

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086723

71

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES

REFS: STATE 061619 (NOTAL)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 086723

1. FOR ANKARA AND ROME: MISSIONS SHOULD DRAW ON BACK-

GROUND INFORMATION BELOW TO MAKE LOW-KEY APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRIES: (A) POINTING OUT THAT NATO'S DETERRENT AND DEFENSE CAPABILITIES COULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED BY EARLY AGREEMENTS WITH HOSTNATIONS IDENTIFYING AND ALLOWING PREPARATION OF ALLIED AIR BASES TO RECEIVE REINFORCING US TACTICAL AIRCRAFT IN TIME OF NATO EMERGENCY; (B) ALERTING FOREIGN MINISTRIES THAT THIS MATTER, PREVIOUSLY HANDLED IN MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CHANNELS, WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL BY NATO'S DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE (DPC) PERMREPS EARLY IN MAY, AND; (C) OFFERING (IF YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL) TO HAVE A US EUROPEAN COMMAND (EUCOM)/USAFE BRIEFING TEAM VISIT CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE REQUIREMENT FOR COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES.

2. AT THE MAY, 1972 DPC MINISTERIAL, SECRETARYLAIRD POINTED OUT THAT U.S. REINFORCING AIRCRAFT WOULD BE FORCED TO CONCENTRATE ON TOO FEW BASES IN EUROPE, THEREBY CREATING TEMPTING TARGETS AND ALMOST UNMANAGEABLE OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE PROBLEMS

COULD BE SOLVED AT LITTLE COST IF ALLIED NATIONS WOULD AGREE TO ALLOW US REINFORCING AIRCRAFT TO DEPLOY TO HOST-NATION ACTIVE AIRFIELDS AT WHICH THE US WOULD PREPOSITION WAR RESERVE MATERIAL AND GROUND EQUIPMEN. IN PEACETIME, US PERSONNEL WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE STATIONED AT THESE ALLIED AIR BASES. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRE HOST NATION APPROVAL AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE STATED THAT WE ARE READY TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH INTERESTED ALLIES.

3. US EUROPEAN COMMAND (EUCOM) HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BEGIN SURVEYS FOR SUITABLE BASES IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION (UK, THE NETHERLANDS, FRG, AND NORWAY) AND TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST NATION AIR FORCES. USAFE ALSO HAS PARTICIPATED IN AFSOUTH EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY IN GREECE, ITALY AND TURKEY ALLIED AIR BASES SUITABLE FOR USAFE WARTIME USE. IN THE SOUTHERN REGION, THE ITALIAN MOD HAS NOMINATED FOUR SUITABLE BASES; THE HELLENIC AIR FORCE INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENTWITH THE AFSOUTH BASING PROPOSAL BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
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PAGE 03 STATE 086723

IN IDENTIFYING BASES, AND; THE TURKISH AIR FORCE, AFTER NOMINATING SEVERAL UNSUITABLE BASES, HAS ASKED AFSOUTH FOR A PRIORITY LISTING OF EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENT PROGRAMS BEFORE DETERMINING WHICH BASES MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. THAT REMAINS THE STATUS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

4. AT THE JUNE, 1973 DPC MINISTERIAL, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER PROPOSED THAT NATO INCREASE ITS AIRCRAFT

SHELTER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SHELTERS FOR ALL TACTICAL AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN THEATER BY M PLUS 30. THIS PROPOSAL ACCENTUATES THE NEED TO IDENTIFY THE BASES TO WHICH THESE AIRCRAFT WOULD DEPLOY. THE NATO DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION PREPARED A REPORT ON AIRCRAFT SHELTERS AND OTHER BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING (DPC/D(73)30) WHICH POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR A QTE THOROUGH REVIEW OF RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT. UNQTE. THE BASIC ISSUES REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT COUNTRIES QTE ENCOURAGE ALL POSSIBLE CO-OPERATION IN INCREASING THE COLLOCATED BASES FOR THE BED-DOWN OF UNITED STATES AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT AND CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS FOR THE NECESSARY NEW FACILITIES AT SUCH BASES. UNQTE. AT THE DECEMBER, 1973 DPC MINISTERIAL, MINISTERS AGREED TO TAKE THE ACTION RECOMMENDED IN THE BASIC ISSUES REPORT AND INVITED THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO REPORT PROGRESS ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE SPRING 1974 MEETING OF MINISTERS. (DPC/D(73)35).

5. THE REQUIREMENT FOR COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES IN GREECE, ITALY AND TURKEY HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED IN THE NATO

DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE IN PREPARING DRAFT NATO FORCE GOALS FOR 1975-1980. GOAL 1A22 FOR GREECE, 1A25 FOR ITALY, AND 1A26 FOR TURKEY ASK THESE COUNTRIES TO MAKE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTS. (SEE COUNTRY CHAPTERS OF DRC/WP(74)1.) IN DRAFTING US FORCE GOAL 1A01S/1A02S/1A03S THERE WAS EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL SQUADRONS OF US AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED TO REINFORCE THE SOUTHERN REGION. THE US MADE IT CLEAR IN THESE DISCUSSIONS THAT WHILE THE US IS IN PRINCIPLE PREPARED TO EARMARK AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN SQUADRONS WHICH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 086723

ARRIVE AFTER M PLUS 4 FOR SACEUR'S USE, SUCH ACTION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE PROVISION BY HOST NATIONS AND NATO OF ADEQUATE COLLOCATED OPERATING BASE ARRANGEMENTS AND FACILITIES.

6. FYI: WE INTEND TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS FOR COLLOCATED BASES AT THE DPC PERMREP LEVEL IN NATO. AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD ALERTED THE DPC ON APRIL 3 TO THE NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SUPPORT TO SPEED COMPLETION OF THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS FOR SUITABLE BASES FOR US REINFORCING AIRCRAFT. WE HAVE SCHEDULED A BRIEFING FOR THE DPC ON THIS SUBJECT ON MAY 2 AND ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE THROUGH USNATO TO HAVE THE EUCOM/USAFE BRIEFING TEAM VISIT NATO CAPITALS IF EMBASSIES BELIEVE BRIEFINGS TO HOST NATIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL. ALL THAT WE SEEK TO

ACCOMPLISH AT THIS STAGE BY HAVING EMBASSY DISCUSS FORE-
GOING WITH FOREIGN OFFICE IS TO ALERT LATTER TO PROBLEM
AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND. IF HOST NATIONS
SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO FORMAL
DISCUSSIONS OF SUITABLE COLLOCATED BASES WE WILL PROVIDE
AUTHORITY TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL FORWARD
NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS. END FYI.

7. FOR ATHENS: ABOVE INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR YOUR
BACKGROUND. TO AVOID COMPLICATING THE ON-GOING SOUDA BAY
NEGOTIATIONS, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD NOT APPROACH FOREIGN
MINISTRY ON COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES. GOG WILL, IN
ANY CASE, BE INFORMED THROUGH DPC REPRESENTATIVE.

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