

MEMORANDUM

February 16, 1971

TO: O/FSI - Mr. Howard E. Sollenberger
FROM: O/FSI/VTC - Ogden Williams
SUBJECT: Interagency Advisory Group

Forwarded herewith is a clean copy of a proposed invitation list for the Interagency Advisory Group. You will note that Jim Engle does not appear on the list. I telephoned him to say that we felt there should be a representative of the Sullivan committee (NSC Ad Hoc Group on Viet-Nam) who could take back to the Ad Hoc Group any major policy problems that were unresolved at the Interagency Advisory Group level. Engle expressed a desire not to do it this way. I noted that, if he were not present, unresolved issues would have to be argued out by both parties to the issue before the Sullivan Group, and was that what he wanted? He said that this would be desirable, and noted that unresolved issues at the Sullivan Group are argued de novo before the higher NSC organization, so the practice would be a familiar one. Engle intimated that he was immensely busy already, and would prefer to be spared any meetings that could be avoided. I told him I would pass along his views to you. Thus, the attached invitation list could be used as a basis for any conversations you might wish to have with Bill Sullivan or for such other action as you deem desirable.

I personally tend to feel that his absence does not make much difference. The crucial thing is that there is now a court of appeal. This is what we fought for, and won. Since there is a court of appeal which can decide substantive issues on an interagency basis, the Interagency Advisory Group does not have to be able to decide such things within itself. This being so, lack of "senior" representation does not vitiate the Interagency Advisory Group.

I am asking Dan Quaid to flush out some of the agenda items which were presented to you in outline form the other day, and will be in touch as soon as we are in a position to go forward to the stage of actually calling a meeting.

Enclosure