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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

JCSM-388-71
30 August 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Implications of Removal of US Military Presence from Taiwan (U)

13174

1. Reference is made to a memorandum by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated 3 July 1971, subject: "Implications of Reduction or Removal of U.S. Military Presence on Taiwan," which requested the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff concerning:

a. The estimated impact on US security interests of the removal of US military presence from Taiwan.

b. The alternative means for providing for the ESSENTIAL functions relating to US and allied theater posture in the event such military presence were removed from Taiwan.

2. A severe impact on US security interests would be caused by removal of the US military presence from Taiwan.

a. Politico/military considerations of such withdrawal include the following adverse effects: (1) degradation of deterrence and responsiveness in Asia as a result of reductions of US capabilities on Taiwan, (2) likely misinterpretation by the Government of the Republic of China and the PRC of US intent to meet its defense commitments under the Republic of China (ROC)-US Mutual Defense Treaty of 1954, and (3) lessened confidence of US allies throughout the world in US resolve to meet defense treaty commitments as proclaimed by the Nixon Doctrine. The removal or disestablishment of the Taiwan Defense Command would emphasize these adverse effects. Additionally, degradation of the capability of the ROC Armed Forces resulting from disestablishment of the Military Assistance Advisory Group would be anticipated. There would be an attendant significant reduction of the military assistance provided under the Foreign Military Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, as well as the loss of the advisory and assistance capabilities now provided to the ROC Forces by personnel of the Military Assistance Advisory Group.

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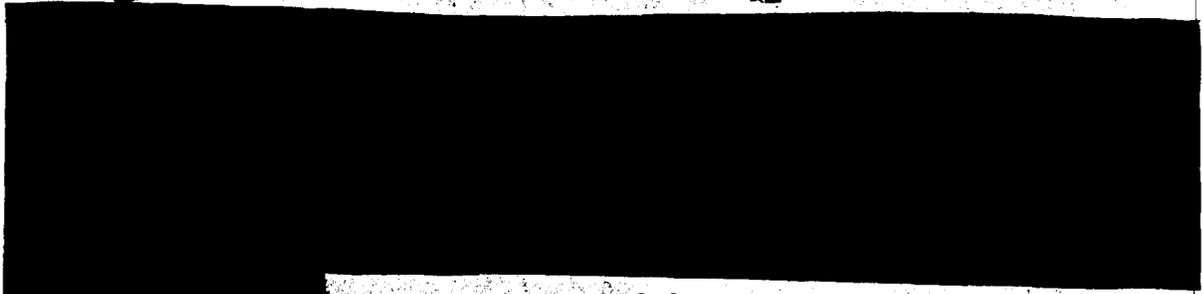
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JS 3.3(b)(9)

3. Major areas of concern which must be considered in relocation of units now on Taiwan are:

a. Development of adequate basing posture to support operations and contingency plans.

OSD 3.3(b)(1)

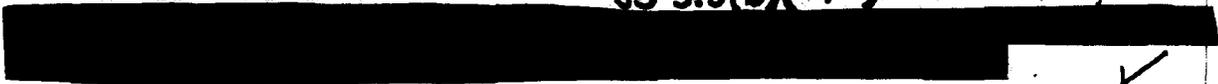


c. Maintenance and improvement of command and control capabilities, particularly for emergency situations.

d. Establishment of effective and survivable alternate communications systems to provide near realtime delivery of essential traffic such as command and control referred to above.

OSD 3.3(b)(1)

JS 3.3(b)(9)



4. Relocation can be accomplished but not without considerable difficulty and cost. The impact would be substantial in terms of the politico/military considerations, reduced tactical and strategic military posture, and major increases in fiscal/budget requirements, including new construction at the relocation sites. Detailed discussion of the estimated impact and the possible relocation sites for US military units now on Taiwan is contained in the Appendix hereto.

Office of the Secretary of Defense 50X8552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

T. H. MOORER
Chairman

Joint Chiefs of Staff

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Attachment

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