

February 21, 1963

Memorandum from JCS Chairman Maxwell Taylor to the Secretary of Defense, 'Deployment of POLARIS Submarines to the Mediterranean'

Citation:

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Summary:

Consistent with the concerns about target coverage, the plan for Polaris patrols required the presence of at least one submarine in the Mediterranean. The overlapping patrols would begin when the U.S.S. Sam Houston entered the Mediterranean on March 28, followed by the U.S.S. John Marshall on April 10, and the U.S.S. Ethan Allen on 1 June. The Sam Houston could make a port call in Turkey, but the stopover had to occur when another submarine was in the Mediterranean. Taylor recommended the port of GLOCK as the site of a two-day visit, one day for a visit by officials and the second for a "daylight indoctrination cruise by designated observers." The latter would be barred from sensitive "spaces" used for communications and nuclear propulsion.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

JCSM-150-63

21 FEB 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Deployment of POLARIS Submarines
to the Mediterranean (C)

1. The following planning information on the deployment of the three POLARIS submarines assigned to SACEUR is provided in response to your memorandum of 6 February 1963, subject as above.

2. The first POLARIS submarine will be scheduled to enter the Mediterranean through the Strait of Gibraltar on 28 March 1963, the second on 10 April 1963, and the third on 1 June 1963.

3. The U.S.S. ETHAN ALLEN (SSBN 608), the U.S.S. SAM HOUSTON (SSBN 609), and the U.S.S. JOHN MARSHALL (SSBN 611) are to be assigned for Mediterranean operations. In order to conduct Operational Readiness and Reliability Tests (ORRT) while at the same time not having the number of submarines in the Mediterranean drop below one, it will be necessary from time to time to make available on a temporary basis another POLARIS submarine from the Holy Loch.

4. The following schedule, through August 1963, provides for maintaining either one or two POLARIS submarines in the Mediterranean:

<u>SSBN</u>	<u>DEPART HOLY LOCH</u>	<u>IN MEDITERRANEAN</u>	<u>ARRIVE HOLY LOCH</u>
609	23 MAR	23 MAR - 13 MAY	13 MAY
611	5 APR	10 APR - 1 JUN	5 JUN
608	27 MAY	1 JUN - 17 JUL	22 JUL

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<u>SSBN</u>	<u>DEPART HOLY LOCH</u>	<u>IN MEDITERRANEAN</u>	<u>ARRIVE HOLY LOCH</u>
609	15 JUN	20 JUN - 5 AUG	10 AUG
Note 1	31 JUL	5 AUG - 20 SEP	25 SEP
608	19 AUG	24 AUG - 9 OCT	14 OCT

Note 1: To permit SSBN 611 participation in ORRT firing, it is planned that the THOMAS EDISON (SSBN 610) will temporarily replace SSBN 611.

5. Action has been initiated to have the personnel and the communication facilities essential for the control of POLARIS submarines operating in the Mediterranean established in Naples, Italy. This action will be substantially completed by 21 March.

6. A study has been made of Turkish ports. Although none completely fulfill all of the safety and security criteria for a nuclear submarine port call, the port of Golcuk is recommended if political considerations dictate such a visit. It is recommended that it not be scheduled prior to 13 April 1963 and that visits only be scheduled when two POLARIS submarines are in the Mediterranean. A maximum of two days for a port visit is recommended, one of which could be used for in-port visiting by Turkish officials and the second for a daylight indoctrination cruise for designated observers up to a maximum number of fifteen.

7. In the absence of an atomic cooperation agreement with Turkey covering naval reactors, the in-port tour of the submarine for selected visitors must be on an unclassified basis. Furthermore, during the at-sea portion of the port call, visitors can not be permitted in nuclear propulsion and communication spaces. However, the submarine should be able to carry out the above security arrangements without embarrassment to the visitors or undue restrictions within the submarine.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
 Chairman
 Joint Chiefs of Staff

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