

January 12, 1963

American Embassy Ankara Telegram 765 to the Secretary of State, Washington, DC

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Summary:

Ambassador Hare met with Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Erkin about moving ahead on substituting Jupiter missiles with Polaris, emphasizing the "importance in Turkey's getting in on ground floor of this significant move toward a stronger NATO." Erkin implied that he was "impressed by the reasonableness of our proposals," but believed that the public would have to be persuaded "that Polaris would be as effective as Jupiters in assuring security of Turkey." Hare observed that visits to Turkish ports by Polaris submarines armed with ballistic missiles could help maintain Turkey's "confidence" in the U.S. deterrent and in NATO.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

57 M

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Action

Control: 7308

Rec'd: January 12, 1963
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SS
Info

FROM: Ankara

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 765, January 12, 2 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 765, INFORMATION PARIS 94, ROME 75

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Department telegram 566

FILE
MAR 21 1963

Substance reference telegram given Foreign Minister Erkin this morning together with impressions gleaned in my Washington discussions regarding importance which we attach to maximizing Nassau break through. In so presenting, I emphasized importance in Turkey's getting in on ground floor of this significant move toward a stronger NATO, in addition to specific advantage of substitution of Polaris deterrent for Jupiters.

Erkin asked number of questions for purposes clarification and then said greatly appreciated spirit of co-operation in which matter being raised. He said would take up with Prime Minister and Cabinet in consultation with Turkish military and would give GOT reaction as soon as possible.

Implying that he personally was impressed by the reasonableness of our proposal, Erkin said that problem which he especially foresaw would be that of convincing Turkish public that Polaris would be as effective as Jupiters in assuring security of Turkey. Fact that Jupiters are actually on Turkish soil gives ordinary Turkish feeling of confidence which would be difficult maintain

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-2- 765, January 12, 2 PM, from Ankara

by Polaris.

I observed it was for this reason that we had proposed visits to Turkish ports but perhaps most effective public relations gambit would be to emphasize that removal Jupiters was part of larger move for strengthening NATO deterrent and that prospective Italian agreement could also be helpful.

Erkin agreed that problem would be essentially one of public relations but nevertheless of no mean proportions. When I questioned this by noting effort which GOT had made to restrict publicity on existence Jupiters in Turkey, Erkin smiled and said: "Everyone knew about them but didn't say much. Now they will begin talking."

HARE

COT/16

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