

February 15, 1963

Department of State Telegram 1150 to the American Embassy Paris

Citation:

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Summary:

To bring NATO officially on board, the State Department sent this draft paper to U.S. ambassadors in Italy, NATO, and Turkey for use with the North Atlantic Council and with SACEUR. Just as the three governments had informed the Council of the Jupiter deployment plans in the late 1950s, they would brief the NAC on the purposes of the Jupiter-Polaris arrangement and its military implications, including retargeting requirements for the "timely damage" of Allied Command Europe targets.

Credits:

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English

Contents:

Original Scan

TELEGRAM

United States of America

INCOMING American Embassy ROME

This document consists of 2 pages.
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SECRET
Classification

Control: 593

Recd: February 16, 1963
0151

See Index 1574 for amendments

ACTION: MDA-3
INFO: RU
AMB
MIN
POL-2
MAAG-2
LSN-2
EC
USIS
POLIT
ADMIN
ATTS
USRO/RSO

FROM: Secstate Washington

ACTION: Paris

INFO: Rome 1564, February 15 -- 6 p.m.

ACTION PARIS PRITY TOPOL 1150 INFO ANKARA 725 ROME 1564 CINCLANT/POBAG.

PARIS PASS STOESSEL.

TOPOL 1114 and POLTO 981.

You should coordinate with your Italian and Turkish colleagues with view to getting agreement on text following memorandum for NAC, which they will no doubt wish refer their governments this weekend.

BEGIN VERBATIM TEXT.

Memorandum For The North Atlantic Council.

The Permanent Representatives of Italy, Turkey and The United States, on behalf of their governments, have the honor to inform the North Atlantic Council, in accordance with the provisions of C-M (55) 82, of changes proposed in their force contributions to the North Atlantica Treaty Organization.

The Military Committee/Standing Group, through the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, are being notified of the contemplated change in order that they may provide for the Council an estimate of the military effects, as provided for by C-M (55) 82.

The Governments of Italy, Turkey and the United States, pursuant to the discussions of which the North Atlantic Council has been advised, have agreed to certain steps for the purpose of strengthening and modernizing the over-all NATO nuclear capability. These discussions have resulted in agreement to assign a force of three U.S. POLARIS Submarines to SACEUR and to retire the JUPITER systems now sited in Italy and Turkey from the SACEUR weapons inventory. In accordance with these plans it is anticipated that the first POLARIS submarine will enter the Mediterranean on March 28, the second on April 10, and the third at a subsequent date. These weapons would be deployed in the Mediterranean under SACEUR control and would be targeted by SACEUR in accordance with Allied Command Europe strike plan; terms of the assignment and the manner of deployment and operation would be set forth

ACTION COPY

Return to the Records Unit

Action Taken:

Amended text given Marchini (Fuley) Brennan

Initials MB

Date 2/18/63

2/18/63

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S E C R E T

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in arrangements to be agreed upon in subsequent consultation with SACEUR. It is planned that the JUPITER missiles will be removed from their launching pads and the warheads returned to the United States at about the same time that the POLARIS submarines are assigned. Removal will not begin before the first submarine is on station.

The military effects of this modernization have been carefully considered and analyzed. In 1957, when the NATO decision was made to install these missiles, they, along with the THORS, were the only suitable ballistic missiles the alliance had ready for operation, and they helped greatly to build up our ballistic missile strength, however, in light of rapid advances in technology and the accelerating growth of missile forces, they are no longer a major part of the total military strength available to the alliance. The relative vulnerability of the JUPITER missile makes it a high priority target for an enemy first strike. In contrast, the POLARIS missile system is far less vulnerable and, in addition, has an appreciably higher operational reliability factor. The replacement of the JUPITERS by the POLARIS missile system will provide the NATO alliance with a more secure, more effective nuclear force with a significant potential. The over-all retargeting accompanying the substitution of the POLARIS system for the JUPITER missile system will ensure that the targets uncovered by the inactivation of the JUPITERS are programmed for missile attack. Further, there will be no reduction in the present expectation of timely damage to the ~~ace~~ ^{ACE} targets presently covered by the JUPITERS.

The three governments consider that the replacement of the JUPITER missile system by the POLARIS missile system will constitute a significant step forward in the modernization of NATO's weapons systems and will create a more formidable military posture for the alliance.

END VERBACIM TEXT.

Above memorandum should be jointly sent to SACEUR with following substituted for first and second paragraphs:

"The Permanent Representatives of Italy, Turkey and the United States, on behalf of their governments, have the honor to inform the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and through him the Military Committee/Standing Group, in accordance with the provisions of C-M (55) 82, of changes proposed in their force contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The North Atlantic Council is also being notified of the contemplated change."

Request you provide information copies these texts to SGRKP.

RUSK

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