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By TJM NARA, Date 11/14/85

Declassified
E.O. 12958, Sect. 3.6

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

October 11, 1969

Handwritten:
Kearney
Kearney

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Test of U. S. Military Readiness

As you directed, actions have been taken and are being planned to test the readiness posture of selected U. S. forces. These actions will be discernible to the Soviets, but not threatening.

We have selected initial actions which can be taken without prior consultation with our allies, with no additional expenditure of funds and without degradation of current essential missions.

I believe these actions and other suggested actions being requested of the commanders concerned will meet the objectives outlined in your request.

A brief outline plan and implementing messages already dispatched are attached hereto.

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TOP SECRET

SENSITIVE

GROUP-3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals; not automatically declassified

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By JM NARA, Date 11/14/75

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TAB A

OUTLINE PLAN FOR TESTING MILITARY READINESS

Objective - To achieve a readiness posture with selected US forces for the period 13-25 October in a manner which will be discernible to the Soviets, but not threatening.

Assumptions - Actions will: not require additional funding or resources; not require consultation or agreement with allies; can be taken without degradation of current essential missions; can be taken with plausible rationale for public information purposes; be readily apparent to Soviets as increased US readiness for confrontation.

Courses of Action - Selected US military forces worldwide will be directed to stand-down all flying training activity, and to take certain other measures.

a. A message will be dispatched to SAC no later than 1200 hours, 11 October, directing stand-down of all flying training and reinstatement of degraded alert sorties to maximum extent possible. Stand-down will commence at 0800 local Omaha time on 13 October 1969. The stand-down will continue until otherwise directed by the JCS.

b. A message will be dispatched to CINCONAD, CINCPAC, CINCEUR, and CINCSTRIKE, no later than 1200 hours, 13 October, directing stand-down of all flying training

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activities and assumption of highest degree of combat readiness permitted by stand-down and consistent with no change in DEFCON. Stand-down will continue until otherwise directed by the JCS.

Timing - The stand-down postures will continue until US intelligence indicates Soviets have become aware of the increased readiness. A special intelligence watch has been established for this purpose. SAC will begin its stand-down 2 days earlier than other participating commands to permit appearance of intensification of US readiness over a period of several days. The US Sixth Fleet will impose EMCOM to create impression of unusual fleet activity in addition to standing down normal flying training activity. The JCS will determine when commands will be selectively returned to normal posture.

Possible second Phase - Participating commands will be requested by separate message to suggest possible additional measures for second phase implementation. These measures will be considered by the JCS and directed for implementation as selected.

Termination - All operations will return to normal no later than 25 October, and possibly earlier, if directed by the JCS.



By TJM NARA, Date 11/19/88
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JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET			
TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE X
PRECEDENCE			
ACTION IMMEDIATE			
INFO			

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCSAC

T O P S E C R E T

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE {U}

1. {TS} HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. {TS} AS THE SAC PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMENCING AT 0800 HOURS LOCAL TIME 13 OCTOBER 1969.

A. STAND DOWN ALL TRAINING FLIGHTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BY THE JCS.

B. REINSTATE DEGRADED ALERT SORTIES TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE AND REPORT WHEN THIS ACTION IS COMPLETE. THIS POSTURE IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION

CJCS (S)
J-3 (S)

2ff-1

#4

DATE	10	TIME	
MONTH	OCT	YEAR	1969
PAGE NO.	1	NO. OF PAGES	2

D R A F T E R	TYPED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE
	COL RAY B. SITTON, USAF STR OPS DIV, J-3	59080

R E L E A S E R	SIGNATURE
	<i>Paul M Kearney</i>
TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE	
Paul M Kearney Assistant	

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ABBREVIATED and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

PRECEDENCE	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	PHONE
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INFO			

3. [TS] THESE DIRECTED ACTIONS SHOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT SOUTHEAST ASIA OPERATIONS.

