

DECLASSIFIED

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NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002
By SPC Date 02/17/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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April 6, 1972

National Security Study Memorandum 154

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

SUBJECT: U. S. Policy Concerning the Korean Peninsula

The President has directed a review of our policies toward the Korean Peninsula. The study should identify U. S. interests and objectives (both near and long-term) toward the Peninsula, potential issues in our relations with South Korea and North Korea, and the options open to the United States in respect to those issues over the next three to five years.

The study should examine:

-- The present and prospective military, economic, and political balance between North Korea and South Korea (taking into account the study completed in response to NSSM 69).

-- The interests, objectives, and roles of the PRC, USSR, and Japan, and those of other Asian states such as the ROC, in respect to the Peninsula.

-- The impact of improved U. S. - PRC relations on South Korea and North Korea, and how improved U. S. - PRC relations may affect the interests and roles of other major powers in their relations with South Korea and North Korea.

-- The ways and extent to which U. S. - Japan relations are or may be affected by the U. S. posture toward the Peninsula.

The study should include consideration of the following issues:

-- Korean reunification and political accommodation between South Korea and North Korea (including consideration of the general forms that reunification and political accommodation might take, their effects on stability in the Peninsula, the possible timing of moves toward reunification

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and political accommodation, and the relationship between moves toward reunification and those toward political accommodation).

- Continued U. N. presence in Korea.
- Korean participation in the United Nations.
- U. S. military presence in South Korea (taking into account the study completed in response to NSSM 69).
- U. S. assistance for South Korean forces (continuation of the U. S. assistance in the modernization of ROK forces as approved in NSDM 129 should be assumed).
- The nature and extent of U. S. trade with and economic assistance to South Korea.
- The nature and extent of any U. S. contacts with North Korea.

The study should be prepared by the NSC Interdepartmental Group for East Asia and submitted not later than May 10, 1972 for consideration by the Senior Review Group.


Henry A. Kissinger