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Folder "China (NATS) 320.2, 1973
Box 51 780002

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
SUBJECT: Contingency Planning for Taiwan (U)

~~(S)~~ The last TDY C-130 squadron was withdrawn from Taiwan on 9 June 1973. This redeployment has returned the 374th Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW) to its normal strength of four C-130 squadrons. One of these squadrons will be redeployed to CONUS as soon as the tenuous situation in SEAsia permits.

~~(S)~~ In accordance with your earlier discussions with Secretary Richardson, the remaining three squadrons of the 374th TAW and a major portion of the Air Base Support Group now at Ching Chuan Kang (CCK) will redeploy from Taiwan prior to 31 March 1974. Final bed down of the 374th TAW at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, however, is contingent upon completion of construction of necessary flight line and support facilities by the Government of Japan (GOJ). We do not expect these new facilities to be completed until 1975. In the interim, one squadron will redeploy to Kadena in February 1974 on an austere basis. Concurrently, two squadrons will temporarily redeploy to Clark Air Base, Philippine Islands by 31 March 1974, until the construction at Kadena is completed.

~~(S)~~ There are significant disadvantages involved with this dispersed, two-phased redeployment, not the least of which is the cost of constructing some new living quarters and flight line facilities at Clark. Moreover, having two squadrons at Clark and the third at Kadena is not an optimum arrangement from an operational standpoint. Nevertheless, I am aware of the political gains of withdrawing the entire wing from Taiwan prior to 31 March 1974 and am proceeding on this schedule.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 24 AUG 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552

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J.R. Schley

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~~EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULES OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, EXEMPTION AUTHORITY: _____~~
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~~TOP SECRET~~

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