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SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT TO JAPAN AND KOREA

1. KORRA

The purpose of this visit is to reaffirm our security commitment to South Korea and to warn the North to put aside any notions of military conquest of the South. It is meant as a signal of our determination not only to the Korean peninsula but to all of Asia.

While the Secretary will discuss a number of specific bilateral defense problems, particularly in the military assistance field, the principal issues that will be discussed with President Pak are the following:

- a. U.S. Troop Presence: The Secretary will reaffirm the determination to maintain our troop presence in Korea.
- b. Korean Military Development: South Korea will soon begin a new 5-year Force Development Plan and will seek U.S. financial support. The Secretary will endorse South Korean efforts toward self-reliance and will promise to do our best to help them, particularly with the provision of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) credits. He will agree to their longstanding requests to purchase one squadron of F-4E's and 60 F-5E's to make up their serious deficiencies in the air. He will, however, remind President Pak of the constraints we are under in providing assistance. He will also urge the ROKs to examine more carefully some of their grandiose notions about developing very advanced weapons.

OSD 3.3(b)(6)



- d. Civil Liberties in Korea: President Pak is likely to vigorously defend the necessity of his domestic policies. If he does, the Secretary will merely point out to him that his domestic actions are affecting support for Korea among the American people and Congress.

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- e. Offshore Islands: President Pak will seek immediate U.S. support of defense of these islands (just off the Northwest coast of North Korea) if attacked or blockaded by the North. He will urge retaliation if the North succeeds in grabbing one or more of these islands. The Secretary will endorse the President's efforts to improve the defense capabilities of these islands and make any North Korean effort exceedingly costly. He will agree that we should continue to jointly plan for their defense, but will point out, as Pak well knows, that we can make no commitments at this time on the use of U.S. forces in their defense. We will have to decide what we do when the time comes.

2. JAPAN

The purpose of the Secretary's visit--at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart--is again to reaffirm our commitment to the security of Japan and our determination to maintain our commitments in Asia. The visit will also serve to illustrate the increased consultations in security and other fields that President Ford and Prime Minister Miki called for.

It is not our intent to press the Japanese on spending more for defense or on the specifics of their defense role. Rather, it is to facilitate the healthier public discussion of security issues and U.S.-Japanese defense relations that has just started in Japan. Ultimately, we hope this discussion will lead to greater Japanese-American defense cooperation as well as increase the potential for greater burden-sharing.

While we have no outstanding bilateral defense security issues, the following points are likely to come up:

- a. Korea: The Secretary will reaffirm our commitment to Korea and inform the Japanese of the results of his discussions in Korea. He will make clear to the Japanese that U.S. bases in Japan are essential to the defense of Korea.
- b. U.S. Force Presence in Asia: The Japanese will be interested in our plans for the future. The Secretary will inform them of our determination to maintain our general force levels in Asia, particularly in Korea.
- c. Defense Cooperation: The Secretary will seek to find out what Japanese leaders have in mind when they talk about enhanced U.S.-Japanese cooperation. He will inquire as to the status and content of the new Japanese defense plan and offer his thoughts if solicited. He will agree to Japanese proposals to set up organs to better define and enhance U.S.-Japanese defense cooperation, particularly bilateral military planning.

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

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