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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SECRET/NODIS

February 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

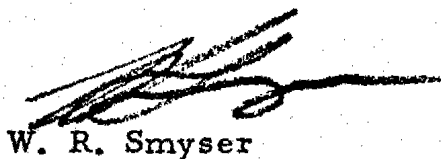
Philip C. Habib
Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asian Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: US Company on the Demilitarized Zone

Attached is a memorandum from General Wickham to General Scowcroft regarding a DOD proposal to withdraw a company of U. S. forces from the Korean DMZ.

The memorandum states that there is a telegram on this subject for clearance at the NSC. That is not correct.

I would be grateful if you would let us know your views on the DOD proposal. I have told Mort Abramowitz that I would ask you for your views and he has agreed that I can send you the DOD paper.



W. R. Smyser

OSD REVIEWED 15-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

cc: C. E. Granger
R. H. Solomon
J. A. Froebe

DOS REVIEWED 16 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

19 FEB 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: US Company on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

Event: Attached info per your request.

(S) The JCS has recommended, and OSD and State concur, that the US Army Infantry Company on the DMZ in Korea be withdrawn. A cable authorizing the Embassy/CINCUNC to inform the ROK and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee (NNSC) of this decision is awaiting NSC concurrence.

(S) In 1971, following withdrawal of the US Army's 7th Infantry Division from the area, a US Infantry Company was assigned responsibility for securing a 500-meter strip astride the United Nations Command (UNC) evacuation route from Panmunjom. It also manned four designated posts inside the DMZ. Inter alia, the company had the prime responsibility for evacuating the Swiss and Swedish members of the NNSC in a contingency. The company is in addition to the US Army Support Group, Joint Security Area (USASGJSA), consisting of about 175 US military and 50 Korean augmentees, which is located in the DMZ area to support the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) and the Swiss and Swedish members of the NNSC. *This will not result in strength draw down only in location in Korea.*

(S) The company's presence is no longer required on the DMZ. The ROK Army is capable of providing the necessary security in the company's area and alternate arrangements utilizing US troops nearby and ROK Army forces can insure emergency evacuation of the Swiss and Swedish NNSC members in an emergency. Removal of the company is in keeping with our policy of lowering the US profile in the area and underscores our recognition of the improved capability and greater maturity of the ROK armed forces. The removal of the company may well be welcomed by the ROK Army since the company's presence complicates the effective operation of the ROK Army regiment whose area of responsibility is split by the company. The company's presence on the DMZ increases the possibility of US involvement in future DMZ incidents and the resulting casualties could have an adverse impact on the US public and Congress. Further it is not anticipated that the removal could affect our relations with the ROK Government or give the wrong signal to other interested nations. Finally Congress has expressed its concern and opposition to the company remaining on the DMZ.

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 83

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(C) The decision to remove the company was approved about two years ago but implementation has been repeatedly held up. We would now like to proceed on this relatively minor matter and request you concur by next week on the proposed outgoing cable to Ambassador Sneider and General Stilwell, which has already been cleared by State.

(W)

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