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3 August 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Call on Secretary of Defense on Wednesday, 31 July

1. Following the retirement ceremony for VADM Peet, SECDEF Schlesinger called me into his office. The following discussions ensued.

a. SECDEF said that he had been informed that Admiral LeBourgeois was going to undo everything good at the Naval War College that Stan Turner had accomplished over his tenure, and the Secretary was quite disturbed to think that the War College was going to be upset again. I replied that this was simply not true. I had also heard that Stan Turner had made the statement that he would stay on at the War College another year and not go to the Second Fleet if it meant keeping LeBourgeois from the War College, because he felt that Admiral LeBourgeois would take a giant step backward in the progressive reforms that had been achieved there. I said that this concern of SECDEF and Stan Turner were completely unfounded. First, I had told LeBourgeois of SECDEF Schlesinger's guidance to me concerning the War College: That it was not to be a trade school but that it was to be an area in which free thinking and philosophical expansion could take place. It should be an institution which would produce new Mahans. Secondly,

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after having explained this to VADM LeBourgeois he agreed fully in this guidance and said it was completely consistent with his own philosophy concerning the War College. VADM LeBourgeois stated that he had reviewed the situation in the War College and was in favor of 90% of what was there today under Admiral Turner, and that the other 10% of change that he would make would be simply fine tuning and minor adjustments to reflect his own personality. In sum I said that SECDEF had no source for concern over how the Naval War College would fare under ADM LeBourgeois' presidency. SECDEF appeared to agree that his fears were groundless.

b. I asked the Secretary of Defense if I could discuss the Sea Control Ship. SECDEF said the Sea Control Ship is dead. I said no it is not a completely dead issue there is a breath of life in it and I am coming to you to ask for your assistance in resurrecting it. I had visited Senator McClellan last week to ask him to include \$16 million for the Sea Control Ship in the Senate Appropriations Committee bill, which would then give us a chance of keeping the 16 million in through the conference action. SECDEF spoke up immediately and said I will take care of McClellan. I pointed out that we didn't think the problem was with

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McClellan but was with Mahon. McClellan told me that he would not put the 16 million in unless Mahon released the 29 million from Fiscal 74 which is being withheld. SECDEF said that George Mahon does not support the Sea Control Ship because he feels that the concept is not seasoned. SECDEF felt that another year of effort in support of the Sea Control Ship could probably turn Mahon around. Then SECDEF said that I will take care of getting this support for you for the Sea Control Ship on the hill.

NOTE: Previously Deputy SECDEF Clemments had offered to intercede on the Navy's behalf with Admiral Holloway in company calling on Chairman Mahon. DEPSECDEF Clemments said, however, he would only do it with Secretary Schlesinger's approval. The purpose of bringing the matter up with Schlesinger was to obtain this concurrence from Schlesinger that Clemments was free to call on Mahon. Since Secretary Schlesinger volunteered to handle the matter himself I transmitted this information to RADM Ken Carr for him to pass to Clemments.

c. I told Secretary Schlesinger that I was prepared to move RADM Wellander from OP-06B to Commander, THIRD Naval District within the next month, but that before I informed Wellander, I wanted to be sure that Secretary Schlesinger wanted me to move Welander out of Washington. I said that although Welander might agree to go without a fuss, that

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a move from an important job in Washington to an unimportant in the hustings prior to the normal rotation date, could not help but be noted and that it could invite comment and criticism and bring up discussions of the Pentagon Papers Spying Case again. Secretary Schlesinger said that it probably wiser not to move Welander now but to be prepared to move should it become necessary. I said that we would keep a slot out of town open for Welander and be prepared to move him on short notice should the SECDEF so direct.

d. SECDEF asked what was the situation with the Midway sailors. I responded as follows: There are more than 4,000 sailors aboard Midway and those involved in the deliberate missing movement action were essentially a group of disenchanted young men, mostly black, who were unhappy aboard ship because of their failure to advance and their delegation to menial tasks. They were all characterized by poor performance and disciplinary records. In the case of the blacks they were particularly disillusioned by being aboard a carrier homeported in Japan and because there were no black girls for them to associate with and the Japanese are definitely practicing a form of racial discrimination even though subtle. The blacks are disappointed in their assignments aboard ship and frustrated in their efforts to achieve some sort of a comfortable social relationship outside of working hours, and they became victims through the

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propaganda of a group of anti-war activists who are located in Yokosuka. SECDEF asked how we happened to enlist these people in the Navy and I replied that we always going to find ourselves with a certain number of low performers and malcontents on our hands. SECDEF said, well we should kick them out right away. I answered that I thought it was most important that we follow the due process of law in these cases, with which he fully agreed.

*J. L. Holloway III*  
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Admiral, U.S. Navy

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