

**January 8, 1963**

**Department of State Telegram 1241 to the American  
Embassy Rome**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

In this "limited distribution" message, George Ball informed Ambassador Reinhardt of the developing plans to deploy three Polaris boats in the Mediterranean with the missiles on station by April 1. Polaris would supersede the less effective Jupiters. The Ambassador should seek agreement with the Italian Government to take the "necessary steps" to dismantle the two Jupiter squadrons. The Italians "may be quite willing" to move in this direction, Rusk suggested, having already shown they recognized the value of replacing Jupiters with Polaris. Reinhardt should advise the Italians that the U.S. government was treating the matter with "great secrecy" and was making a parallel approach to Ankara.

&nbsp;

The Italians would not be surprised by this initiative in light of Andreotti-McNamara discussions at the recent NATO meeting, which also covered U.S. interest in modernizing tactical nuclear delivery systems (Sergeant for Corporal missiles). U.S. views would also be repeated to Fanfani when he visited Washington, D.C.

The day before, and probably as a related move, President Kennedy invited Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani for talks in Washington. During mid-December, Fanfani had expressed interest in speaking with Kennedy about the world situation, and a meeting would provide an opportunity for the President to secure a commitment on the Jupiter issue.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

English

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INCOMING AMERICAN EMBASSY ROME

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PARIS PASS FINLETTER AND CINCEUR

Date *8/1*

FOR AMBASSADOR

Anticipated deployment of Polaris submarines to Mediterranean beginning early in 1963 makes possible modernization of NATO strategic weapons assigned that area. It is our intention to have at least three boats for the Mediterranean force. This means that Jupiters emplaced in Italy and Turkey can be superseded by more effective seaborne Polaris. Polaris missiles will be assigned to Saceur and Targeted by HIM with Italian participation. These missiles will be on station by April 1, 1963. You should advise Italian Government of foregoing and seek their agreement to this, as well as their agreement to take necessary steps, in accordance with NATO procedures, regarding understanding reached with US on dismantling of both Jupiter squadrons in Italy.

Your approach to Italian Government would institute review Jupiter situation in accordance penultimate sentence of basic Jupiter agreement set forth Embassy note of March 26, 1959.

We are mindful that Italian Government may be quite willing proceed rapidly along above lines in view possibility mentioning during spring parliamentary election campaign that it had managed to eliminate vulnerable and obsolete Jupiter system from Italy, which being superseded by more effective NATO system.

Your 1253 indicated Italian interest in utilization of cruiser Garibaldi as additional vehicle for Polaris system. It is anticipated Italian Government may press this point in connection with proposed Jupiter replacement. Although we are opposed to this idea, you may indicate that we will study with Italians possibility of use of Garibaldi in connection with formulation of NATO multilateral nuclear force with view explaining to them the reasons why we believe this proposal impracticable. You should state that we believe

*Embassy advised  
1327*

*320.1 - NATO*

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The Nassau Agreement advances prospects for creation of multilateral nuclear force in which we would hope Italy would participate.

In approaching Italian Government you should bear in mind that Jupiter proposal will not come as surprise to some officials in view of initial McNamara-Andreotti discussion at Paris on December 13. In that discussion it was indicated we also intend proceed with modernization of tactical NATO nuclear force stationed in Italy. You should confirm that this is our plan and that during 1963 we intend replace obsolete Corporal missiles with a suitable force of more modern Sergeant missiles should US and Italy agree on Jupiter proposal. Equipment would cover same target system in more flexible and effective way in view superior characteristics Sergeant missile system. The US will also maintain its troops in SETAF.

Italian Government should be advised your approach being treated within US Government with great secrecy, and that similar approach being made in Ankara. We also realize that some unattributed publicity on notion of modernizing Jupiter weapons system may be useful preparation and will be in touch with Italian Ambassador at NATO in due course on this point, but only after Italian Government has agreed to our proposal.

In event of Fanfani visit to Washington later in January, we would at that time repeat to him our views as outlined above. What further views we might express will depend upon preparations for January 11 presentation to NAC and further development our own thinking on NATO weapons problem.

Will forward as necessary further detailed instructions in light your reports on initial Italian reaction.

BALL

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