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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:
1-7635/76

19 July 1976

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Chief, Greek Delegation, US-Greece Base Negotiations

Greece Participants

Chief, Greek Delegation, Ambassador Petros Calogeras
Principal Military Negotiator, Maj Gen Nikolaos Kourlis, HAF
Legal Advisor, Mr. Christos Macheritsas
Hellenic Navy Chief of Communications, Capt Panos Efsthliou
Air Attache, Col Evangelos Venetsanos

US Participants

Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA), Eugene V. McAuliffe
Deputy Assistant Secretary (Eur & NATO), Maynard W. Glitman
Assistant for Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, Col Donald E. Majors, USAF
Special Assistant to Ambassador (Athens) for Mutual Security Affairs,
Robert Pugh

Time: 1010-1045, 7 July 1976

Place: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA), Pentagon

Mr. McAuliffe began by emphasizing the importance of NATO collective security in the face of growing Soviet military power and pointing to the recent Congressional approval of the largest defense budget in history as an example of US resolve. He reiterated US pleasure with the return of representative government to Greece but reminded Ambassador Calogeras that less than full Greek participation in NATO was a loss to Greece as well as NATO. Ambassador Calogeras agreed with the need for NATO vitality and repeated well-known Greek position that Greece was searching for a formula which would permit Greek military participation while taking into account other national security concerns (Turkey) and domestic political requirements.

In a somewhat rehearsed presentation, Ambassador Calogeras outlined familiar Greek philosophy on current base negotiations and asked for greater US understanding of positions advocated by the Greek Government. The Greek Government recognizes the value of close relations with the US and is mindful of difficulties created by recent events. It wants

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to establish a "new relationship" with the US which will safeguard Greek sovereignty and national dignity while considering vital US interests and military activities in Greece. The US military presence in Greece must be reduced, changed, and streamlined. The US should be interested in preserving its "main requirements" in Greece but should not try to keep all the advantages and privileges it enjoyed in the past. The US must accept adjustments in present arrangements to eliminate public irritations and place US-Greek relations on a firm basis. This will require greater US concessions and the "political will" to conclude a fair agreement. Ambassador Calogeras also reiterated that the Greeks have no desire or intent to interfere with US activities or to gain advantages by procrastinating in the negotiations.

Mr. McAuliffe accepted the thrust of the Greek concept but stressed that a new relationship must serve both sides. While acknowledging the problems associated with the Cyprus situation and Aegean dispute, he reminded Calogeras that the US wished to continue a special relationship with Greece and Turkey and to assist both countries to meet their NATO force goals. In expanding on the assistance issue, Mr. McAuliffe voiced the distaste with which the US views "rent" for US facilities in allied countries. These facilities serve the interests of collective security and are not so important to US interests alone that we would not pull them out under an unhealthy rent situation. Ambassador Calogeras agreed that the concept of rent is horrendous but was quick to interject that from the outset of negotiations in February 1975, Greece never mentioned financial aspects of a defense cooperation agreement until it felt compelled to do so after noting that the agreement signed in March between the US and Turkey included such considerations.

Mr. McAuliffe registered disappointment over pace of negotiations which were being slowed by extensive discussions of details. Ambassador Calogeras observed that negotiations could go faster but that Greece was not entirely to blame for the sluggish pace. The need to send the entire agreement to the Parliament is a political reality and it would have been politically wiser for the US, a superpower, to have shown more understanding and to have made more concessions to Greece, a small country. Greece seriously wants to conclude the new agreement quickly. "We are in your hands" (meaning: the degree of US concessions will govern the speed of negotiations). Mr. McAuliffe expressed thanks for Ambassador Calogeras' assurances that Greece also wished to proceed faster but objected to the idea that the US must be generous simply because it is big. The US is also sovereign and the American people are willing to pay their fair share of collective security but nothing more. We cannot consider the US Government as being a "philanthropic organization".

The meeting ended with both Mr. McAuliffe and Ambassador Calogeras

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