

**January 29, 1963**

**Department of State Telegram 1416 to the American  
Embassy Rome**

**Citation:**

"Department of State Telegram 1416 to the American Embassy Rome", January 29, 1963, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 84, Rome Embassy Classified General Records 1946-1964, Box 125, 430.1 Italy and IRBM and NATO 1962 1963 1964. Contributed by Bill Burr and Leopoldo Nuti. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/300403>

**Summary:**

Responding to Finletter's request, the State Department provides a statement on the Jupiters for the NAC meeting on January 30, 1963. It explained that the U.S. cannot bring up the matter unilaterally until consultations with Italy and Turkey have progressed. Finletter should coordinate delivery of the statement with Italian and Turkish representatives while Reinhard and Hare work with the Italians and Turks in preparing a written statement that can be presented to the NAC at a later stage. While the Italians were willing to join the statement, it is not clear whether Turkey did or whether the statement was made to the NAC on January 30.

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**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

# TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

INCOMING AMERICAN EMBASSY ROME

*R. U.*

This document consists of 3 pages  
Number / of 16 copies, Series A. *file*

P R I O R I T Y

S E C R E T  
Classification

Control: 994

Recd: JAN 29, 1963

ACTION COPY  
*01/29*

Return to the  
Records Unit

Action Taken:

*Pol*  
FROM: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

ACTION: ROME PRITY 1416, JAN 28, 8PM

ACTION PARIS PRITY TOPOL 1017 ROME PRITY 1416 ANKARA PRITY 647  
CINCLANT POLAD UNN

POLTO 879 SENT ROME POLTO 70. ANKARA POLTO 24.

Initials *JK*

YOU SHOULD COORDINATE WITH ITALIAN AND TURKISH COLLEAGUES IN  
MAKING STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES, JOINTLY WITH ITALIANS  
AND TURKS IF FEASIBLE:

Date *1/1/63*

"WE HAD HOPED BE IN POSITION CONSULT NAC AT JANUARY 23 MEETING  
ON SUBJECT OF STATIONING POLARIS SUBMARINES IN MEDITERRANEAN.  
AS COUNCIL AWARE, WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONTINUING SERIOUS  
CONSIDERATION TO QUESTION OF STRENGTHENING NUCLEAR DETERRENT  
CAPABILITY AVAILABLE TO NATO IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA. AS POLARIS  
MRBM SYSTEM REACHED FULL PRODUCTION WE HAVE TAKEN HARD LOOK  
AT LIQUID-FUELED JUPITER MISSILES NOW DEPLOYED ITALY AND TURKEY.  
CONCLUSION WAS THAT JUPITERS RAPIDLY BECOMING OBSOLETE AND  
HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY ADVANCES IN WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. THEY  
REPRESENT FURTHER DISADVANTAGE TO NATO SECURITY IN THAT THEY  
FORM FIXED, VULNRABLE TARGETS. SOLID-FUELED POLARIS MISSILES  
EMPLACED IN SUBMARINES WOULD BE MUCH LESS VULNERABLE THAN JUPITERS.  
POLARIS SYSTEM THUS HAS MUCH GEATER EFFECTIVENESS. DEPLOYED  
IN MEDITERRANEAN, POLARIS WOULD MORE THAN MATCH THE NATO  
MILITARY REQUIREMENT ALONG ALLIANCE'S SOUTHERN FLANK NOW COVERED  
BY JUPITERS.

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Authority *NNO 959210*

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S E C R E T

PAGE TWO CONTROL 994

ENTIRE QUESTION HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS WITH INTENTION THAT, IF EXCHANGE OF POLARIS FOR JUPITERS ACCEPTABLE TO ITALY AND TURKEY WE WOULD JOINTLY PRESENT PROPOSAL TO NAC AND MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATO ENDORSEMENT. AS OF JANUARY 23, PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH ITALY AND TURKEY HAD NOT REACHED POINT WHERE DISCUSSION IN NAC WAS FEASIBLE. DESPITE PRECAUTIONS PRESS AND PUBLIC SPECULATION DID OCCUR AND IT BECAME NECESSARY FOR GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO CONFIRM THAT TALKS UNDERWAY AND THUS PLACE SUBJECT IN PROPER CONTEXT. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR COUNCIL TO REALIZE THAT FORMAL CONSULTATION NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION BY THREE COUNTRIES PRIMARILY AFFECTED HAS REACHED POINT WHERE CONCRETE PROPOSAL CAN BE PLACED BEFORE COUNCIL. WE EXPECT SHORTLY TO MAKE SUCH PROPOSALS IN WRITING TO COUNCIL AND MILITARY COMMITTEE.

"THIS MOVE IS ANOTHER STRONG INDICATION OF US INTENTION TO INCREASE NATO'S NUCLEAR STRENGTH. US GIVES CONTINUING ATTENTION TO NECESSITY TO MODERNIZE WEAPONS SYSTEMS AVAILABLE TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO STRENGTHEN NATO DETERRENT. ANY RUMORS TO THE CONTRARY ARE PATENTLY FALSE; INFERENCE THAT US INTENDS TO WITHDRAW TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM EUROPE IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. ACTUALLY, NUMBER OF TACTICAL WEAPONS STATIONED IN EUROPE IS INCREASING. OUR INTENTION IS TO INSURE THAT NATO'S NUCLEAR POSTURE IS NOT ONLY MAINTAINED BUT STRENGTHENED BY ADDITION OF MOST MODERN AND LEAST VULNERABLE WEAPONS SYSTEMS".

FYI IN CONVERSATION WITH SEC GEN YOU SHOULD STRESS POINT THAT THIS COULD NOT BE UNILATERAL MOVE BY US AND CONSEQUENTLY CONSULTATION WITH NAC PRIOR TO REACHING BASIC UNDERSTANDING WITH ITALY AND TURKEY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTIMELY AND INAPPROPRIATE. END FYI.

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S E C R E T

PAGE THREE CONTROL 994

AMBASSADORS REINHARDT AND HARE ARE REQUESTED TO CONFIRM TO  
AMB FINLETTER DEPARTMENTS ASSUMPTION, INDICATED IN ABOVE TEXT,  
THAT GOI AND GOT WOULD BE WILLING IN NEAR FUTURE MAKE JOINT  
PRESENTATION TO NAC OF WRITTEN PROPOSALS. WOULD HOPE ITALIAN  
AND TURKISH PERMREPS COULD BE APPROPRIATELY INSTRUCTED PRIOR  
JAN 30 MEETING.

IF ASSUMPTION NOT CORRECT, FIRST SENTENCE OF SECOND PARAGRAPH  
PROPOSED TEXT ABOVE SHOULD BE REVISED TO READ ".....WITH INTENTION  
THAT, IF DISCUSSIONS DISCLOSE POLARIS-JUPITER EXCHANGE ACCEPTABLE,  
WE WOULD FURTHER SUGGEST TO ITALY AND TURKEY THAT WE MAKE JOINT  
PRESENTATION TO NAC AND MIL CTEE FOR NATO ENDORSEMENT."  
LAST SENTENCE SAME PARAGRAPH SHOULD THEN BE REVISED TO READ "IF  
ITALY AND TURKEY AGREE, WE WOULD HOPE SHORTLY TO MAKE WRITTEN  
PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL AND MIL CTEE.