4. [S] IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION	INITIALS
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REGRADE INSTRUCTIONS				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	TOP SECRET

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JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
TOP SECRET-NOFORN-SPECAT

TOP SECRET-NOFORN-SPECAT

TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
		X	
PRECEDENCE			
ACTION	IMMEDIATE		
INFO	IMMEDIATE		

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCPAC

INFO: CINCPACFLT
 CINCPACAF
 COMUSKOREA
 COMSAF
 SAFADVON

SPECAT

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CJCS
J-3 (U)

TOP SECRET NOFORN SPECAT

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE (U)

1. {TS-NF} HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS, BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. {TS-NF} AS THE PACOM PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING:

A. COMMENCING AT 0800I, 15 OCT 69 {2300Z, 14 OCT 69}, STANDDOWN ALL REPEAT ALL US MILITARY

2ff-3

#4

DATE	TIME
10	1750
MONTH	YEAR
OCT	69
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	

D R A F T E R	TYPED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE
	LTC W. R. USHER, USAF PACIFIC DIVISION, J-3	77254

SIGNATURE
<i>Paul M Kearney</i>
TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
Paul M Kearney Administrative Assistant

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
TOP SECRET-NOFORN-SPECAT

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

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ABBREVIATION and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

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TRAINING FLIGHTS WITHIN THE KOREAN AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE (ADIZ) UNTIL FURTHER DIRECTED BY THE JCS.

B. DIRECT ALL US MILITARY OPERATIONAL AIR UNITS WITHIN THE KOREAN ADIZ TO UTILIZE THE STANDDOWN TO ACHIEVE AN IMPROVED STATE OF READINESS. REINSTATE DEGRADED SIOP ALERT SORTIES TO EXTENT FEASIBLE. DO NOT CHANGE DEFCON.

3. (S-NF) IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-1

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JOINT MESSAGEF

TOP SECRET

TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
			X
PRECEDENCE			
ACTION IMMEDIATE			
INFO			

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: USCINCEUR

TOP SECRET

2077

CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE {U}

1. {TS} HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. {TS} AS USEUCOM PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMENCING AT 0800 HOURS LOCAL ZONE TIME ON 15 OCT 69:

A. STAND DOWN ALL TRAINING FLIGHTS, ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND MARINE CORPS, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BY THE JCS.

B. BRING ALL AIRCRAFT AND CREWS TO A MAXIMUM STATE OF READINESS CONSISTENT WITH NO CHANGE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CJCS (S)
J-3 (S)

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten mark]

DATE	TIME
10	1756
MONTH	YEAR
OCT	69
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	

D R A F T E R	TYPED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE
	COL GEORGE H. RUSSELL, USA EUROPEAN/MEAFSA DIV., J-3	54846

RELEASER	SIGNATURE
	<i>Paul M Kearney</i>
	TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
	Paul M Kearney Administrative Assistant

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REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS to Chairman, J.C.S.

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PRECEDENCE	BY	DRAFTED BY
ACTION		
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IN EXISTING DEFCON.

C. UNITS OF THE SIXTH FLEET WILL OPERATE UNDER CONDITIONS OF MAXIMUM PRACTICAL EMCON COMMENSURATE WITH SAFETY AND WITH THE MINIMUM TRANSMISSIONS REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR EXERCISE DEEP FURROW.

3. {S} IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO. 2	NO. OF PAGES 2	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION	INITIAL
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REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET
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REVED FOR CO.

JOINT MESSAGE (C)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET			
TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
			X
PRECEDENCE			
ACTION IMMEDIATE			
INFO			

DTG

FROM: JCS

TO: CINCSTRIKE-

SPECIAL INSTRUCT

*CJCS
J-3*

T O P S E C R E T CJCS SENDS

SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE (U)

1. (TS) HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS DIRECTED THAT WE TEST US CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR. IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS BUT SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING.

2. (TS) AS THE STRIKE PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMENCING AT 0800 LOCAL TIME FOR CONCERNED UNITS ON 15 OCTOBER 1969.

- A. STAND DOWN ALL TRAINING FLIGHTS.
- B. INCREASE THE READINESS OF STRIKE FORCES TO THE HIGHEST STATE OF READINESS THAT CAN BE ATTAINED

DATE	TIME
<i>10</i>	<i>04</i>
MONTH	YEA
<i>OCT</i>	<i>1</i>
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<i>1</i>	

DRAFTER	TYPED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE	RELEASES	SIGNATURE
	W. A. EVANS, JR. LTC, USAF WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIV, J-3	72209		<i>Paul Kearney</i>
				TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
				Paul M. Kearney Administrative Assistant
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION			REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS	
<i>TOP SECRET</i>				

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and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

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TOP SECRET



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CONSISTENT WITH NO CHANGE IN DEFCON STATUS.

THIS POSTURE IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FURTHER NOTIFIED BY JCS.

