

330-78-0001, Box 68, folder "Greece 323.3 1973"

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: MAY 24 2018

July 31, 1973

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Dear Jim:

Bill Clements' letter of June 26, 1973 provided us with additional information on a number of areas of uncertainty in the Navy plan for Phase II of the Athens homeporting program. These data are beneficial in our continuing review of the situation in Greece and the homeporting proposal.

As he suggests, it is not feasible for the Department to render a final decision until Congress has approved the reprogramming of funds for all required construction at Elefsis Air Base and approved the proposed leases connected with Phase II or unfulfilled requirements of Phase I. Further, in light of the unsettled political situation in Greece and the hearings of Representative Rosenthal's House Foreign Affairs European Subcommittee on U.S. Greek policy, to include homeporting, I believe it would be imprudent to force a decision on Phase II at this time.

While we are unable to endorse Phase II at this time, we would appreciate being further advised when you are completely satisfied that the areas of uncertainty cited in his letter have been reduced to an absolute minimum, which will permit support facilities to be in being and operational prior to the carrier's arrival. (In this regard, we note that the recent Government of Greece decision on closing the Navy out of Phaleron Bay may require some additional planning for crew recreation

The Honorable  
James R. Schlesinger,  
Secretary of Defense.

*Info*

*ISA - reply for Sec Def Sec*

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facilities at the carrier's homeporting site as well as for access to and from Athens.) Based on that further advice from your Department, we will review the Phase II proposal in light of the political conditions existing at that time. In this connection, it would be helpful to have the Defense Department's comments on our staff survey report of Athens homeporting as well as a current DOD estimate of the success of Phase I and homeporting worldwide in meeting the Navy goals of higher morale and increased retention.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

  
William P. Rogers

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Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 24 NOV 2018 Authority: EO 13526+SUSC 5552  
Declassify:  Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
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MDR: 18 -M-0972