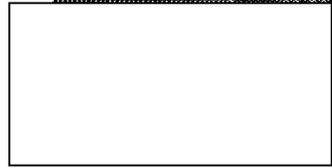




Director of Central Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

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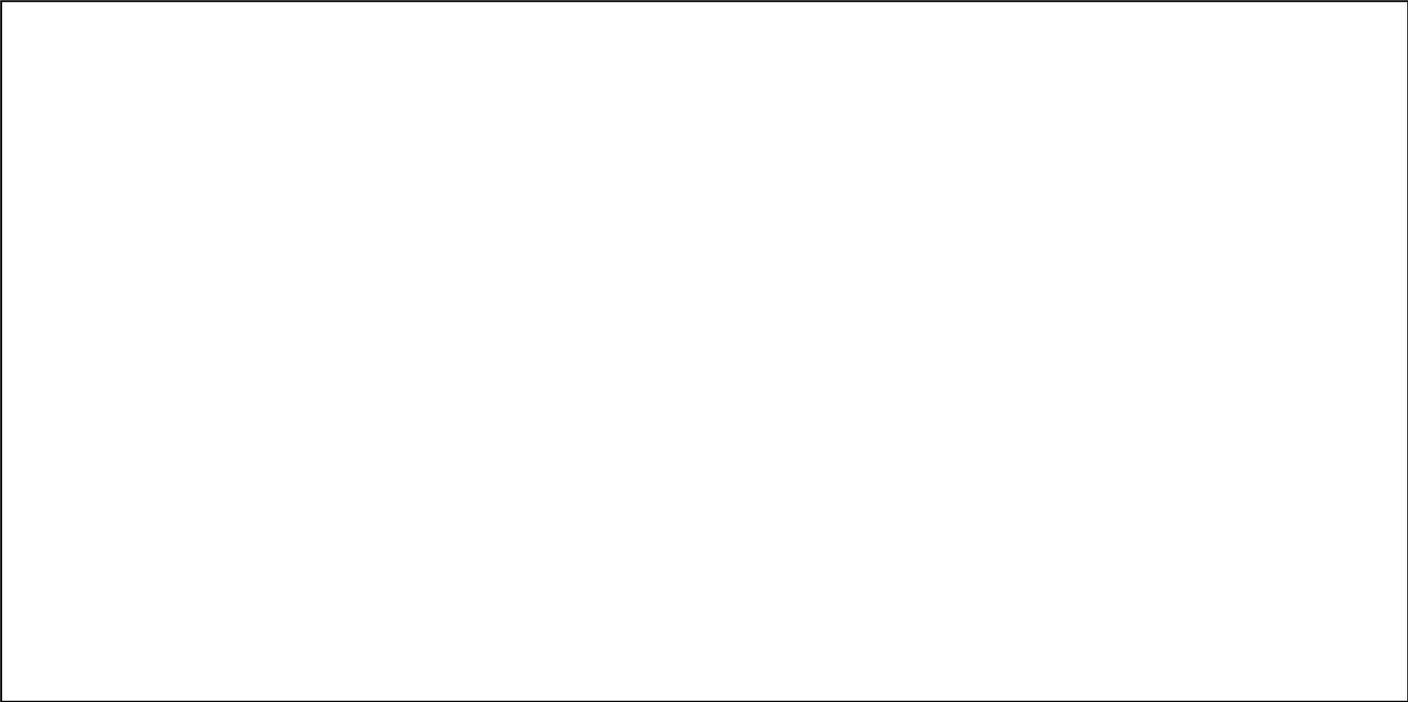