3. (S) IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

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ACTION			
INFO			

CONSISTENT WITH NO CHANGE IN DEFCON STATUS. THIS POSTURE IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FURTHER NOTIFIED BY JCS.

3. {S} IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE ABOVE ACTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT WE ARE MERELY TESTING CURRENT READINESS POSTURE. DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. GP-3

CONTROL NO.	TOR/TOD	PAGE NO. 2	NO. OF PAGES 2	MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION	INITIALS
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JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SENSITIVE

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET-EYES ONLY-SENSITIVE

TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
		X	

Oct 10 22 05:50

PRECEDENCE

ACTION IMMEDIATE

COMMUNICATIONS

INFO

DTG

FROM: GEN WHEELER, CHAIRMAN, JCS

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CJCS
J-3

- TO:
- GEN HOLLOWAY, CINCSAC
 - ADM MCCAIN, CINCPAC
 - GEN GOODPASTER, CINCEUR
 - ADM HOLMES, CINCLANT
 - GEN HICKEE, CINCNORAD/COMAD
 - GEN THROCKMORTON, CINCSTRIKE
 - GEN MATHER, CINSO
 - LGEN RUEGG, CINCAL

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

TOP SECRET EYES ONLY SENSITIVE JCS 12650 OCT 69

1. WE HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY TO INSTITUTE A SERIES OF ACTIONS DURING THE PERIOD 130000Z - 250000Z OCT, TO TEST OUR MILITARY READINESS IN SELECTED AREAS WORLD-WIDE TO RESPOND TO POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BY THE SOVIET UNION. THESE ACTIONS SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE TO THE SOVIETS, BUT NOT THREATENING IN THEMSELVES. THEY MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING TYPE ACTIONS:

A. STAND-DOWN OF FLYING OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT IN SELECTED AREAS OR COMMANDS, TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL READINESS.

ZFF-3

EYES ONLY

DATE	TIME
10	1800
MONTH	YEAR
OCT	1969
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	2

TYPED NAME AND TITLE

PHONE

RELEASE

SIGNATURE

RADM F. A. BARDSHAR, USN

56243

Paul K...

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ACTION IMMEDIATE				
INFO				

ABBREVIATED JOINT MESSAGEFORM
and/or CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF RADIO AND/OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS SILENCE IN SELECTED AREAS OR COMMANDS.

C. INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF SOVIET SHIPS EN ROUTE TO NORTH VIETNAM.

D. INCREASED GROUND ALERT RATE OF SAC BOMBERS AND TANKERS.

2. TO INITIATE ACTIONS WITHIN THE TIME FRAME SPECIFIED, CERTAIN COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO STAND-DOWN TRAINING FLIGHTS AND INTRODUCE VARYING DEGREES OF EMCON. THESE INITIAL ACTIONS WILL COVER THE FIRST FOUR DAYS OF THE 14-DAY PERIOD.

3. I REQUEST THAT YOU NOMINATE FURTHER ACTIONS COMPATIBLE WITH THE GUIDANCE HEREIN, AND COGNIZANT OF LOCAL PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO YOUR AREAS, ALLIES, AND ENVIRONMENT. THESE NOMINATIONS ARE REQUIRED NLT 122300Z. ACTIONS PROPOSED SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH PROJECT 703.

4. WARM REGARDS. GP-1

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WAKING HOURS.

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RECOMMENDED GENERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS PLAN

1. There will be no public information releases made concerning subject activities or operations. In the event it becomes necessary or desirable to inform the public, the following contingency planning guidance will apply.

a. The Assistant Secretary of Defense/Public Affairs will be responsible for specific instructions to all commands concerning initial and follow-on public information releases relating to this operation.

b. An initial public information release will be made by the OASD/PA in Washington at _____ hours, 13 October 1969. This release will be made in a routine manner normal for announcements concerning joint exercises. Essential elements of the release will include the following:

"The Defense Department announced today that elements of its unified and specified commands in selected areas world-wide are scheduled to begin a series of operational and logistical exercises on 13 October 1969. These exercises are designed to test the current military readiness of U.S. forces. The exercises will be terminated when readiness test objectives have been satisfied."

c. Participating commands will prepare similar public information announcements to be used in answer to local press

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query that may be generated after the national release. These local releases in response to query will emphasize that visible activities are simply part of the world-wide test of current military readiness. Any significant departure from the text of the national release will not repeat not be made until cleared and authorized by OASD/PA.