park on Alcatraz could be feasible and could be made a part of Interior's long-range plans for federal parks in the Bay Area. (Senator Murphy's Press Release of December 18 is appended)
5. A discussion of general negotiating principles (draft attached).
6. Other matters at agencies' discretion.

The designees are requested to come prepared to make substantive contributions on these questions. If necessary we shall forward proposals to the Urban Affairs Council.



Leonard Garment
Special Consultant to the President

cc: San Francisco Regional Council

attachments

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When the Indians recently began their demonstration on Alcatraz Island, there was already a study under way by the Department of the Interior to determine how the island might be used most effectively.

I had urged Secretary of the Interior Hickel to make such an investigation since it was my hope that it would produce a positive plan which would insure the best possible utilization of Alcatraz in the future.

As part of the study, the Secretary has been considering, and he is continuing to survey, the recreational potential of the entire San Francisco Bay area.

I have, therefore, proposed to the White House that as part of the Secretary's Bay Area investigation, a specific study be made of the possibility of establishing Alcatraz as a national park honoring all American Indians - a park to be named the Indian National Park and to be available for use by all persons.

The White House, in turn, has assured me that Secretary Hickel will be urged to include this point in his review of the various suggestions which have been offered for the use of Alcatraz.

In response to another point I took up with the White House, I have also been assured that the Secretary will be asked to give careful consideration to the establishment of an Indian cultural center.

Two major questions will be among the points considered in connection with this latter issue.

They are:

1. Should an Indian cultural center be established; and if so, what kind of center should it be?
2. Should such a center, if found to be desirable, be on Alcatraz or on the mainland, where it might be less expensive and more available, and where it might be operated in conjunction with whatever facilities and programs might be arranged in connection with my proposed Indian National Park?

I do not, of course, know what the results of Secretary Hickel's survey will be.

I can state, however, that I personally feel that there is a great deal of merit to my proposal for a national park to honor our Indians; and I feel, too, that the proposals for the establishment of a related Indian cultural center, either on the island or on the mainland, deserve the most careful consideration.

It would seem particularly appropriate for such a park and center to be in California, I think, because of our State's rich Indian heritage.

To help assure that Secretary Hickel's study is conducted in depth and with the greatest possible thoroughness, I shall personally relay to the Secretary any facts, material or other information which persons or groups might like to send me on the issue.

I am glad that the Administration has taken such a deep interest in the Alcatraz situation.

It is my sincere hope that a satisfactory solution can be reached without undue delay.

This can best be accomplished, I think, if the Government continues to act with understanding and sympathy in the case, and if the Indians, on the other hand, allow their views to be considered without exercising duress.

Suggested Negotiating Principles

1. As long as the Indians conduct themselves peacefully on Alcatraz, forcible removal of them will not be considered.
2. The Administration is open to any suggestions from the Indians. Nothing will be excluded from initial consideration. In the meantime no other commitments are to be made about Alcatraz which would restrict choices for the future.
3. There are two sine qua nons with respect to negotiations:
 - a. They will not be conducted with the press present, unless invited by both groups of participants;
 - b. The Indian negotiating group must be a group representative of all the Bay Area Indians: Alcatraz, San Francisco, Oakland, etc.We emphatically do not wish to get into a position where a negotiated agreement will be repudiated by some other significant Bay Area Indian faction later on.