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# 'Inept' Lobbying Encourages Foes of Korea Pullout

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WASHINGTON—Congressional opponents of President Carter's plan to withdraw U.S. ground troops from Korea think that what they call inept lobbying by the White House may give them a weapon to defeat one of the Administration's most controversial foreign policy moves.

Although there have been only minor skirmishes so far, Carter's Korean policy could touch off a bruising congressional battle with hawkish Democrats and Republicans who are looking for a way to block the President's plan because they contend withdrawal would endanger the 24-year-old Korean truce.

Lawmakers on both sides of the issue believe the Administration has not yet made an effective presentation of its view. The Hawks say they are delighted by Carter's apparent overconfidence. The Administration's friends are alarmed by it.

"My advice to the Administration was that they ought to consider this issue as serious as the Panama Canal controversy and get their briefers up here," an aide to a senator who supports the withdrawal said recently.

The most outspoken critic of the plan, Rep. Samuel S. Stratton (D-N.Y.), said that Carter and his aides have done very little so far to explain the reasons for the withdrawal policy to lawmakers. "The defense secretary (Harold Brown) has talked to me several times about a bill to give Defense three more undersecretaries," Stratton said in an interview. "Nobody has come to us to talk about the withdrawal plan and it is a lot more important than whether there would be three more undersecretaries of defense."

A Senate supporter said that the Administration "did not have its

cards in a row" before a Senate vote last month rejecting legislation that would have endorsed the withdrawal.

After refusing to back Carter, the Senate adopted a measure urging him to consult with Congress before taking any action. The legislation was only advisory but it gave an indication of sentiment in the Senate.

Another congressional source said that the Defense Intelligence Agency had subtly undercut Carter's position by giving lawmakers a classified briefing that stresses the military strength of North Korea. The DIA is the Pentagon's chief intelligence organization.

Only belatedly has the Administration begun dispatching other intelligence authorities to the Capitol Hill with assessments supporting its position.

The Administration concedes that North Korea now has a larger inventory of weapons and a more sophisticated arms industry than South Korea. But Administration analysts point out that Carter's plan for a phased withdrawal of U.S. ground troops over a four- to five-year period calls for increased arms aid to Seoul to compensate for the departure of the American forces.

The Administration also contends that because South Korea's economy is much stronger than that of the north, Seoul could match or surpass Pyongyang militarily if it chooses to do so.

The source who described the DIA briefing said they appear to be factual but, by stressing the present military balance, they give the impression that the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops might encourage North Korea to attack the south.

"It is all pretty impressive," the source said. "They come into a member's office and 'sweep' it for hidden microphones. Then they talk about classified force levels."

A Pentagon spokesman said the DIA had no comment on the report.

Countering the potential impact of the DIA presentations, Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA, recently has given congressmen a briefing that laid more stress on factors favoring South Korea, a congressional source said.

"Turner gave a more balanced picture," the source said. "He repaired some of the damage that had been done."

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Stratton, chairman of the House armed services subcommittee that provided a Capitol Hill forum for Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub's charges that withdrawal of U.S. troops would lead to a new Korean war, said additional hearings are planned to alert the public to what he considers the dangers of the Carter plan.

"It is a mistake to withdraw all of our ground forces from Korea at this point," Stratton said. "It certainly would increase the chances of war."

Under the withdrawal plan, the U.S. ground force of 33,000 men would be sent home over a four- or five-year period. At present, according to the Pentagon, South Korea has 625,000 men under arms, compared to 512,000 for North Korea, but the North has a substantial advantage in tanks, aircraft and other equipment.

Stratton said he plans to call Gen. George S. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Bernard W. Rogers, Army chief of staff, to testify at a hearing after Congress returns July 11 from its Independence Day recess.

He said he wants to ask the generals about the military implications of the withdrawal.

Brown supported Carter's policy in an appearance last month before a House international relations subcommittee but Stratton said that Brown was not cross-examined.

"He made some sort of bland comment, but nobody followed through on it," Stratton said.

A Pentagon official, who is considered an expert on Korea, said he is not particularly concerned about the lasting impact of any hearings Stratton might conduct.

"I don't think the hearings will lead to anything that would prevent getting the troops out," the official said. "I really don't sense that it is that big an issue. I think we are in really good shape on this one."

Some of the Administration's supporters in Congress consider that attitude to be much too confident.

But the Pentagon official said he was more worried about winning congressional support for the increased arms aid the Administration has promised Seoul to compensate for the removal of U.S. troops.

"I am afraid we will be whipsawed by Congress," the official said. "They

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