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.
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
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.
FROM: JCS
TO: CINCSCAC

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.
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
FROM: JCS

TO: CINCPAC

INFO: CINCPACFLT
      CINCPACAF
      COMUSKOREA
      COMSAF
      5AFADVON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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 0800, 15 OCT 69 (2300Z,
      14 OCT 69), STANDDOWN ALL REPEAT ALL US MILITARY
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
TO: USCINCEUR

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
IN EXISTING DEFCON.

C. UNITS OF THE SIXTH FLEET WILL OPERATE UNDER CONDITIONS OF MAXIMUM PRACTICAL EMCON COMMUNISURATE 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
FROM: JCS

TO: CINCSFRIKE

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.
CONSISTENT WITH NO CHANGE IN DEFCON STATUS.
THIS POSTURE IS TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTIFIED BY JCS.
3. 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
SUBJ: INCREASED READINESS POSTURE (U)

1. (TS) HIGHER AUTHORITY HAS DIRECTED THAT WE TEST OUR 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 CONAD 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 CONAD FORCES TO THE HIGHEST STATE OF READINESS THAT CAN BE ATTAINED.
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
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.

FROM: GEN WHEELER, CHAIRMAN, JCS

TO: GEN HOLLOWAY, CINCSAC
ADM MCCAIN, CINCPAC
GEN GOODPASTER, CINCEUR
ADM HOLMES, CINCLANT
GEN HICKS, CINCHORAD/CONAD
GEN THROCKMORTON, CINCSTRIKE
GEN NATHER, CINCSO
LGEN RUEGG, CINCS

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ZFF-3
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.
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...
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.