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August 16, 1968

GENERAL BERG:



In late March, you will recall, Colonel Bumm proposed to us a scheme for handling the deferment actions at EKC. His scheme would have included

1. a general letter covering EK's position written by an appropriate [redacted] high-level DOD official (the DDR&E) and addressed to the New York State Selective Service Director -- transmitted to EK via a covert channel -- then forwarded overtly by EK to the State Director under a covering EK letter.
2. a statement by EK, then, in each request to a local board on behalf of an individual applicant.

With regard to the latter, EK was "assuring" us that they would "continue to request a deferment only when we believe it is justified by program requirements and the national interest."

This would have been very easy for us to do, had it not been for our concern that the "only when we (EK) believe it is justified" condition would not be objectively and prudently applied.

We (you, Captain Koch and I) felt that we should insist on a more objective appraisal of the "criticality" of the services of such individuals and the requirement that we here review and you personally sign only those that met the "criteria" we would establish as a guideline.

Captain (Ret) Koch and I have, since, written three criteria which we feel will insure that we are only asked to sponsor those individuals who are clearly essential to program accomplishment. I have attached a draft of the criteria along with a couple of procedural caveats for your review. I propose, with your approval, to send them to Colonel Bumm as the basis for his establishing with EK a mechanism for the review and processing of such requests.

This is great Bill and reflects my feelings completely. Cheers on!

WILLIAM R. YOST
Lt Colonel, USAF

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