

An NCC

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From: President, Naval War College
To: Chief of Information

Subj: Proposed initial release relative to the Second International Seapower Symposium; forwarding of

Ref: (a) Telecon CDR Gammell, PAO, Naval War College/CDR Graves, Dir., Public Information Div., Office of Information 23 Sep 1971

Encl: (1) Proposed news release
(2) Answers to possible inquiries

1. During the period of 1-5 November 1971 the subject Symposium will be held at the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island and under the sponsorship of the President, U.S. Naval War College. To date, 77 senior foreign naval officers representing 42 countries have accepted invitations to attend.

2. In accordance with existing guidance, based primarily on the successful procedures followed for the first Symposium held in 1969, publicity and the overall public affairs activities will be handled by the PAO, Naval War College on a locally directed low-key level insofar as conceivably possible.

3. It is proposed that initial announcement of the Symposium be made in Newport on 20 October. Accordingly, enclosure (1) is forwarded herewith for coordination and approval. It is further proposed that the War College provides all concerned Defense Attaches with an advance copy of the final release for use in their respective countries as they deem appropriate. Foreign release would coincide with the Newport release date.

4. Enclosure (2) represents a compilation of locally generated questions and proposed theme replies anticipated should unexpected interest in the Symposium be generated. They are forwarded herewith for review.

B. J. SEMMES, JR.
VICE ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY

Written by: CDR Gammell (003:eh) 23 Sep 1971
Copy to: Dir., NCC; Hd., Ops. Div.

Proposed Initial Release

NEWPORT, R.I. -- Some 94 top naval leaders of 47 maritime nations throughout the world have been invited to participate Nov. 1 thru 5, with U.S. naval officers, in the second Naval War College sponsored International Seapower Symposium. The first Symposium was held at the Naval War College in 1969.

The five-day Symposium will provide an academic forum wherein the naval leaders can examine and discuss the elements of the changing maritime situation and relationships throughout the world.

The scope of the Symposium includes a review of the relative growth, trends and changes in maritime and naval strength, and the implications for all nations flowing from these changes. It also includes a consideration of international maritime interdependence and evolving concepts of the future at sea including ocean ecology. It will provide for discussions of the current and future roles of naval forces in a peacetime environment.

Countries invited to the Symposium include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, Republic of China, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, and Finland.

Also, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, and Norway.

And, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, and South Vietnam.

Theme Answers to Possible Inquiries

1. Will this Symposium be open to the world press? Or will it be a classified exercise?

A. Although the conference is not classified, the Symposium will be conducted under academic privilege in order to encourage fullest participation and exchange. The press will not be invited to working sessions.

2. What facilities will be available to accommodate the working press?

A. There will be no physical press facilities, as such, available. However, arrangements will be made by the War College Public Affairs Officer to accommodate the media desires or needs of any participant who wishes to be interviewed.

3. Can reporters sit in on the individual sessions and can the speakers as well as the participants be quoted? Will the participants and speakers be available for individual interviews?

A. Reporters cannot attend individual sessions and sessions are off the record as a general rule. However, where invited speakers wish to distribute their remarks, the press will be notified, and the College Public Affairs Office will make distribution. Interviews will be granted at the discretion of the interviewee.

4. Is this not in reality a war-planning session?

A. No, it is anything but a war-planning session. It is a professional forum for followers of the sea, in this case, naval leaders who wish to discuss the elements and implications of today's changing maritime picture.

5. In view of the general world trend toward restrictive military budgets, is this Symposium an effort to think up new techniques and roles to justify large standing naval forces?

A. No. This is a conference designed to study what's happening in seapower, in oceanography, in maritime affairs and what the future looks like for nations concerned with the sea.

6. How much does this Symposium cost, and who is paying for it? Is this a junket or is this designed for serious work?

A. This Symposium is supported by the United States Navy and \$150,000 has been budgeted for conference costs. Obviously, when world recognized leaders and experts gather, in this case naval leaders, although it might well be biologists or marine

Enclosure (2)

scientists, they gather to talk professionally. They come only by juggling their busy personal schedules.

7. Who drew up the list of invitees? Why are some nations on the list and others not? For example, UAR, USSR, Israel.

A. The President of the Naval War College with the advice of the Chief of Naval Operations drew up the list. Invitations were extended on the basis of an initial inquiry as to interest. Some nations at this time declined. Others were not invited for political reasons. The majority of those invited and attending were those nations who have had or do now have students in the War College's Naval Command College. Forty (40) of the forty two (42) attendees fit in this category.

8. Why have some nations rejected invitations?

A. We do not consider it proper to discuss the whys and wherefores of acceptance or regret. We cannot presuppose on other nations' reasons.

