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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

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June 11, 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~(With SECRET Attachments)~~

Dear Bill:

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*Jo*  
*has for*  
*action*

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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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: FEB 08 2019

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See Def Cont Nr. X-2674

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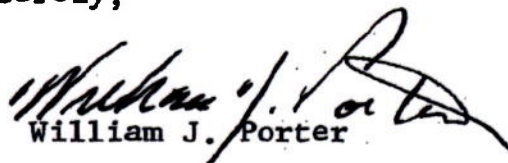
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believe the attached result of this survey, (TAB C) prepared by officers of our Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs and Bureau of Near East and South Asian Affairs, might be of assistance to you in your review. The study is of course, only one element 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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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Green 3233,  
Box 18 (8)

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January 23, 1973

Dear Mel:

Thank you for your letter of December 31, 1972 concerning Phase II of homeporting a carrier task group in Athens.

Although I favor the proposal in principle, I am concerned about a number of the issues that remain unresolved, including the absence of precise data relative to the success of Phase I in increasing retention rates of the crews of the 6 destroyers now homeported in Athens. For this reason, I strongly support your delay of Phase II implementation until March 1974 as well as the conditions you have imposed on the carrier deployment as they apply to adequate dependent support facilities and the availability of an airfield for the carrier airwing.

To permit resolution of the foregoing problems I concur with the desirability of continued US Navy - Royal Hellenic Navy discussions which will provide the basis for our subsequent decision on Phase II. Meanwhile, we will keep the foreign policy considerations involved under continuing review. To this end, I have asked Ron Spiers to maintain close contact with ISA on the details regarding Phase II execution.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,



William P. Rogers

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Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS 50.S.C. § 552  
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