



THE JOINT STAFF

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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FDR KOREA 001 1 MAY 68 -
31 APR 69

DJSM-585-68
14 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Possible Responses to North Korean Attack on the Republic of Korea (U)

Reference: CM-3223-68, dated 19 April 1968, subject as above.

I. This memorandum is provided in response to the reference and your request for a very informal and brief review of salient features of the contingency plans for Korea. This memorandum provides the current JCS guidance on Korea, the current status of existing contingency plans and their salient features, and a status of actions being taken as a result of the reference. A more comprehensive verbal briefing on the contingency plans is available at your desire.

II. JCS Guidance - Basically the current guidance to CINCPAC and CINCUNC/COMUSKOREA is as follows:

- a. Maintain the Terms of the Armistice Agreement.
- b. Defend Korea.

III. Status of Plans -

1. Rules of Engagement -

In support of maintaining the Terms of the Armistice Agreement, General Bonesteel has promulgated Rules of Engagement that provide for the protection and assistance to forces taken under North Korean fire within the DMZ.

2. CINCPAC OPLAN 27-yr - Defense of Korea -

a. CINCPAC has recently submitted CINCPAC OPLAN 27-69, which is a complete revision and update of OPLAN 27-65. JCS review, under MOP 144 procedures, has been expedited and will be concluded by 20 May 1968.

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b. Very flexible plan - nuclear and/or conventional - with or without CHICOM and/or USSR intervention - defensive, offensive, withdrawal.

c. Two phases - hold as far forward as possible - when forces and situation permit conduct offensive actions.

d. Forces and Logistics - Force and logistic requirements (up to 12 1/3 US divisions and 40 Tactical Bomber Squadrons) would require disengagement from Southeast Asia, additional force withdrawals from NATO commitments, dissolution of the training base, mobilization, and/or early use of nuclear weapons.

3. As a result of the PUEBLO incident and the deployment of additional aircraft to PACOM to meet the threat of the North Korean air order of battle, CINCPAC was tasked to prepare plans for the neutralization of the North Korean AOB.

a. CINCPAC forwarded his OPLAN FRESH STORM, which has been reviewed by the JCS. Approval will be forwarded to CINCPAC on or about 15 May 1968.

(1) CINCPAC OPLAN FRESH STORM - Four preemptive options and one retaliatory option - conventional weapons - options differ as to forces and timing - round-the-clock operations until North Korean AOB is neutralized or the operation is terminated.

(2) Option ALPHA - US Tactical Air
Option BRAVO - US Tactical Air, ROKAF
Option CHARLIE - US Tactical Air, ROKAF, B-52s
Option DELTA - US Tactical Air, ROKAF, B-52s
Retaliatory - Option ECHO - US Tactical Air, ROKAF, B-52s

4. Nuclear contingency plan against North Korea - subsequent to the PUEBLO incident, CINCPAC forwarded a basic outline for planning of a nuclear contingency plan against North Korea. A CJCS message informed CINCPAC that his planning concept appeared appropriate and to forward his detailed plan for JCS review and approval. This plan he has termed FREEDOM DROP -

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a. Coordinated nuclear plan using US tactical aircraft and/or HONEST JOHN rockets and SERGEANT missiles.

b. Three options varying from several military targets to all significant North Korean offensive and logistic support targets - 70KT maximum yield - flexible selection of options or sequential use of options.

c. FREEDOM DROP has been reviewed under the procedures of MOP 144 and approved as submitted by CINCPAC. Message informing CINCPAC of the approval has been withheld by direction of the Chairman, JCS, for a propitious time of release.

IV. Hiatus in Approved Plans -

1. As was recognized, there is, with regard to approved plans to respond to varying scales of North Korean provocative actions, a hiatus between the CINCPAC/COMUSKOREA Rules of Engagement and the CINCPAC OPLANS FRESH STORM, FREEDOM DROP, and OPLAN 27-69 (Defense of Korea). Following is a brief resume of the actions being taken in regard to the reference.

a. Conference at CINCPAC - 26 to 30 April 1968 - developed spread sheets on possible North Korean provocative acts and a spectrum of responses by the United States and/or ROK designed to cause the North Koreans to cease and desist in their provocative acts. These spread sheets and forwarding letter are currently being staffed within CINCPAC's staff and the component commands including COMUSKOREA. CINCPAC has been requested to provide these to JCS by 20 May 1968.

b. The referenced Chairman's memorandum has been released to the Services and a paper has been drafted in preparation for the receipt of CINCPAC's input, at which time the paper will be circulated in the buff. The paper will address possible policy changes required, the delegation and reservation of executing authorities as applicable, and recommended guidance for the preparation of plans, as well as the spectrum of military offensive actions deemed appropriate in view of the possible North Korean provocative acts.

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c. As a result of the Pueblo incident and in consideration of possible counteractions and North Korean reactions, the Joint Staff has been working on plans within this portion of the spectrum of options. Agreements among the Services and State Department coordination on aspects of political feasibility have been difficult. The result of these efforts will be included in consideration of b above.

2. Talking Paper for Discussion with General Eisenhower -

a. A Talking Paper has been drafted for use in any planned discussions with General Eisenhower.

b. In view of the present state of General Eisenhower's health, it is believed appropriate that the Talking Paper for your use not be finalized at this time but be held in draft form and finalized up-to-date when your discussion is scheduled.


B. E. SPIVY
Lt General, USA
Director, Joint Staff

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