



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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In reply refer to:
I-11301/74

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
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) - Harry E. Bergold, Jr.
Military Assistant to SecDef - MG John A. Wickham, Jr., USA
Military Assistant - LTC Howard Graves, USA
Country Director, Greece OASD(ISA) - Charles W. Quinn

State Side

US Ambassador to Greece - Ambassador Jack B. Kubisch
Political Military Advisor to Ambassador - Robert Pugh
Department of State, EUR/SE - William Eagleton
Department of State, EUR/SE - John Day

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 08 2018

TIME: 1730-1815 hours, Thursday, 5 December 1974

PLACE: Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon

1. (C) Introduction.

After the exchange of amenities, Ambassador Kubisch expressed his appreciation on having the opportunity to brief the Secretary on his recent conversation with Foreign Minister Bitsios regarding the latter's desire to undertake discussions regarding US facilities in Greece shortly after the first of year. A note regarding this matter will be transmitted to SYG Luns (presumably on NATO facilities) and a letter is to be sent US authorities. Ambassador Kubisch indicated that it was a mistake to breathe a sigh of relief now that Caramanlis has been elected. Caramanlis now has to deliver on some changes regarding US presence and activities. The Greeks will approach the subject of facilities

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on a policy of close alliance with the U.S. This is going to be a difficult subject for Greece as some of the steps in this approach must be least damaging to US and Greek interests. Ambassador Kubisch also indicated that FM Bitsios had in mind a US team coming to Greece to initiate discussions on this matter. Private side discussions with a US rep are also to be considered.

2. (S) Possible US Approaches on Facilities

Secretary Schlesinger indicated that first we must consider what facilities are important. The Secretary cited the fact that Souda Bay and NAMFI were high value facilities and they were apart from the Greek mainland. Homeporting the Greeks considered a nuisance and could be phased out slowly. The Greeks could announce that Phase II of homeporting was of no benefit from a military standpoint therefore it is to be cancelled.

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Secretary Schlesinger suggested that the C-130 reconnaissance flights now launching from Athens might conveniently fly out of Souda. This could be another step as part of reducing our image and getting our activities out of the mainland. Secretary Schlesinger also indicated that we were not anxious to sacrifice the US Navy Communications Station at Neo Makri. However, the Secretary stated that we will need to do a more refined statement on the priorities to be accorded US facilities. Ambassador Kubisch indicated that we could probably move ahead on homeporting without difficulty.

4. (S) Outlook

Ambassador Kubisch suggested that discussions should begin to take place between State and DoD with a view to sorting out matters pertaining to our facilities in Greece. Some thought should also be given to the negotiating team that FM Bitsios is interested in; and silence should prevail with respect to our negotiations. We should be restrained yet skillful in handling this matter. The Secretary reminded the Ambassador that he already had some cards that could be played. For example, the POC, infrastructure and security assistance were big.

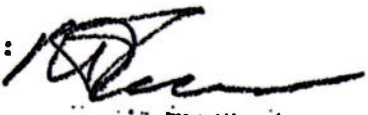
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5. (S) Parity on Assistance

Ambassador Kubisch pointed out that the Greeks were hoping for some parity in security assistance. Not necessarily equality but rather to possess some sufficiency equipment-wise in the event the Turks might be tempted to do something on the Aegean Islands of Samos, Lesbos and Chios. Secretary Schlesinger noted that Turks are beginning to think they have gone too far on Cyprus and the Turkish General Staff meanwhile is exercising its influence on the government.

The meeting adjourned at 1815 hours.

Memorandum of Conversation
Prepared by:
Mr. Charles Quinn
ISA(EurReg) x79258

Approved by: 
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

Date: 12/17/74

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US - Bilateral Facilities - Greece

- JCS believes that at this time there should be no attempt on the part of the US to establish priorities with respect to US facilities.
- The JCS would await indication of how Greeks feel about these facilities.
- We believe that the Greeks may be reviewing these facilities on the basis of which are beneficial to Greece and which are not.
 - This criterion could be detrimental to US security interests.
- ISA believes our facilities would fall roughly into the following priorities for retention:
 - First Priority: US Navy Operations at Souda Bay, Iraklion Security Station, and US Air Force operation at Athenal.
 - Second Priority: Navy Communications Station.
 - Third Priority: Destroyer Squadron Twelve; Fleet Support Office; Commander, Task Force SIXTY, [REDACTED]
- While more immediate focus may be on status of US and NATO facilities, [REDACTED]
 - This question will in turn depend on how Greece chooses to redefine the relationship of its forces to NATO and Western defense.
- Attached is an enclosure which contains data on major US facilities and activities in Greece.

(99)etc OSO

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