

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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May 5, 1977

Presidential Directive/NSC-12

TO: The Vice President  
The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense

ALSO: The Secretary of the Treasury  
The United States Representative to the  
United Nations  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
The Director, Office of Management and Budget  
The Director, Arms Control and  
Disarmament Agency  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: U. S. Policy in Korea (U)

Following the National Security Council's review of U. S. policy options toward Korea, I direct that:

-- The U. S. 2nd Division and supporting elements shall be gradually withdrawn from Korea. Withdrawal of one brigade and its supporting elements (but no less than 6,000 ground force personnel) should be completed by the end of CY 1978; a second brigade and supporting elements (but no less than 9,000 ground force personnel) should be withdrawn no later than the end of June 1980. I will determine at a later date the timing for the completion of ground force withdrawals. The Defense Department should submit to me by May 16 a detailed plan for the withdrawal of the first two brigades. Final decisions on the precise phasing of ground force withdrawals shall be made following consultations with key Congressional leaders and the governments of South Korea and Japan. U. S. air units will remain in Korea indefinitely.

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-- During the period of ground force withdrawals, the United States will provide to the Republic of Korea military assistance at levels adequate to overcome deficiencies arising from the withdrawal of U. S. ground forces. The Department of Defense should submit to me by May 16 a detailed proposal for military assistance to the ROK, including FMS credits, and the transfer of equipment from the 2nd Division. The Inter-agency Group for East Asia and Pacific should also submit to me by May 16 a plan for additional measures (e. g. military exercises, temporary augmentation of air deployments, Congressional scenario for military assistance to the ROK, command arrangements, diplomatic moves, and public declarations) to sustain deterrence in Korea and avoid misunderstandings of U. S. intentions by South Korea, North Korea, Japan, and other countries.

-- A Special Emissary should be sent to Seoul at an early date to begin consultations with the Republic of Korea on U. S. troop withdrawals. His objective will be to reassure the Government of the Republic of Korea of our firm intention to fulfill our treaty commitment; elicit President Park's views on the phasing of troop withdrawals, ROK military assistance requirements, command arrangements, and the preservation of a favorable investment climate in South Korea; and reiterate U. S. concerns about the human rights situation in Korea. This Emissary is authorized to inform the Japanese Government of U. S. plans.

  
Jimmy Carter

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