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18 October 1996



Table of Contents

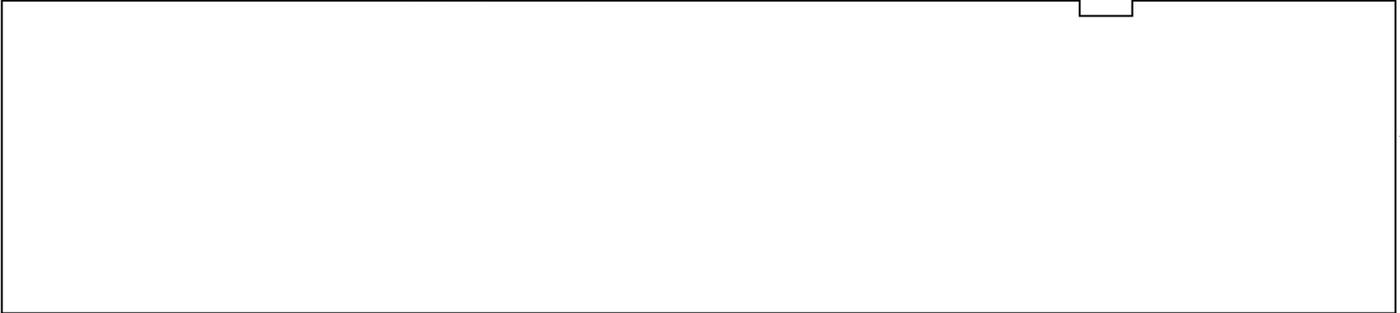


East Asia

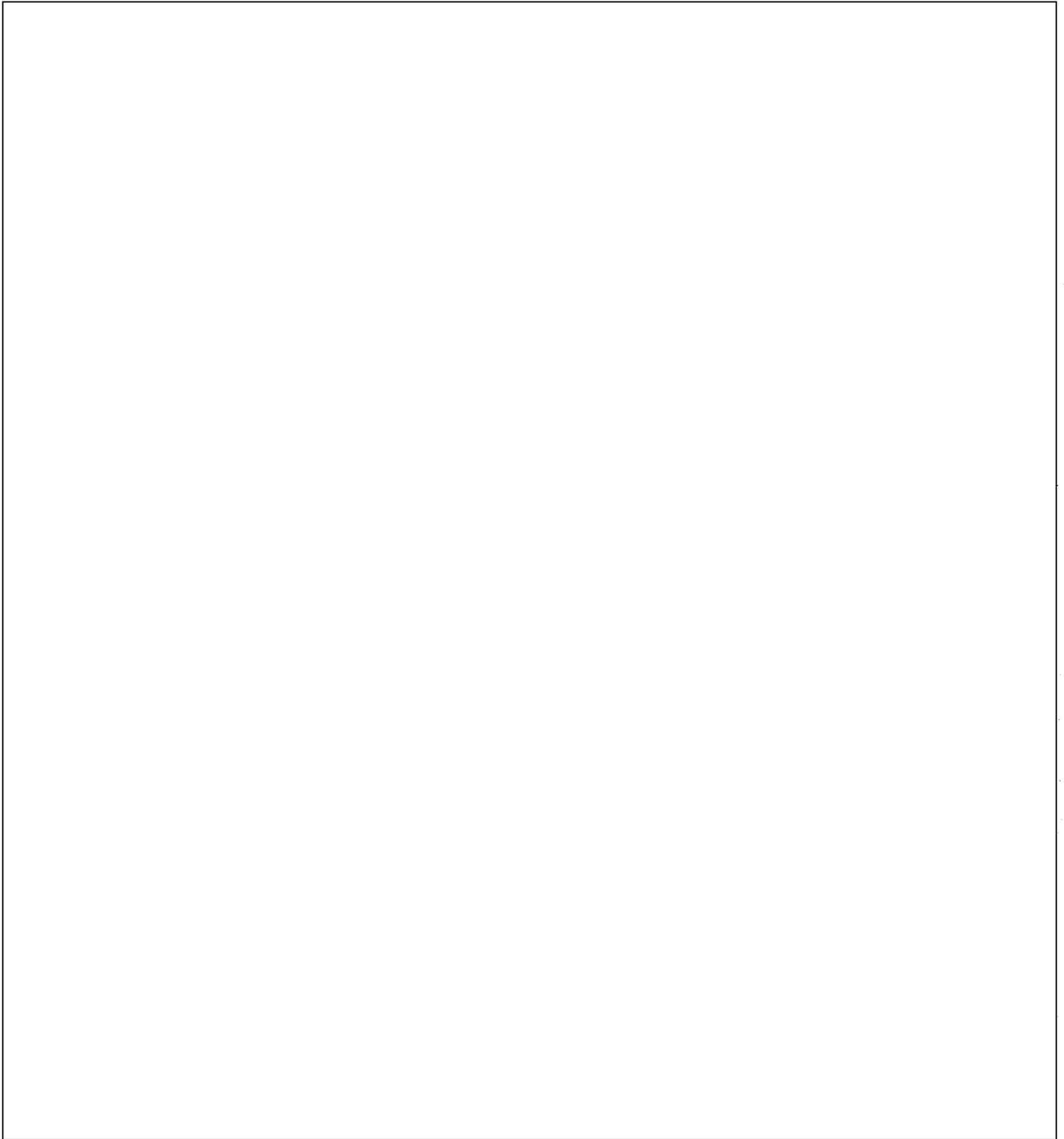
South Korea: Defense Shuffle Impact on US Ties Limited



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18 October 1990



EAST ASIA

South Korea:

Defense Shuffle Impact on US Ties Limited



President Kim Yong-sam yesterday replaced the Defense Minister and made changes in senior military ranks in the face of broad domestic criticism of the armed forces' failure to detect the North Korean submarine that ran aground last month and to capture all the infiltrators from it.

- Kim Tong-chin gained the Defense portfolio despite public criticism of his previous performance as Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman;  his retention in a senior position reflects his close personal ties to President Kim.
- Other changes include promoting Army Chief of Staff Yun Yong-nam to JCS Chairman and installing a new deputy chief of the Combined US-South Korean Forces Command as well as commanders of all three armies. 

The shuffle does not appear likely to cause short-term shifts in South Korea's military ties to the US, but it gives Kim Tong-chin the opportunity over the longer term to chart a more independent course that could reflect his concerns about the alliance. As JCS Chairman, he publicly welcomed US military cooperation with his country 

