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

SUBJECT: U. S. Strategy for Asia  

The President has directed that in the aftermath of the Vietnamese conflict, current U. S. strategy for Asia should be reviewed.  

The study should define current U. S. strategy in Asia and changes that the U. S. could adopt for the future. In developing these policy options the study should consider:  

-- A range of specific defense objectives.  

-- Alternative goals of U. S. security assistance programs in terms of the size and type of threat allied forces could be structured to meet. Economic and political constraints should be considered.  

-- Associated U. S. conventional force requirements and the likely impact on overall U. S. force levels. In considering the impact on overall force levels, the study should assume no change in U. S. strategy for defense of NATO.  

-- The impact of adopting these policy options on relations with our Allies and potential adversaries. This work should consider, among other things, the political factors that are likely to influence relations between Asian nations over the coming five years.  

The study should assess our current nuclear doctrines, forces, and employment planning in Asia and develop alternative doctrines which
could be used to support our future planning. The focus should be on
the use of nuclear weapons in support of conventional forces (Allied
and U.S.). The relationship between these alternative doctrines and
U.S. nuclear delivery systems and deployments should be considered.

The study should also evaluate alternative U.S. military basing
postures for the Asian mainland and Western Pacific islands for the
FY74 to FY75 period in terms of:

-- Capabilities to support alternative military strategies against
the current and projected threat. For example, the capability inherent
in various deployment postures to move the necessary men and material
should be evaluated.

-- Allied reactions to alternative basing postures including the
phasing from our current deployment posture to the alternative con-
sidered. Particular attention should be given to an evaluation of how
various deployment postures would impact on Allied perceptions of
U.S. capability and willingness to support strategy objectives.

The analysis should be based upon the work done previously for the
NSSM-69 study and should be completed by March 30, 1973, for
review by the Defense Program Review Committee prior to its
consideration by the President. The study will be prepared by a
committee composed of the representatives of the addressees and the
NSC staff and chaired by a representative of the Department of Defense.

Henry A. Kissinger