

extent to which they are applicable, be as effective in dealing with natural disaster as with enemy attack.

I should like to take this opportunity of presenting to you certificates, whereby I, as Governor of the State of Maryland, formally recognize the services you are performing as members of the State Emergency Resource Planning Committee.

REMARKS, STATE EMERGENCY RESOURCES PLANNING
COMMITTEE

PIKESVILLE

September 8, 1965

It is most reassuring to know the scope and depth of the planning that you have accomplished during the past 15 months, and on behalf of the people of Maryland, I express our sincere thanks for your dedicated efforts.

It is apparent from the reports of you gentlemen who have chaired our planning task forces, and who now assume responsibilities as directors of our emergency resource organizations, that you have given generously of your time and efforts to this task with able assistance from your colleagues in commerce, industry, the professions and government. It is a truism that capable people can make a poor plan work and that the best plan in the hands of incompetents will surely result in failure. It appears to me that Maryland is doubly blessed in that we have the best people available within the State, and appear also to have a very workable plan. It is apparent that our plan is well developed as regards our interaction with the federal government and procedures to effect state-wide coordination and control. However, it remains for us now to take these procedures down to each political subdivision and work with them to insure that they are prepared to play their part. General Van Brunt has assured me that this is his next order of business.

Time marches on, and within that context I want to remind you that this is not something we can put on the shelf and forget about. Ours is a constantly growing population and developing economy, and our plans must keep pace with this growth. This is primarily the responsibility of General Van Brunt and his staff, but he cannot do it without your continuing support. Our principal State departments play vital roles in the emergency organizations we have developed,