

December 27, 1962

**JCS Telegram 7947 to USCINCEUR
[Commander-in-Chief European Command],
CINCLANT [Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Command]
and DSTP [Director Strategic Target Planning Staff],
Offutt Air Force Base, Info for CINCSAC [Commander
in Chief Strategic Air Command]**

Citation:

"JCS Telegram 7947 to USCINCEUR [Commander-in-Chief European Command], CINCLANT [Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Command] and DSTP [Director Strategic Target Planning Staff], Offutt Air Force Base, Info for CINCSAC [Commander in Chief Strategic Air Command]", December 27, 1962, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Record Group 218, Maxwell Taylor Files, Box 36, Nassau/Jupiters/Skybolt/MLF (Folder #2). Contributed by Bill Burr and Leopoldo Nuti.
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Summary:

This urgent message “of the highest sensitivity” from the Joint Chiefs to top commanders began with a misrepresentation of President Kennedy’s decision: “serious consideration [is] being given to withdrawal of JUPITERS from Italy and Turkey.” The recipients—General Lyman Lemnitzer [CINCEUR], Admiral Robert Dennison [CINCLANT], and General Thomas Power [DSTP]—were to assume that Italy and Turkey had agreed to the decision, that withdrawal of the Jupiters would occur by April 1, 1963, and that Polaris submarines would be in the Mediterranean by that date. Both USCINCEUR and DSTP, who directed work on the SIOP, were to consider retargeting requirements once the Jupiters went offline. CINCLANT was to consider the feasibility of deploying one, two, or three submarines.

Credits:

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MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE~~TOP SECRET~~

a. Host countries have agreed to this action.

b. Effective date for completion of withdrawal is
1 April 1963.

c. POLARIS submarines can be on station in the
Mediterranean by 1 April 1963 to replace JUPITERs.

PART III. For USCINCEUR. Considering operational characteristics of the two weapon delivery systems; your comments desired as to best way to retarget available weapons following withdrawal of the JUPITERs, and any problems arising therefrom. Provide copy your comments DSTP and CINCLANT.

PART IV. For CINCLANT. Your comments desired on feasibility of deploying one, two, or three operational POLARIS submarines to Mediterranean by 1 April 1963. In each case, include comments on expected degradation of total POLARIS submarine force caused by such deployment prior to completion of ROTA POLARIS Base. Provide copy your comments to DSTP and USCINCEUR.

PART V. For DSTP. Your recommendations desired as to best way to retarget available weapons following JUPITER withdrawal and any problems arising therefrom. Any data required from CINCLANT and USCINCEUR in addition to that requested

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in Parts III and IV above may be obtained through direct communications.

PART VI. For All. This is a matter of urgency, comments requested soonest. The loss of over-all firepower and relatively inefficient use of POLARIS submarines implicit in this proposal are recognized here. Gp-1.

Initials	Co. #	Signature	Date
1-5	X-1	[Signature]	1-7-12
D/JS	X-12-13	[Signature]	1-2
D-TS	X-14-15	[Signature]	1-2
S-TS	X-16-17	[Signature]	1-3

DISTR : CJCS-2, DJS-2, SJCS-1, J3-1, J5-1, CNO, CSAF, CMC, CSA

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