9. Is travel via commercial air or U.S. military aircraft? Is it economy or first class?

A. Funds are made available for first class U.S. commercial air if an attendee so desires, however, the majority of attendees are paying their own way. We are providing financial assistance for travel only in those cases where lack of such assistance would have precluded the broadest possible attendance. (For Senior Officers.)

10. Are families invited? If so, who pays?

A. Families were not officially invited. However, should a participant bring his family he does so at his own decision and expense.

11. Does the State Department know of and approve of this world gathering?

A. The State Department, as the proper channel for coordination at the national level of such a conference, is fully apprised.

12. Why is this Symposium seemingly confined to active duty naval officers? Is this Symposium not of concern to qualified civilian experts?

A. This conference was designed as a gathering limited in this instance to professional naval officers. We are obviously

aware that those interested and competent in maritime affairs include many not in the uniformed services. Should any civilian government official or civilian expert express a desire to contribute toward the overall objectives of the Symposium, such a request would without a doubt, receive careful consideration.

13. How many U.S. naval officers will be involved? Why so many? Are we trying to push a U.S. line? Is this the real reason for the Symposium?

A. There will be approximately five official U.S. Navy participants. This is a good working ratio considering the worldwide role and responsibilities of the U.S. Navy. There is no U.S. line on future concepts of maritime affairs and as you realize, our foreign policy dictates in effect, effective U.S. Navy policies. We are here to talk shop.

14. Do you expect any difficulty or confrontations between neutral and treaty-allied nations, e.g., Sweden and South Vietnam?

A. No. We are dealing with professionals and with highly trained and civilized representatives of sovereign nations. However, we do expect and encourage full discussions and agreements and disagreements as they occur. We come together as professional equals. There is no effort to sway or control.

15. What possibly can such small maritime powers as Mexico, Iran, and Ethiopia contribute to this Symposium? Isn't this slightly ridiculous.

A. Not at all. Seapower and maritime concerns relate not solely to size, but to importance of coastlines and the nature of the seas. The maritime interests and problems of small nations are very similar to those of large nations.

16. What will be the language of the Symposium?

A. English is the official language of the Symposium.

17. Will there be any open summary report of the Symposium available to the press and public?

A. It is our expectation that there will be a summary conference report available following the Symposium. Copies will be available to interested parties.

18. Is there any objection to radio and TV coverage of distinguished arrivals at the College?

A. No, no objections.

19. Is this Symposium really designed to develop responses to the increased Soviet maritime threat?

A. No, the Symposium is not designed to treat the Soviet maritime expansion as the agenda indicates, but it's equally obvious that no group of naval officers meeting for a week will ignore the matter of Soviet seapower.

20. What is the role, if there is one, of navies in peacetime?

A. The role of navies in peacetime has in our opinion been amply demonstrated in the past 20 years or more. The 7th Fleet, the 6th Fleet, the entire gamut of good will to sea lift of food and refugees has more than proved the value of naval showing of the flag in peacetime.

21. What is the level of indicated participation from other nations? The U.S. Chief of Naval Operations is to be present. Will other CNO's be present?

A. The American CNO will be present as a participant. Other CNO's will be present as their schedules permit. A listing of acceptances from other CNO's is available.

22. Will outside observers be present? Will UN representatives be welcome?

A. In keeping with the traditional policy of the Naval War College of privileged lectures, seminars and discussions, no outside observers or auditors will be present.

23. Your brochure describes a foreign officers' course as part of the War College. Is this Symposium to be interpreted as an alumni gathering of former students?

A. No. It may be of interest to note that approximately one-third of the foreign graduates of the Naval War College have attained flag rank, 137 to be exact, and of this group 22 have risen to become chiefs of their national naval forces. By this rule, obviously, some former students will be here representing their navies.

24. How do you plan on handling representatives from Greece and Turkey, India and Pakistan, Peru and the U.S.?

A. All representatives are here on an equal basis.

25. Was any thought given to inviting a representative of Cuba?

A. No, the U.S. does not have diplomatic relations with Cuba.

26. Is the relatively heavy U.S. representation designed to squelch differing or hostile foreign views?

A. No. We will encourage full exchange, whether it's in agreement or disagreement. This is an academic institution which prides itself on unfettered discussion.

27. How do you hope to gain a consensus when you have present such diverse views as those of Finland and Vietnam?

A. We neither seek nor foster the idea that we must come out of this Symposium with a consensus. What we want to achieve is an openness of expression so that the problem areas may be fully explored.

28. Who is the host for this gathering? SecNav, CNO or the President, Naval War College? If CNO or SecNav why isn't the Symposium held in the Washington area?

A. The President of the Naval War College is the host.

29. Couldn't the same objective be accomplished through the aegis of our various Mutual Security Agreements - NATO, SEATO, CENTO and ANZUS?

A. This is an academic and informal professional gathering on a service college campus. It was felt that this was the best environment to accomplish the Symposium's purposes.