

16 FEB 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Proposed Joint Resolution of National Capital Planning Commission Pre-empting Agency Land in Vicinity of 2430 "E" Street, NW

1. This memorandum contains recommendations submitted for Deputy Director (Support) approval. Such recommendations are contained in paragraph 9.

2. In a long telephone conversation with Mr. Daniel H. Shear, General Counsel, National Capital Planning Commission, on 5 February 1960, I discussed the background and purpose of a proposed Joint Resolution (see Attachment "A") which the National Capital Planning Commission has submitted to the Bureau of the Budget. This resolution would reserve as public open space the area bounded by "E" Street, Constitution Avenue, 23rd Street and 25th Streets, NW. This area includes the land upon which are located the East, Central and Administration Buildings, the only buildings now expected to remain standing after the approach road system for the new Theodore Roosevelt Bridge has been completed.

3. The Joint Resolution provides that "no structure shall hereafter be constructed in the area, except monuments and memorials," and "nothing contained herein shall limit the present use of the area, including proper maintenance of existing buildings, by the Department of the Navy and other agencies, provided, that no new buildings shall be constructed and no existing buildings shall be altered or renovated, and provided further, that existing buildings shall be vacated and removed as soon as reasonably feasible."

4. The Office of Logistics takes the following position with respect to the continuing requirement of the Agency for office space in this area. Upon completion of our Langley headquarters, we will be able to move from all of the buildings in the above-described area except for East, Central and Administration Buildings. We will continue to need to occupy those three buildings until the General Services Administration (GSA) makes other space available to us. Since we are looking to GSA to provide space for our "stay-behind" personnel, we are unable to predict when our need for East, Central and Administration Buildings will cease. During our future tenure of these three buildings, it will be necessary for us to continue to make

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alterations and renovations therein although we do not anticipate that these will be of a major character.

5. I asked Mr. Shear whether the resolution would make it impossible for us to continue to use East, Central and Administration Buildings for the indefinite future, with the Agency continuing to make physical alterations in these buildings and from time to time relocating Agency components therein. I explained that our new headquarters would not house a significant number of personnel who would be required to stay behind in a number of buildings in the District of Columbia until such time as an additional appropriation made it possible for us to expand our Langley installation or until all of our "stay-behind" personnel were regrouped in some central location provided by GSA. I stated that you and Mr. Garrison recently discussed our "stay-behind" housing problem with Public Buildings Service officials and that the pressures upon this Agency at present to give up various temporary buildings were numerous and diverse, with the result that CIA was looking to GSA for resolution of our housing problem without offering any preferred solution of our own.

6. Mr. Shear assured me that the resolution sponsored by the Commission would not interfere with our indefinite continued use of East, Central and Administration Buildings nor with the building modifications or component reassignments which we might contemplate in the future. He explained that the purpose of the resolution was to establish this site as an area which would not be available either for Federal office building expansion or for sale to or private development by commercial interests. He stated that there is considerable pressure now being exerted, both within the Government and by private interests, to obtain this parcel of land which is strategically located near the new State Department building, the proposed Cultural Center, and redeveloped areas in Foggy Bottom. The Commission has concluded that this site should be reserved as a generally open space, not completely devoid of structures, but with no large buildings. The Commission believes that a Congressional Resolution would be an appropriate way to express such a policy statement.


7. Mr. Shear stated that the Bureau of the Budget was presently undecided as to whether this objective might better be achieved by a Congressional Resolution or by an Executive statement. While the Bureau of the Budget appears to be favorably disposed in principle, according to Mr. Shear, they have not yet sent out the usual legislative referral memorandum to each concerned agency pending resolution of the foregoing

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policy question. The Commission hopes that the Bureau of the Budget decision will be reached in the near future because of the short current Congressional session, and the Commission would be satisfied with either approach.

8. Mr. Shear told me that it was not necessary for CIA to reply to his letter of 14 January 1960 (see Attachment "B") unless we particularly desire to do so, and he would consider his discussion with me an appropriate reply. He restated that the Navy had specifically asked for assurance that internal reassignment of personnel in its buildings, which adjoin ours and are subject to the same resolution, was not considered by the Commission to be prohibited by the resolution, and he also restated that relatively minor physical changes which did not amount to substantial additions that cannot be amortized during the expected life of the buildings were not within the contemplated ban of the resolution.

9. It is recommended that no further action be taken by this Agency to reply to Mr. Shear's letter of 14 January 1960 at this time. It is further recommended, in the event we receive a formal inquiry from the Bureau of the Budget, that we not oppose a Joint Resolution or Executive statement of policy reserving this tract of land as a memorial area, subject to assurance that our continued use of these buildings in the manner explained above will be permitted without any specific deadline for termination of our occupancy.

  
Assistant General Counsel

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Attachments:

- 1 - Attachment "A"
- 2 - Attachment "B"

Distribution:

- Orig - OGC
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CONCURRENCE:

STAT

[Redacted Signature]

Director of Logistics

17 Feb '60

Date

STAT

[Redacted Signature]

General Counsel

16 Feb-60

Date

The recommendations contained in  
paragraph 9 are approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

L. K. WHITE  
Deputy Director (Support)