



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

8 OCT 1969

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:
1-36238/69

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of US Ground Forces from the Republic of Korea

It is my recommendation that any decision to withdraw one or more divisions of US ground forces from the Republic of Korea during the remainder of FY 1970 be disapproved for the following reasons:

- There is insufficient time remaining during FY 1970 to effect a redeployment of this magnitude;
- Implementation of the Nixon Doctrine requires careful preparation in the United States as well as, in this case, the Republic of Korea;
- A withdrawal of one or more US divisions from the ROK would require a major compensatory effort on the part of the ROK armed forces; this would almost certainly entail a substantial increase in MAP;
- Such a redeployment would certainly have an adverse effect upon the ROK Government, quite possibly to the extent that President Park might feel obliged to withdraw all or at least substantial elements of ROK forces in South Vietnam;
- Any US withdrawal within this time frame would have an adverse effect on the Presidential election scheduled for June 1971;
- The recent Okinawa reversion agreement was ill-received in Seoul, and major US redeployments from South Korea in the near future would compound many ROK misgivings;
- Further to the previous point, inasmuch as the detailed negotiations (over and above the decision to revert) concerning our continued presence on Okinawa have yet to be initiated, such a move might heighten Japanese pretensions.

DECLASSIFIED OCT 17 2005
Authority: EO 12958, as amended
Chief, Declass Br, Dir. & Rec, WHS

Downgraded by _____
Date: 27 MAY 2005
Chief, Declassification Branch, WHS

See Log Cont. 17. 2

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This is not to say that we should not consider the withdrawal of major US forces from the ROK. ISA is presently engaged in a study on just this point, but in the more meaningful time frame of FY 1971. We have requested inputs for this study from the Comptroller, Installations and Logistics, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Systems Analysis, as well as the Joint Staff and the State Department. Our initial recommendations will be forwarded to you and the Secretary in late December or early January.

R. A. Ware

Richard A. Ware
Acting Assistant Secretary

APPROVE RECOMMENDATION: *[Signature]*

8 DEC 1969

DISAPPROVE RECOMMENDATION: _____

OTHER: _____

*As far as I know,
No one has proposed withdrawing a division in FY 70. However, I would
like to see the option to remove a division in FY 71 left open, as Dick indicates
in his memo.*

[Signature]

Dr. Selin's note:

" As far as I know, no one has proposed withdrawing a division in FY 70. However, I would like to see the option to remove a division in FY 71 left open, as Dick indicates in his memo."

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OSD For [unclear]