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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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April 26, 1969

National Security Study Memorandum 53

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Korean Contingency Planning

The President has directed that a full range of military contingency plans be prepared in the event of future provocations by North Korea. Planning should consider provocations ranging from lower levels of North Korean insurgency action to higher levels of provocation, including incidents such as the EC-121 shootdown. The plans should be based on current and foreseeable deployments.

Because of the urgency of this requirement, development of possible provocations and corresponding U.S. military responses should not await the completion of the on-going politico/military contingency planning for Korea being conducted under the provisions of NSSM 34. Rather, the Secretary of Defense should submit a full range of contingency plans to the President within two weeks. Copies of these plans should be sent simultaneously to the Secretary of State so that he can analyze the political implications of alternative reactions and to the Director of Central Intelligence for an analysis of enemy reactions. These papers should be forwarded to the President within two weeks of receipt of the DOD paper. Following receipt of the latter two papers, the NSC Interagency Korean Coordinating Committee will meet to consider a range of political/military options.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: EO 12958, as amended
Chief, Declass Br, Dir. & Rec. WHS

MAR 29 2006

Henry A. Kissinger
Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

ASD/ISA has action to prepare reply for your signature

05-M-0581
Sec Def has seen

NSC DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW [E.O. 12958 as amended]

DECLASSIFY IN FULL

by D. Sanborn on 1/17/2006

Previously declassified 11/15/1993 F88-1122

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