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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1976

Dear Dr. Allen:

This is in response to your letter regarding the closing of Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia.

The proposal which you mention was submitted by the Philadelphia Congressional Delegation through the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee to the Secretary of the Army. The initial proposal received on February 9, 1976, suggested retaining fire control and optical missions at Frankford Arsenal. This was refined in another proposal forwarded by Chairman Price on March 31, 1976. This latter proposal would have established the Small Caliber Weapons Systems Laboratory of the Armament Research and Development Command at Frankford Arsenal instead of collocating this activity at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, with the headquarters and Large Caliber Weapons Systems Laboratory as had been announced in the decision by the Secretary of the Army.

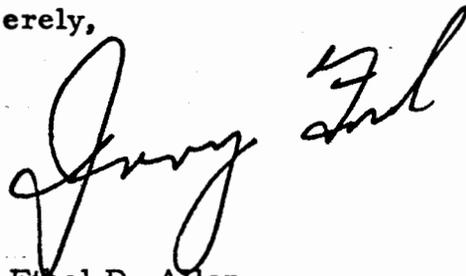
The Army conducted a thorough and complete review of the Philadelphia Delegation's proposal. The Secretary of the Army provided the results of that review to Chairman Price and to the Philadelphia Delegation on June 4, 1976. The attached document provides the details of the Army's evaluation.

Previous extensive Army studies and the review of the Philadelphia Delegation's proposal conclude that for managerial, operational and economic reasons the realignment of the Army's armament research and

development activities and the closure of Frankford Arsenal should proceed. The attached evaluation points out that the location of the Small Caliber Weapons Systems Laboratory at Frankford Arsenal would negate several important managerial and operational advantages gained by collocating this laboratory with other elements at Picatinny Arsenal. In addition, the relatively small, geographically separated facility would result in proportionately higher overhead costs than will the consolidated operation. The estimated annual operating cost would be approximately \$10 million greater for the Philadelphia Delegation's proposal than in the announced realignment.

While I fully appreciate your concern regarding this matter, I believe that the Army's decision in this matter is appropriate and is consistent with the overall goal of providing the most effective national defense at the least cost to the taxpayer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ethel Allen".

Dr. Ethel D. Allen
Councilwoman-at-Large
Room 582-B, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

August 10, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

Response to Dr. Ethel D. Allen
concerning Frankford Arsenal

You will recall that you received the attached letter from Dr. Ethel Allen, a Pennsylvania delegate, and asked for Defense Dept. recommendation.

The attached letter was drafted by the Department of defense and approved by Messrs. Friedersdorf, Fields and McConahey. NSC commented as follows:

"The NSC Staff has no objection ~~to~~ the draft response to Dr. Allen's letter. We believe however, that the reply should come from the inter-governmental relations office of the Domestic Council rather than from the President. The President has not personally answered correspondence on base closings and we believe it would be inappropriate for him to do so in this case."

Jim Connor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JC

Do you want to ask Alan Woods to come up with a draft we could use in responding-- or ask them to respond directly with copy to us. I think Dr. Allen would be happier with response from the WH, even if not from the President himself, but this could be a sticky situation you would not want to get the President stuck with.

E.

8/3

Trudy:

copy

FYI - I have sent ~~it~~ over to Alan Woods (and talked to him on phone) so he will come back with something for us to use.

E. 8/3

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney

Dr. Colwell Allen,
a Pa delegate, gave me

This.

What does Def. say?



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DR. ETHEL D. ALLEN
ROOM 582-B, CITY HALL
COUNCILWOMAN-AT-LARGE

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
LAW AND GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC PROPERTY AND
PUBLIC WORKS
TRANSPORTATION AND
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMERCE, NAVIGATION AND
AIRPORT FACILITIES
RECREATION
PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
STREETS AND SERVICES

The Hon. Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

28 July, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

We hereby request your ruling on the current status of the Frankford Arsenal, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

You undoubtedly know of the scheduled closing of the Arsenal within the coming year. However, a proposal has been submitted that could allow the location of the "Small Calibre Weapons Systems" laboratory in the existing buildings on the site of the Arsenal. I believe Senator Hugh Scott has been a proponent of this approach.

Such a location would be geographically ideal, as Philadelphia is the focus of the current arsenals at Watervliet, Picatinny, and A.P.G./Edgewood.

It seems far more feasible to the citizens of Philadelphia to relocate the 240 employees from Rockville and the 3 employees from Picatinny to Philadelphia, than to carry out the current plan to relocate all 1600 Frankford Arsenal employees, a move that would most likely necessitate military construction appropriations.

This is a matter of grave concern to me and to my constituents, and I would appreciate your immediate evaluation of the situation and a written report of efforts on behalf of the Frankford Arsenal and its 1600 employees.

Yours, in a worthy cause,

Dr. Ethel D. Allen
Dr. Ethel D. Allen
Councilwoman-at-Large

EDA:h



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CITY COUNCIL

ETHEL D. ALLEN

ROOM 582-B

COUNCILWOMAN-AT-LARGE

The Hon. Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States