

December 27, 1962

**JCS Telegram 7947 to USCINCEUR
[Commander-in-Chief European Command],
CINCLANT [Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Command]
and DSTP [Director Strategic Target Planning Staff],
Offutt Air Force Base, Info for CINCSAC [Commander
in Chief Strategic Air Command]**

Citation:

"JCS Telegram 7947 to USCINCEUR [Commander-in-Chief European Command], CINCLANT [Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Command] and DSTP [Director Strategic Target Planning Staff], Offutt Air Force Base, Info for CINCSAC [Commander in Chief Strategic Air Command]", December 27, 1962, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Record Group 218, Maxwell Taylor Files, Box 36, Nassau/Jupiters/Skybolt/MLF (Folder #2). Contributed by Bill Burr and Leopoldo Nuti. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/300422>

Summary:

This urgent message "of the highest sensitivity" from the Joint Chiefs to top commanders began with a misrepresentation of President Kennedy's decision: "serious consideration [is] being given to withdrawal of JUPITERS from Italy and Turkey." The recipients—General Lyman Lemnitzer [CINCEUR], Admiral Robert Dennison [CINCLANT], and General Thomas Power [DSTP]—were to assume that Italy and Turkey had agreed to the decision, that withdrawal of the Jupiters would occur by April 1, 1963, and that Polaris submarines would be in the Mediterranean by that date. Both USCINCEUR and DSTP, who directed work on the SIOP, were to consider retargeting requirements once the Jupiters went offline. CINCLANT was to consider the feasibility of deploying one, two, or three submarines.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

MESSAGE

~~TOP SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

~~TOP SECRET~~

PRECEDENCE	TYPE OF MESSAGE	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION PRIORITY	INFO PRIORITY	
	X	DA

FROM: JCS

TO: USCINCEUR ✓
 CINCLANT ✓
 DSTP OFFUTT AFB NEBRASKA ✓

Adm. Sec.			
Asst. Dir. for Plans			
Asst. Dir. for Intelligence			
Asst. Dir. for Operations			
Asst. Dir. for Logistics			
Asst. Dir. for Personnel			
Asst. Dir. for Training			
Asst. Dir. for Security			
Asst. Dir. for Public Affairs			
Asst. Dir. for Administration			
Asst. Dir. for Information Systems			
Asst. Dir. for Research & Development			
Asst. Dir. for Medical Services			
Asst. Dir. for Dental Services			
Asst. Dir. for Veterinary Services			
Asst. Dir. for Chaplain Services			
Asst. Dir. for Physical Therapy			
Asst. Dir. for Health Services			
Asst. Dir. for Nutrition Services			
Asst. Dir. for Recreation Services			
Asst. Dir. for Social Services			
Asst. Dir. for Family Services			
Asst. Dir. for Community Services			
Asst. Dir. for Environmental Services			
Asst. Dir. for Safety Services			
Asst. Dir. for Quality Assurance			
Asst. Dir. for Records Management			
Asst. Dir. for Library Services			
Asst. Dir. for Printing Services			
Asst. Dir. for Contract Administration			
Asst. Dir. for Procurement Services			
Asst. Dir. for Construction Services			
Asst. Dir. for Maintenance Services			
Asst. Dir. for Transportation Services			
Asst. Dir. for Communications Services			
Asst. Dir. for Information Services			
Asst. Dir. for Technical Services			
Asst. Dir. for Special Services			
Asst. Dir. for Unassigned			
JCS	X 9		1-2
STPS	X 10		1-3

Distr:
 Chairman, JCS
 CSA (2)
 CNO (2)
 CSAF (2)
 CMC (2)
 Dir J/S (2)
 J-3 (1)
 J-5 (1)
 Secy, JCS (1)

INFO: CINCSAC ✓

TOP SECRET JCS 7947

From JCS.

EXCLUSIVE FOR: Gen. Lemnitzer, Adm. Dennison, Gen. Power.

This message in six parts.

PART I. For All. Information this message highest sensitivity. Request all addressees make contents known to absolute minimum number persons consistent with proper accomplishment.

PART II. For All. Serious consideration being given to withdrawal of JUPITER missiles from Turkey and Italy. For purposes of developing info requested this message, assume:

Date	
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>
#	
DTS	
ZFF-3	

DATE	TIME
26	1920
MONTH	YEAR
Dec	1962

SYMBOL	JCS		
TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)			
PAGE NR.	1	NR. OF PAGES	3
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	TOP SECRET		

SIGNATURE	<i>[Signature]</i>
TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE	WALTER H. TURNER Lt. Colonel, USA Chief, Impulse Action Division
DECLASSIFIED	E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

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a. Host countries have agreed to this action.

b. Effective date for completion of withdrawal is
1 April 1963.

c. POLARIS submarines can be on station in the
Mediterranean by 1 April 1963 to replace JUPITERs.

PART III. For USCINCEUR. Considering operational characteristics of the two weapon delivery systems; your comments desired as to best way to retarget available weapons following withdrawal of the JUPITERs, and any problems arising therefrom. Provide copy your comments DSTP and CINCLANT.

PART IV. For CINCLANT. Your comments desired on feasibility of deploying one, two, or three operational POLARIS submarines to Mediterranean by 1 April 1963. In each case, include comments on expected degradation of total POLARIS submarine force caused by such deployment prior to completion of ROTA POLARIS Base. Provide copy your comments to DSTP and USCINCEUR.

PART V. For DSTP. Your recommendations desired as to best way to retarget available weapons following JUPITER withdrawal and any problems arising therefrom. Any data required from CINCLANT and USCINCEUR in addition to that requested

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in Parts III and IV above may be obtained through direct communications.

PART VI. For All. This is a matter of urgency, comments requested soonest. The loss of over-all firepower and relatively inefficient use of POLARIS submarines implicit in this proposal are recognized here. Gp-1.

Initials	Co. #	Signature	Date
1-5	X-1	[Signature]	1-7-12
D/JS	X-12-13	[Signature]	1-2
D-TS	X14-15	[Signature]	1-2
S-TS	X16-17	[Signature]	1-3

DISTR : CJCS-2, DJS-2, SJCS-1, J3-1, J5-1, CNO, CSAF, CMC, CSA

CCS 7047

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