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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

P A
S O E
MIO V J

June 11, 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(With SECRET Attachment)

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has for
action

Dear Bill:

I understand that Phase II of the Athens homeporting program is now under review in the Department of Defense, a review deriving from the conditions attached to former Secretary Laird's agreement in principle to Phase II and which were transmitted to Secretary Rogers last December (TAB A). In his response of January 23 (TAB B) the Secretary also agreed in principle to Phase II, associating himself with Secretary Laird's caveats. He also noted that in any subsequent consideration of Phase II by the Department of State we would wish to satisfy ourselves that the objectives of homeporting as presented to the Congress last year were being realized. These basically centered on improving morale of ship's crews and dependents and stimulating retention in an environment of reduced budget and ship resources in the Navy.

As you know the Department came under intense criticism from the Congress last year, particularly from the Near East and Europe Subcommittees of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for endorsing homeporting in Athens. Therefore, to prepare ourselves for our final review of Phase II, (assuming of course a favorable final determination by you or the Secretary of Defense) we considered it prudent to make an on-site survey in Athens of the success of Phase I. I

The Honorable
William P. Clements, Jr.,
Deputy Secretary of Defense.

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Date: FEB 08 2019

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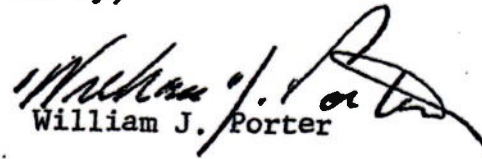
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believe the attached result of this survey, (TAB C) prepared by officers of our Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs and Bureau of Near East and South Asian Affairs, might be of assistance to you in your review. The study is of course, only one element in the Department of State's own review of the Homeporting program, and does not represent the final views of the Department on the matter.

The recent political developments in Greece have introduced another dimension to the problem of homeporting. We will of course want to assess these developments carefully before making our final decision on whether to proceed with Phase II.

Sincerely,


William J. Porter

Enclosures:

- Tab A - Ltr dtd 12/31/72 fr Secretary Laird
- Tab B - Ltr dtd 1/23/73 fr Secretary Rogers
- Tab C - Survey of Athens Homeporting

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