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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

27 JUN 1973

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In reply refer to:
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Box 5, 78-0002

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Date: AUG 17 2018

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Contingency Planning for Taiwan (U) - ACTION MEMORANDUM

The last TDY C-130 squadron was withdrawn from Taiwan on 9 June 1973. This withdrawal left the 374th Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW), consisting of four squadrons of sixteen C-130s each, as the remaining tactical airlift unit on Taiwan. The withdrawal of the entire 374th TAW from Taiwan has been under consideration for some time and due to the close-hold nature of the discussions between Secretary Richardson and Dr. Kissinger, I believe the time is appropriate to review the history of events as we know them.

On 2 and 6 February 1973, Secretary Richardson forwarded memoranda to Dr. Kissinger (Blue Tab 1) which summarized the status of US forces on Taiwan and recommended: (1) the withdrawal of two C-130 squadrons (one that was on temporary assignment and one of the four permanently assigned) by September 1973; (2) the relocation by end FY 74 of the remaining three C-130 squadrons, together with the 374th TAW Headquarters and a major portion of the Air Base Support Group at Ching Chuan Kang (CCK) Air Base to a temporary location in the Pacific. Secretary Richardson pointed out that until such time as the GDI completed projected construction at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, to accommodate the entire 374th TAW, it might be necessary to relocate the three squadrons to existing air bases in Korea, the Philippines, or Thailand.

Based on later verbal guidance from Dr. Kissinger, Secretary Richardson asked the Chairman, JCS, to provide a plan for the complete relocation from Taiwan of all C-130 squadrons, 374th TAW Headquarters, and a portion of the Air Base Support Group. This redeployment was to begin in July or August 1973, and be completed by the end of March 1974 (Blue Tab 2). The JCS provided two plans: one for redeployment of the TAW by 31 March 1974; and another to maintain the TAW on Taiwan until Kadena Air Base construction is completed, estimated to be not earlier than fall 1975. The TAW deployment from Taiwan prior to 31 March 1974 would require basing two of the three squadrons at Clark AB, PI as an interim measure until the construction at Kadena was completed in late 1975. The JCS strongly recommended, unless political constraints were overriding, not to move the TAW from CCK Air Base until the facilities at Kadena were ready to receive all three squadrons. In accordance with Secretary of Defense request, ISA reviewed the JCS plans and prepared

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proposed guidance to CJCS and the Secretary of the Air Force that the redeployment occur prior to 31 March 1974 in view of the guidance given to Secretary Richardson by Dr. Kissinger. This complete action package is resubmitted at Blue Tab 3.

There are indications of some uncertainty within Dr. Kissinger's staff as to whether the entire TAW should be redeployed by 30 September 1973 or 31 March 1974. This probably results from the February memorandum (Blue Tab 1) which indicates that two C-130 squadrons (vice the TAW) could be withdrawn by 30 September 1973. We have, therefore, prepared the attached memorandum to Dr. Kissinger which summarizes our current actions and should clarify the timing.

Not attached

(U) Recommend signature of the attached memorandum to Dr. Kissinger and the memoranda to the CJCS and the Secretary of the Air Force at Blue Tab 3.

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Attachments

No coordination required.

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Prepared by DENNIS J. DOOLIN, X-72307

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