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TALKING PAPER
MEETING WITH COUNTRY TEAM

You will be meeting with the Country Team from 0900 to 0940 on 18 October to obtain their views regarding the issues on the SCM agenda, last minute developments, and suggestions for handling sensitive issues.

You might use the meeting specifically to obtain:

- John Wickham's appreciation of recent development affecting the North-South military balance and his views on the North Korean threat and the possibility of a test of the US commitment to the ROK.
- Bill Gleysteen's assessment of the political situation and its impact on security issues.

In addition you will want to review a number of specific issues.

1. AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT

You should inform the Country Team of the President's decision on F-5 co-assembly, and solicit their view on what Ro will say regarding the F-16 program. Indicate that you intend to inform Ro that our commitment in principle to sell F-16s stands, that we will provide the requested P&B data expeditiously, and that you are prepared to recommend strongly an early signing of an LOA if Ro presses for this.

2. ROK DEFENSE SPENDING

The Country Team has reservations about pushing the Koreans to increase defense spending at this time; as a corollary, they wish to avoid any heavy pressure on the ROKs to increase host country support for US Armed Forces on the peninsula. Finally, they are skeptical about the wisdom of pushing ROK/Japanese defense cooperation at this juncture. You should:

- Invite their views on the economic impact of recent defense budget increases, and on how to approach President Park and Minister Ro on the defense spending issue.
- Request Wickham's rundown on what additional ROK defense dollars will be spent on during the next fiscal year.
- Summarize how you intend to handle the host nation support issue and ROK-GOJ security relations and solicit their reactions.

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3. MISSILE DEVELOPMENT

The issue of US support for ROK development of a surface-to-surface missile (SSM) capability should have been satisfactorily resolved by the dispatch of a letter from General Wickham to Minister Ro, outlining the conditions under which we will support the ROK effort. (Attached)
You should:

- Seek Wickham's and Gleysteen's views of the current state-of-play on the issue and their reactions to your talking points for dealing with the issue with Ro and Park.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

Bill Gleysteen will be carrying a letter from President Carter to Park on the human rights issue. Bill thinks the two of you should discuss the matter briefly with Park. You will have ample opportunity to discuss this with Bill on the plane. You should solicit John Wickham's views prior to the meeting.

5. NORTH SOUTH RELATIONS

You should request the Ambassador's assessment of possibilities of North Korea entering into tripartite talks and about his view of long-term developments in North-South relations. Note that if time permits you plan to ask President Park about this matter and solicit Gleysteen's advice about points you should make on the subject during your talk with the President.

6. FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL

Run over the specific proposals for upgrading US/ROK combat capabilities, including:

- Earlier deployment of AWACS.
- Deployment of an A-10 squadron to Korea with the ROK's providing beddown facilities;
- Upgunning of US artillery units;
- Introduction of a more modern helicopter with anti-tank capability;
- Improvement in I&W and communications.

Solicit COMUSK views on these proposals.

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7. NEXT YEAR'S SCM

Finally invite Country Team views regarding the timing and location of next year's meeting which we are slated to host. You might recall that this year's meeting is taking place later than any other SCM and that a late spring or early summer SCM, when the meetings normally take place, might be better since 1980 is an election year. Because of the Presidential election you should indicate that this is not the time to break the precedent of having the meeting outside the Washington area. Recall that in prior election years the meetings took place rather early: (1976 - 26-27 May, Honolulu; 1972, 26-27 June, Colorado Springs). Ask for suggestions regarding possible meeting and date sites for 1980.

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