

February 16, 1963

American Embassy Paris Telegram NIACT POLTO 77 to Rome

Citation:

"American Embassy Paris Telegram NIACT POLTO 77 to Rome", February 16, 1963, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 84, Rome Embassy Classified General Records 1946-1964, Box 125, 430.1 Italy and IRBM and NATO 1962 1963 1964. Contributed by Bill Burr and Leopoldo Nuti. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/300437>

Summary:

Responding to the State Department proposal for a memorandum to NATO on the Jupiter/Polaris arrangements, Ambassador Thomas Finletter writes that Italian officials suggested that government approval would be expedited if the draft were "altered to become a United States memorandum" in which the Italian and Turkish representatives "simply concur." When Finletter suggested that the proposal was not workable, the Italians responded that their government would "accept present text." NATO Secretary General Dirk Stikker did not see any serious problem, even if the substitution of Polaris for Jupiters caused "some reduction in target coverage." Stikker asked that the U.S. "squash [the] rumor" that Polaris would be based at Rota, Spain (which was in fact the U.S. objective).

It is not clear exactly when the North Atlantic Council received this memorandum, but it may have been on February 22, 1963, the preferred date, from the State Department's perspective, for avoiding delays in the removal of the Jupiters.

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This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

INCOMING American Embassy ROME

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Classification

Control: 610

NIACT

ACTION COPY Recd: Feb 16, 1963
1733

FROM: PARIS

Return to the
Records Unit

ACTION: ROME NIACT POLTO 77, Feb 16, 3PM

ACTION ANKARA POLTO NIACT 29 ROME NIACT POLTO 77 INFO DEPT POLTO 930

Reference: TOPOL 1150

Copies texts proposed memoranda for NAC and English substitution Polaris for Jupiters given Turkish and Italian delegations 16th with request endeavor obtain agreement early next week.

In order to save time and trouble for staff here, Turkish delegation requested we ask American Embassy Ankara to pass text memorandum to Turkish Foreign Office soonest for possible comments.

Italian delegation stated government approval would be required and would be sought immediately. Requested text be passed by American Embassy Rome both Fornari of Foreign Office and Marchiori in Presidency of Council since latter has dealt with this matter on behalf Prime Minister. Italians suggested speedy action by their government might be facilitated if memorandum could be altered to become United States memorandum in which Italian and Turkish perm reps would simply concur. We pointed out notification concern force contributions of all three countries and thus difficulties would arise if such alteration attempted. Italian then expressed opinion that in view past discussion this matter it should be possible his government accept present text.

Texts also shown Stikker who saw no particular problems and he will put this matter on agenda NAC meeting February 20. Stikker had talked to General Lemnitzer yesterday about this question and had expressed to him as he did to us today that he saw no reason why United States should not exchange bilateral notes with Rome and Ankara on February 28 whether or not SACEUR's evaluation will be ready for presentation NAC meeting 27th. Stikker stated that while SACEUR evaluation might have to indicate some reduction in target coverage by this substitution he did not think that this would cause any serious problem. He pointed out that most other notifications under C-M (55) 82 had left at least a temporary gap in overall military posture and no countries had ever insisted on taking any action to fill gap in interim period. Stikker added that if any problem should arise he probably could handle it from the chair and again said he saw no reason why we should not exchange bilaterals for 28th.

Stikker urged we be authorized state where Polaris will be based so as to squash rumor they will be based at Rota.

(Telegram read by Duty Officer 2
16/1920/jm

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430.1
RBM

text given Marchiori
+ Di Lorenzo 2/18/63 - see
Deptel 1564
Initials [Signature]

Date
for 2/18/63