

March 29, 1963

**Memorandum from John McNaughton, General
Counsel, Department of Defense, to McGeorge
Bundy**

Citation:

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Summary:

One of the few pieces of declassified evidence showing John McNaughton's role in the Jupiter removal process, his report to McGeorge Bundy concerned the "physical operation" to remove the missiles and the related press management. Dismantlement actions would begin on April 1 in Italy and April 15 in Turkey. For both countries, the dismantled missiles would go to a "graveyard." The arrival of Polaris submarines during April would be publicized along with a visit to Turkey around April 14-15. No photographers would be allowed on site, but no "special limitations" would apply when the missiles were in transit. One of McNaughton's concerns was that the dismantling operation be handled in a way that "reduced[d] ... erroneous comparisons with Cuba."

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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CONFIDENTIAL

29 March 1964

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Dear Max:

Here is the note I provided you regarding the JUPITER removal -- the physical operation and the press handling.

We have kicked this around with State at length. There is no way to avoid having photographs taken of JUPITERs during the dismantling process. All we can do is to handle the operation in a way to reduce, as much as we can, erroneous comparisons with Cuba.

Here are the essentials of the plan:

1. Physical Actions. Air Force (executive agent). No bulldozers; no surreptitiousness; no "row of sausage" at airheads.

- ITALY: Start April 1 (Monday); all 30 missiles (at 10 sites) horizontal by April 12; all warheads blown out by April 12; all missiles hauled between 1 and 48 miles into airhead by April 22 (3 every 2 days) resulting in a "grave yard" beginning with 3 on April 6 and 27 from April 22 on for a few months.
- TURKEY: Start April 15 (Monday); all 18 missiles (at 5 sites) horizontal by April 27; all warheads blown out by April 29; all missiles hauled between 20 and 88 miles into airhead by April 29 (approx. one a day); a "grave yard" beginning with 3 on April 19 and 12 from April 28 on for a few months.

2. Public Affairs Actions.

- POLARIS: Arrival in Mediterranean of Polaris submarines and April 14-15 sub visit to Turkey will be publicized.

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-- JUPITER: Dismantling will be treated as routine military operation, with no photographers allowed in the launch sites or airheads, but no special limitations can be applied while missiles are in transit along roads from sites to airheads. Press will not be told schedule of movements but, in response to questions, will be told only that flow of missiles will be arriving at airheads over next few weeks. Overflights by civilian aircraft, and therefore aerial photographs, probably cannot be prevented. This is being checked.

(Special problem: Italy may want to advertise JUPITER removal; Reichardt is handling this.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John T. McNaughton", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

John T. McNaughton

Mr. McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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