

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET GDS

March 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

Major General John A. Wickham  
Military Assistant to the Secretary  
Department of Defense

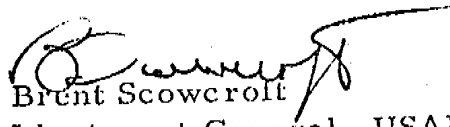
SUBJECT: Significant Military Exercise FOOD CHAIN VI

Significant Military Exercise FOOD CHAIN VI is approved, subject to the following conditions:

-- That our Ambassador to the Republic of China participate in the meetings of the Joint Strategy and Concept Committee on FOOD CHAIN VI in order to insure consistency of the exercise with U. S. obligations under the U. S. -ROC Mutual Defense Treaty and current U. S. foreign policy.

-- That a member of the Ambassador's immediate staff participate in the execution of FOOD CHAIN VI as a political observer, and that he assist in the preparation of a report on the exercise that will be forwarded by COMUSTDC through CINCPAC to DOD for forwarding to the Department of State.

OSD REVIEWED 22-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

  
Brent Scowcroft  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

DOS REVIEWED 21 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

MEMORANDUM

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## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET GDSACTION

March 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

JOHN A. FROEBE, JR. *JAF*

SUBJECT:

Significant Military Exercise  
FOOD CHAIN VI

At Tab B is a memorandum to you from General Wickham asking approval for Significant Military Exercise FOOD CHAIN VI. This is a combined U. S. -Republic of China command post exercise scheduled for May 19-24, 1975 in Taipei as another in the series of annual tests of our Operation Plan Rochester, the U. S. -ROC contingency plan for the defense of Taiwan and the Pescadores under our bilateral Mutual Defense Treaty. The exercise will involve about 2,300 U. S. and ROC military Personnel, of which only slightly over 100 will be U. S. personnel. There is to be no publicity on this exercise, except to acknowledge that a routine CPX was held, if the press asks.

Neither State nor USIA has posed any objection to the exercise.

Because the first exercise in this series several years ago surfaced several major ROC misunderstandings as to the role of U. S. forces in implementing the joint contingency plan, I believe that Embassy Taipei should continue to be involved in this exercise, as it has been since the second in the series was conducted. Its participation has helped clear up these misunderstandings.

At Tab A is a draft memorandum from you to General Wickham approving the exercise, but including the usual stipulations providing for Embassy Taipei's participation.

The critical date for Presidential cancellation is March 28.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the draft memorandum to General Wickham at Tab A.

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

22 MAR 1975

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


**SUBJECT: Significant Military Exercise FOOD CHAIN**

Three copies of a brief on the significant military exercise FOOD CHAIN are forwarded for approval in accordance with NSAM 316. This exercise has been coordinated with the State Department and the U.S. Information Agency. They have raised no objections.

A summary of the politico-military scenario for this exercise appears at paragraph 8 of the brief.

The recommended general public information policy is set forth in paragraph 14 of the exercise brief.

Please note that the critical date for Presidential cancellation is 28 March.

  
JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.  
MAJOR GENERAL, USA  
MILITARY ASSISTANT

Enclosure  
a/s

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WHEN WITH ATTACHMENTS

## COMMANDER IN CHIEF PACIFIC

## BRIEF OF SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE

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1. (U) Name of Exercise. FOOD CHAIN VI.
2. (U) Type. Combined United States/Republic of China (US/ROC) Command Post Exercise (CPX).
3. (S) Aims.
  - a. To test the adaptability and feasibility of the revised US/ROC OPLAN ROCHESTER-74.
  - b. To test and evaluate command and control procedures during a simulated hostile situation.
  - c. Employ ROC modified BALFRAM ADP programs for post exercise analysis.
  - d. Emphasize the affect of a blockade on the logistics readiness of the ROC armed forces.
  - e. Evaluate COMUSTDC WWMCCS ADP facility.
4. (C) Dates. 19-24 May 1975.
5. (C) Critical Date for Presidential Decision to Cancel Exercise (CCD). 28 March 1975.
6. (S) Political Implications. This CPX will demonstrate continuing US commitment under 1954 US/ROC mutual defense treaty.
7. (C) Geographical Area. Exercise will be conducted within the confines of the Combined Operations Center, Tactical Operations Center, Air Operations Center, Naval Operations Center and selected sub-headquarters of the ROC military on Taiwan.
8. Politico-Military Scenario Summary. Scenario will include a naval blockade against Taiwan by PRC surface and submarine assets during pre-exercise phase. Blockade scenario leads to confrontation at sea, introduction of US forces, followed by air attacks on Taiwan. Scenario events will require extensive logistics and operational planning and implementation of all levels of OPLAN ROCHESTER.

CLASSIFIED BY CINCPAC  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO  
YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1983

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9. (U) Directing Headquarters. USTDC and ROC Ministry of National Defense (MND).
10. (U) Participating Commands, Headquarters, and Forces.
- a. US: USTDC, MAAG/China, 327th Air Division, CTF 72 and personnel augmentation allocated by CINCPAC from off-island resources to fill out identified battle staff deficiencies and to form joint exercise simulation group. Approximately 130 persons.
- b. ROC: Ministry of National Defense, General Headquarters of ROC Army, Navy, Air Force, Taiwan Garrison Command, Military Police Command, Combined Service Force and designated lower echelon headquarters. Approximately 2,200 persons.
- c. Total number of personnel participants: Approximately 2,330 persons.
11. (U) Scope of Anticipated Participation.
- a. Other Unified or Specified Commands: CINCPAC.
- b. Unassigned forces of the US military services: CINCPACFLT, CDRUSACSG, CINCPACAF, COMSEVENTHFLT, CTF 72, 327th Air Division, MAAG/China.
- c. Other Federal Agencies: American Embassy, Taipei, invited to observe.
- d. Allied Nations: Officials of ROC military commands. Premier and representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs are expected to observe.
12. (C) Simulated Use of Nuclear Weapons. None.
13. (C) Coordination Effected with Other Unified, Specified or Service Commands, Governmental Departments, Agencies, or Representatives Thereof. Country team coordination has been completed.
14. (C) Recommended General Public Information Policy. No publicity will be afforded this exercise. Questions if asked will be acknowledged with the expression that a routine CPX was conducted.
15. (U) General Policy Concerning. Access to operations centers will be controlled by the ROC and limited to participating personnel and sanctioned observers.

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16. (S) Additional Remarks:

- a. (S) Perception of US and allied strategy is the continued commitment to honor the 1954 Mutual Defense Treaty to defend Taiwan and Penghu against armed attack.
- b. (U) The Ambassador concurs in conducting exercise.

Prepared by:  
COL W. C. Wooley, USA  
Pacific Division, J-3  
Ext 77362/3Mar75

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