

The original documents are located in Box 126, folder “Calhoun, John” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1974

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: JOHN CALHOUN (JC)
SUBJECT: Presidential Visit to Japan, Korea

The New Republic Magazine focused on a very sensitive issue in its November 9 issue: The U.S. movement of nuclear weapons through Japan.

Having spent nearly two years in Tokyo as the press liaison official for United Nations activities regarding the Korea situation (1967-69), I know how explosive this issue can get.

Richard Halloran, New York Times Tokyo bureau chief will probably raise this question during the visit, since he is a source for the New Republic article.

K. Mack Chrysler, U.S. News & World Report Far East correspondent has been looking into this issue since 1968.

The Japanese public, including several groups from all spectrums of philosophical orientation, will probably react violently to any remarks made on this subject.

I have many personal friends among the Tokyo based U.S. and foreign correspondents covering both nations (AP, UPI, NBC, ABC, CBS, Halloran, and Chrysler) and understand the mores well. If I may provide any assistance, please advise.

EYES ONLY



November 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: JOHN CALHOUN
FROM: RON NESSEN
RE: Presidential Visit to Japan

Thank you for your very kind offer to assist us on the Presidential visit to Japan.

We are fully aware of the sensitivities involved in the issue of the U.S. nuclear umbrella for Japan. We have extensive guidance prepared through the NSC system to handle this subject, and we will basically continue to maintain our policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons in any specific location.

We have turned down all requests from Japanese newsmen for interviews with the President or any other top level Administration officials prior to the President's visit so as not to heighten concern over what is already an extremely sensitive issue.

LT:jg

