

**April 22, 1954**

**Memorandum Addressed to Secretaries of the Army,  
Navy and Air Forces Regarding General Van Fleet's  
Visit**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

For the survey of military assistance programs in the Far East, General Van Fleet will visit Korea. It is requested that an officer from each department designated by the respective secretary be appointed to accompany this mission to serve as an advisor.

**Credits:**

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English

**Contents:**

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MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED TO SECRETARIES OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE, DATED  
22 APRIL 1954

Signed: C. E. WILSON, Secretary of Defense

"The President has asked General Van Fleet to undertake a survey of our military assistance programs in the Far East. General Van Fleet will be traveling in civilian status as a special representative of the President with the personal rank of Ambassador and will be accompanied by Assistant Secretary of Defense W. J. McNeil, together with a selected staff of approximately 16 civilians and military personnel.

"General Van Fleet will communicate directly with you and the area commanders in regard to such special assistance as may be required for this mission. It is requested that an officer from each department designated by the respective secretary be appointed to accompany this mission to serve as an advisor and assist in achieving the purpose of the mission.

"Present plans provide for the departure of the 1st group of approximately 12, including General and Mrs. Van Fleet, and Assistant Secretary of Defense and Mrs. McNeil, by special mission aircraft to arrive in Honolulu the morning of 1 May, leaving later the same day and to arrive in Tokyo on or about 3 May. The 2nd group of aides will travel directly by Pan American Flight 1, also scheduled to arrive in Tokyo by 3 May. It is planned that both groups will remain in Tokyo 2 or 3 days and then proceed to Okinawa where initial headquarters will be established. Subsequent travel will include Korea, Formosa, and such other places as may be designated. An itinerary from Tokyo will be communicated directly with the respective area commander by General Van Fleet.

"In order to facilitate the work of this group it would be appreciated if you inform the respective area commanders of this mission and the tentative schedule and arrange for necessary administrative and logistical support as may be required."