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File #93
"Greece"
323.3 1974
Box 63, 78-0016, 33.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

In reply refer to:
1-21257/74



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

13 MAR 1974

Mr. Seymour Weiss
Director, Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Sey:

(S) We understand there are some questions in State regarding our plans for implementing Phase II homeporting in Athens. As you know, the Navy submitted a revised schedule -- about a six month slippage -- and urged that the ongoing negotiations be expedited if possible. However, Secretary Schlesinger believes we should not press the Greeks at this time, but rather, review the bidding on possible Phase II go-ahead in about six months or when the political situation there stabilizes. Movement of the USS SANCTUARY, the dependent support ship, to Athens will also be reviewed at that time.

(S) As you are aware, the Greeks have insisted on coupling negotiations for Phase II homeporting with negotiations for use of Souda Bay although we view these as separate issues. Regardless of the eventual resolution of the homeporting issue, we will continue to need access to Souda Bay to support SIXTH Fleet operations. Therefore, we would like to press ahead with these negotiations.

(U) I hope this clarifies the DOD position on Phase II homeporting in Athens. We will, of course, keep you advised on this matter.

Sincerely,

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 25 MAY 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552

Declassify: Deny in Full: _____

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DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: MAY 25 2018

Greece 323.3

13 Mar 74

Classified by DTI, PPONSGA
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