

January 9, 1963

American Embassy Rome Telegram 1327 to the Secretary of State, Washington, DC

Citation:

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Summary:

Following his instructions to begin reaching a deal, Reinhardt met with Andreotti. The latter raised the date of April 1 as sort of a deadline and asked Reinhardt how important it was, noting that it would better to remove the missiles after April 1 so it would not be an election issue, where the right could "condemn a great defeat," while the left could claim a "great victory." Reinhardt declared that Washington wanted the action on Jupiters taken "as soon as possible," which Andreotti accepted, observing that an "optimum solution" would be a "two key" arrangement for Polaris, which he realized was not practical in the short term.

When Andreotti noted that the decommissioning of the Jupiter sites would be a "graphic step backward" for Italy in terms of direct Italian participation in nuclear defense, Reinhardt mentioned the replacement of Corporals with Sergeant missiles, which Andreotti acknowledged would be "helpful" for demonstrating a U.S. "presence" in Italy.

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

OUTGOING Amembassy ROME

Charge:

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Classification

Control: 90

Date: January 9, 1963
1700

Sent: SECSTATE WASHINGTON PRIORITY 1327

Info: Amembassy ANKARA PRIORITY 58

Amembassy PARIS PRIORITY 275

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I had long conversation with Defmin Andreotti this morning on proposal for replacement JUPITER^S. His first question was whether April 1 date was important since he said it would be much easier for Italian Govt to deal with question from political point of view after (rpt after) parliamentary elections in spring. He pointed out left wing campaign against missiles had started up again and that their removal would be claimed as great victory by left and condemned as great defeat by right. In reply I said U.S. Govt deemed it most important that ~~NR~~ JUPITER weapons system be replaced as soon as possible, preferably well before April 1 date.

Andreotti seemed to accept this but went on to explain that in pre-election period political problem would be difficult to handle and he was sure Fanfani would have much to say about this in his forthcoming visit to Washington. Andreotti wondered also

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whether US Govt had given full consideration to damage that could be done to excellent post-Cuban image resulting from President's handling of Cuban affair. With respect to Italy itself, optimum solution to meet both kinds of internal political attack would of course be Italian two-key participation in POLARIS submarine operation which he realized was impractical in near future, and secondly utilization of GARIBALDI. I explained US position on latter but said we were prepared to study matter with Italians in connection with development NATO multilateral nuclear force. He also said it would of course be helpful if some progress could be made with respect to assistance to Italy toward their development of nuclear propelled submarine. I said Gilpatric would be prepared to discuss this with him during his visit next month.

Andreotti pointed out that missile brigade at Gioia del Colle had about two thousand Italians engaged in operation, ~~xxxxxx~~ maintenance, and protection of JUPITER installations. Its decommissioning will be graphic step backward for Italy, from present involvement and participation with U.S. in nuclear defense of West to one of no participation. I mentioned proposal to

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ELEGRAMForeign Service of the
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replace Corporals in SETAF with Sergeants. He acknowledged this would be helpful and seemed to lay as much importance on continued US presence there as on modernization of weapons system. I also mentioned possibility that when planning for MLF launched in NATO, US Govt might be able to accept some officers and technicians from genuinely interested NATO countries to begin studies POLARIS weaponry.

Andreotti said he had not discussed his initial conversation with McNamara with anyone in Italian Govt but that since receipt of Secdef's letter Sunday he had studied it with his Chiefs of Staff and informed President of Republic. He was meeting with Fanfani and Piccioni at noon today and would bring them into picture. I asked him why Cattani had raised question with me before I left for Washington. Andreotti's response was to draw several telegrams from dossier which reported conversations held in Ankara by Turkish Foreign Ministry with Italian Embassy, based on Secstate's and Secdef's conversations with Turks at Paris NATO meeting. They dealt only with proposal to withdraw JUPITERS from Turkey inasmuch as Italian Ambassador involved was not aware that proposal also extended to Italy.

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In messages I saw Turkish position was that they did not (rpt not) object in principle to dismantling of JUPITERS in Turkey but would seek in compensation another form of two-key nuclear participation with U.S. preferably in submarines.

I am seeing Fonmin later this afternoon and Primin thereafter.

It ^{would} ~~will~~ be helpful for future conversations with Italians if Dept could advise me as soon as possible whether suggestion made in working group that JUPITER system minus warheads be left with Italians for space research is practicable.

REINHARDT

FR:f

Concurrences: DCM:HGainsworth
MDA:MGannett
POL:WMFraleigh

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