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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON

FROM: JIM CONNOR *JCB*

SUBJECT: Purchase of Swine-Type Influenza
Vaccine by Canada and Mexico

Confirming phone call to your office this afternoon, the President reviewed your memorandum of June 9, 1976 on the above subject and approved the following:

"Informal communication of assurances to the Canadian Government and, if asked, to the Mexican Government, that the United States will permit the purchase of swine-type influenza vaccine to inoculate their selected population. This commitment, of course, will be based on the assurances that sufficient supplies will be available to meet the U.S. demand for the vaccine."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....


THE WHITE HOUSE

DECISION

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON 

SUBJECT: Purchase of Swine-Type Influenza Vaccine by Canada and Mexico

Secretary Mathews has requested authorization for Assistant Secretary Cooper to informally notify his counterpart in Canada that the United States will permit Canada to purchase some swine-type flu vaccine (Tab A).

The Canadian Government has requested authorization to purchase the vaccine from U.S. manufacturers to inoculate a "selected population," including essential services and high risk persons. Although normally dependent on the U.S. for influenza vaccine, Canada has arranged to obtain a portion of their requirement from other countries. It is anticipated that the remainder could be provided by U.S. firms without jeopardizing our own program. Our own capabilities, however, cannot be confirmed until June 21 when the clinical trial data can be evaluated.

The Mexican Government has not made any request.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that you approve the informal communication of assurances to the Canadian Government and, if asked, to the Mexican Government, that the United States will permit the purchase of swine-type influenza vaccine to inoculate their selected population. This commitment, of course, will be based on the assurances that sufficient supplies will be available to meet the U.S. demand for the vaccine. Secretary Mathews, OMB (O'Neill), and NSC (Scowcroft) concur.

DECISION

 Approve

_____ Disapprove



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

MAY 25 1976

MEMORANDUM TO THE HONORABLE JAMES M. CANNON

Some weeks ago I suggested that perhaps the way to get out of the impasse we seem to have on the Canadian-Mexican flu dilemma was to open up foreign suppliers so that the United States was not the sole source of vaccine in the case of a worldwide pandemic. Ted Cooper has given this his best effort and reports in the attached memorandum that he has such assurances as he feels are possible to that end. In particular, you will note that the Canadians are not now relying solely on us, but have themselves contacted sources in Australia and France. Further, Ted has made certain that we have laid before the World Health Organization our sense of their responsibility in helping to meet a potential world problem through developing sources for the supply of the vaccine in their countries.

As a result of these negotiations, I think it is now proper that we can give assurances to the Canadians, and later to the Mexican government if they request, that we will let them buy in our market. I would suggest, however, that we might want to consider letting this message go back informally through Dr. Cooper to his counterpart in Canada, rather than using formal diplomatic channels since one of the major purposes we hope to achieve is to keep this from becoming a diplomatic exchange in which the Canadians had to formally ask for our assistance.

If the President concurs in this matter, please notify me and we will proceed as indicated.


Secretary

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 9, 1976

TO: BOB LINDER

FROM: TRUDY FRY

The attached is sent to you for
review before it is forwarded to the
President.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TRUDY FRY', written in a cursive style.