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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JAN 31 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT 

FROM: ~~ROY L. ASH~~

SUBJECT: Philadelphia Proposal for Armament
Research and Development Activities

You recently inquired about the status of the Philadelphia proposal to provide new facilities to house the missions currently being performed at the Frankford Arsenal. As you recall, Mayor Rizzo proposed to relocate the present Frankford Arsenal missions to a new facility in the Philadelphia area, financed with State-local bonds amortized over a period of years by the Federal Government.

The Philadelphia proposal is under careful consideration by the Department of the Army, and Secretary Callaway's staff has met several times with Mayor Rizzo's representatives. Up to this point, none of the alternatives offered by the Mayor have met the Army's objectives to establish a full-range Armaments Center and/or achieve significant savings. A meeting will be held in the next week or so to discuss another alternative which is now being prepared.

Although the Army has been forthcoming and open-minded in their discussions with the Philadelphia group, it is unlikely that their ultimate decision will favor such a facility in Philadelphia since the required land and many of the facilities are already available at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

Secretary Callaway is working closely with James Falk and Max Friedersdorf to fully explore all possible alternatives proposed by members of the Philadelphia community and others who are concerned with the Frankford Arsenal closure actions.