The original documents are located in Box C8, folder "Japan, 1969-1973 - Documents 1-5" of the Melvin Laird Papers (1941) at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

25 January 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of the Navy

SUBJECT: Homeporting Overseas

I have reviewed your memorandum of January 23 which proposes the retention of Yokosuka as a primary Navy installation in Japan instead of the planned shift of most naval activities to Sasebo, Japan. I have no objection to this revision in our WestPac Base Closure Package providing there is no appreciable increase in required funding and we receive something in return such as a 10-year agreement.

You mention in your memorandum that you are willing to stay in Yokosuka providing you can homeport fleet units in this port. As you know, I have not approved additional homeporting overseas and still have reservations about such a program. I did tell Admiral Zumwalt that I had no objection to a study of such a plan and that I would be happy to review the pros and cons when all the pertinent facts had been put together. It is my understanding that your current inquiry both in Europe and the Far East is for the purpose of gathering data and that you are not in any way commiting yourself to further overseas homeporting.

I look forward to reviewing your proposal for additional homeporting overseas when you have completed your current study.

See Det Capt Sr. X-

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