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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:  
1-8371/74

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Secretary Schlesinger - Ambassador Kubisch Meeting

Participants:

Defense Side

- Secretary of Defense - James R. Schlesinger
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) - Robert Ellsworth
- Assistant Secretary of Defense (LA) - John M. Maury
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) - Harry E. Bergold, Jr.
- Military Assistant to SecDef - MGen John A. Wickham, Jr.
- Country Director, Greece, OASD(ISA) - Charles W. Quinn

State Side

- US Ambassador to Greece - Ambassador Jack B. Kubisch
- Department of State; EUR/SE - John Day

Time: 1630 - 1730 hours, Thursday, 29 August 1974

Place: Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon

1. Introduction

Following the exchange of amenities, SecDef after raising the question of where do we go with Greece, then proceeded to describe the Greece situation as he viewed it at that time. Greece seemed to have no place to go, but that there exist a series of bilateral relationships which ultimately mean that Greece is not lost; may leave NATO; politically Karamanlis has withdrawn and blames the US for Greece's plight; however, we can live with Karamanlis. A Papandreou regime would be less satisfactory than Karamanlis and thus we must have sympathy (which is cheap) for Karamanlis. Ambassador Kubisch shared the Secretary's views and indicated that there was a tendency to view the ouster of Makarios as unfortunate as well as stupid; there were a range of paths we can travel; we must find the best one and reconcile it with the interests of both Greece and Turkey.

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2. (C) Greece and NATO

Secretary Schlesinger referred to a letter he recently received from Greek MOD Averoff. In this letter he had written "Believe me, it is my warmest wish that circumstances will change and allow us to resume our NATO collaboration." The key word being "resume". SecDef indicated that we should not over react to Greek decision to leave NATO and by buying some time Greece might be able to see its way clear to retain its NATO military activities. Mr. Ellsworth noted that it might be somewhat early to really assess Greek Intent on its decision with respect to its NATO military activities. Although they have departed from Izmir they haven't really thought out this decision. They lose their infrastructure benefits and although not wanting to do so, may have to compensate NATO for NATO facilities located on Greek soil.

3. (S) Greece - US Relations

Ambassador Kubisch suggested that the Secretary might have some general guidance on ways and means to at least maintain our image with the Greeks. The Secretary indicated that there might be several lines that might be followed. First, it is possible that the Greeks did not mean their decision on NATO. We should wait and see if we can't accommodate them in some way. Second, keep our relations going on a bilateral basis. Third, if the Greeks completely reject these proposals we might then fall back to preserving our ongoing operations on Crete. Next there is the matter of 6 destroyers homeported in Athens. This presence might be giving the Greeks problems. In view of the fact that Phase II, for a variety of reasons, has never been agreed to, we might consider the removal of the six destroyers (Phase I).

SecDef cited the vacillations of the Government of Bahrain regarding the presence of COMIDEAST FOR. As an aftermath of the 1973 October Arab-Israeli fracas, they invited us out. Now with the passage of time, they want us to stay.

4. Turkish Designs on Cyprus and the Aegean

Ambassador Kubisch next raised the matter of Turkey wanting to take all of Cyprus; pick up on the Aegean seabed dispute and in general become more aggressive in the area. SecDef indicated that he did not think the Turks would follow this course. The Soviets "fishing in Greek seas" will give the Turks some cause to be concerned. Turks have had their fun and they have certain sensitivities. They have no ambitions to push Greek noses into the ground. They have been carrying a "chip on the shoulder"; have had the desire to pay off scores of the last fifty years. Having done so they now have demonstrated that Turkey is the superior power. Ambassador Kubisch then raised the question as to why aid to Turkey wasn't cut off in an attempt to control its actions. Secretary Schlesinger indicated that the answer to that question would have to come from the State Department.

5. (S) The Need to Preserve Alliance Relations

Secretary Schlesinger and Mr. Ellsworth impressed upon Ambassador Kubisch the need to tamp down the dissension within NATO; keep the "status quo"; avoid ripping further our relations with Greece by being as sympathetic

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as possible with Greece. The US relationship with Greece and Turkey and that relationship in turn with NATO has developed the common interest of resisting the Soviet threat. Let this maxim not be dropped out of mind and finally we would hope that we can stitch the situation together some day in the not too distant future.

The meeting adjourned at 1730 hours.

Memorandum of Conversation  
Prepared by:  
Mr. Charles W. Quinn  
OASD(ISA)EurReg  
17 Sep 74

Approved by:

*[Signature]*

Robert L. ...  
Assistant Secretary for  
International ...

Date: 20 Sept 74

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