

Gen. Singlaub Challenges NSC's Pacific Strategy

"Either President Carter is getting very, very bad advice, or the people who are running things are deliberately trying to weaken our national security," charged Major General John K. Singlaub recently in one of a series of articles which appeared in the *Atlanta Journal*, distributed by United Features Syndicate.

Following an article by John Saar in the *Washington Post*, which claimed: "General Singlaub states that the withdrawal of U.S. troops on the current plan will lead to war," General Singlaub was relieved of duty in South Korea by President Carter after 35 years of active military service in the Pacific theater. He was subsequently forcibly retired from the U.S. Army in the wake of charges that he had publicly criticized the withdrawal of troops from South Korea after the President (and Commander-in-Chief) had decided officially in favor of troop reduction.

According to General Singlaub, U.S. intelligence in Southeast Asia was concentrated on the Korean situation during 1975, at which time it was discovered that North Korea had moved forward their artillery, part of "a significant offensive buildup north of the DMZ." Aircraft had been housed in underground hangers with steel doors and radar units were mounted on elevators, to be lowered in the event of an attack.

He feels, however, that U.S. military presence has prevented a North Korean invasion: "But as the North Koreans look across the DMZ, they see the U.S. 2nd Division sitting astride the main access of advance into Seoul,"

'Signal For China To Move'

Aside from the strength of the 2nd Division, Singlaub pointed out that since both China and the Soviet Union are engaged in negotiations with the United States, neither wish to be drawn into a direct military confrontation with the U.S. "The withdrawal from Korea, I believe, would be a signal to other nations in Asia that we were giving up our Pacific role, and it would be a signal to China to move...."

Singlaub warned of dangerous military escalation in the area should North Korea invade and control the South. "A communist-controlled Korea would be a

serious threat to the security of Japan, separated from the peninsula only by the narrow straits of Tsu Shima." Withdrawal of U.S. ground troops would also mean that Japan would have to produce nuclear weapons, the retired general pointed out, calling this "a further proliferation we don't want."

He further charged that the decision to withdraw troops was made by the President *outside* the knowledge or advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Army, who "learned about it on either the radio or by reading it in the paper. . . . They were told quite simply, either support this or we accept your retirement."

Who's Brookings?

General Singlaub suspects that Carter's decision may have come from the Brookings Institution or from retired Rear Admiral Gene LaRoque, head of the Washington D.C. Center for Defense Information. (CDI is "unofficially" affiliated with the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington D.C.-based left-liberal think tank that has been documented by this news service and by Italian and Soviet publications as a command center for international terrorist operations.)

"As for the Brookings Institution," said Singlaub, "I don't know of anyone who thinks it is a good institution. . . . Certainly it has produced studies that in my mind don't even qualify as sound academic studies."

The Volunteer Army

Concerned for the quality of the all-volunteer military force, General Singlaub warned that the literacy level of enlisted men was a major problem to national security: Singlaub exp

" . . . We find that the level of literacy is down. Now, that's not just related to the Army; it's apparently a measure of the educational system of our country." The general noted that "these soldiers can't read the manuals that they need to read to operate the equipment. They can't record their observations in the times that are needed because their level of literacy is so low."

Blaming these shocking problems on the nation's school system, he admitted the army is having "to rewrite our field manuals into fifth-grade English. It was bad enough before, at the eighth-grade level."