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No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-81-3-9-9

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

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4 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR LTG BRENT SCOWCROFT, USAF  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Brent -

Attached for your information is a talking paper given to Secretary Schlesinger by General Stilwell. It concerns a CPX with critical cancellation date of 5 October. The ROK officials made quite a point of emphasizing the value of joint exercises and urged that additional ones be scheduled. Secretary Schlesinger agreed in general and told me that he wished to be personally involved whenever there was an indication a scheduled exercise was to be delayed or cancelled.

Attachment  
As stated

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JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.  
Major General, USA  
Military Assistant

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

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As per instructions on document  
By PK Date 3/94

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-81-3-9-9

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EXERCISE FOCUS LENS '76

FOCUS LENS is a Combined/Joint Korea-wide CPX. It is my principal vehicle for testing defense plans, training staff personnel, examining interface with external US commands and ROK ministries, and surfacing deficiencies. In a one year tour area, it is essential that an exercise of this nature be conducted at least annually. For a number of reasons - notably including the high personnel turnover each summer - fall is the best season for conduct of this exercise. FOCUS LENS '76 is scheduled for 5 - 14 November 1975.

This year, FOCUS LENS has special importance:

- It will concentrate on the operational feasibility and logistic supportability of the Short War concept.
- For the first time, it has been planned and developed as a joint ROK/US effort. My chief planner is a ROK General heading a large staff of ROK and US officers, from all services, who have been at work for the past six months. In contrast to past precedent, every step has been completely co-ordinated with MND.
- For the first time, we will field and test a combined ROK/US battle staff which, in my view, we must have for the effective conduct of operations on this Peninsula.

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It will be recalled that MND Suh had specific reference to FOCUS LENS (RETINA) during the course of the private meeting on 26 August.

Two years ago, I was directed to postpone FOCUS LENS until after the adjournment of the UN General Assembly session - and ultimately had to cancel it because of the impracticality of rescheduling. The possibility of a similar directive - stemming from political sensitivities - exists this year.

The arguments for conducting FOCUS LENS on schedule are, in my estimate, impressive:

- Its military importance is self-evident.
- It involves no troop movements and has virtually no visibility. As the kind of normal, recurring military activity indulged in routinely by all major commands throughout the world, it is not susceptible to credible propaganda attack; and thus cannot adversely impact on the UNGA vote on the Korea issue.

- It is both consistent with and reinforcing of the JCS directed exercise IVORY HUNTER which coincides with the opening of the UNGA.

- A two month postponement (i. e. , until after UNGA plus Christmas Holidays) would require major changes in already issued documentation and reconstitution of control groups.

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- Finally, in the eyes of the ROK military, such postponement would be inconsistent with the overall thrust of the Eighth SCM in which the Secretary of Defense participated so brilliantly and forcefully.

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It goes without saying that a postponement of a few days, to avoid conflict with some specific major event, is entirely manageable.

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