

Authority UND 97507  
By [Signature] NARA Date 1/9/97

ACTION: POC

# TELEGRAM TOP SECRET

FROM: STATE

NO: 775-86

RECD: MAY 5 1971

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R 02026Z MAY 71  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUDI,OR/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8577  
INFO RUEKJCSYDOD

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TOP SECRET SECTION 1 OF 2 STATE 077586

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SUBJ: NUCLEAR CONSULTATION WITH UK AND USE OF HOLY LOCH  
BY FMBS (POSEIDON-EQUIPPED)

REFS: A. STATE 203272 (15 DEC 1970)  
B. STATE 63095

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER HEATH  
SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 4:

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 7, 1971,  
EXPRESSING YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE USE OF HOLY LOCH BY  
US FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES (POSEIDON-EQUIPPED)  
IN THE SAME WAY AS THEIR SISTERS POLARIS AND UNDER THE  
SAME ARRANGEMENTS AS ARE SET OUT IN THE 1964 MEMORANDUM  
OF UNDERSTANDING ON HOLY LOCH.

I AM PLEASE TO GIVE YOU MY ASSURANCES THAT THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL REGARD THE MEMORANDUM  
OF UNDERSTANDING LAST REAFFIRMED IN MY LETTER OF  
DECEMBER 14, 1970 (CONCERNING CONSULTATION BETWEEN  
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS BEFORE CERTAIN FORCES EQUIPPED  
WITH UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OPERATING FROM  
BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR BERMUDA WOULD USE THESE  
WEAPONS) AS APPLYING WITH RESPECT TO FLEET BALLISTIC  
MISSILE SUBMARINES (POSEIDON-EQUIPPED) IN THE SAME  
MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT AS WITH RESPECT TO  
POLARIS SUBMARINES.

I ACCORDINGLY CONFIRM THAT THE AMENDMENTS YOU  
PROPOSE TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING  
CONSULTATION ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ME. I AM ENCLOSED THE  
AMENDED VERSION OF THE MEMORANDUM. SINCERELY,  
UNQUOTE

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ENCLOSURE TO ABOVE LETTER

QUOTE UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE BRITISH ON THE USE OF  
BRITISH BASES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. OUR UNDERSTANDING ON THE USE OF BRITISH BASES IS  
THAT THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER WILL REACH A  
JOINT DECISION BY SPEAKING PERSONALLY WITH EACH OTHER

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## TOP SECRET

OVER  
BOOK

Authority ND 97587  
 By NARA Date 2/9/97

**TOP SECRET**

BEFORE CERTAIN FORCES EQUIPPED WITH U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OPERATING FROM BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR BERMUDA WILL USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NAMELY SAC, BRITISH STRIKE COMMAND (EXCLUDING AIRCRAFT OF SUCH COMMAND EQUIPPED WITH BRITISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS), FORCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHICH ARE ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO A NATO COMMANDER, U.S. POLARIS AND POSEIDON SUBMARINES IN BRITISH TERRITORIAL WATERS AND U.S. FORCES IN BERMUDA. THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING IS CONTAINED IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF JANUARY 9, 1952, COVERING THE TRUMAN-CHURCHILL TALKS:

INNERQUOTE UNDER ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE, THE UNITED STATES HAS THE USE OF CERTAIN BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. WE REAFFIRM THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USE OF THESE BASES IN AN EMERGENCY WOULD BE A MATTER FOR JOINT DECISION BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING AT THE TIME. END INNERQUOTE

PROCEDURES FOR CARRYING OUT THIS BASIC UNDERSTANDING WERE AGREED UPON IN THE MURPHY-DEAN AGREEMENT OF JUNE 7, 1958, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER. THE VOERING DOCUMENT, THE REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, REPEATS ALMOST LITERALLY THE LANGUAGE OF THE TRUMAN-CHURCHILL COMMUNIQUE:

INNERQUOTE 2. THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS, REGARDING THE USE OF BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY UNITED STATES FORCES, PROVIDES THAT SUCH USE IN AN EMERGENCY SHALL BE A MATTER FOR JOINT DECISION BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME. END INNERQUOTE.

2. THERE IS A SECOND, MORE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BRITISH THAT WE WILL CONSULT WITH THEM BEFORE USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS ANYWHERE, IF POSSIBLE. THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT IS CONTAINED IN A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND EDEN ON MARCH 9, 1953. EDEN HAD ASKED FOR AN ASSURANCE OF CONSULTATION BY THE PRESIDENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER PRIOR TO U.S. USE OF ANY NUCLEAR WEAPON.

INNERQUOTE HE (THE PRESIDENT) SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WULD, OF COURSE, IN THE EVENT OF INCREASED TENSION OR THE THREAT OF WAR, TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO CONSULT WITH BRITAIN AND OUR OTHER ALLIES. END INNERQUOTE

THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED THIS UNDERSTANDING WHEN HE WROTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON OCTOBER 27, 1960, IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOLY LOCH BERTHING:

INNERQUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO THE LAUNCHING OF MISSILES FROM THE U.S. POLARIS SUBMARINES, I GIVE YOU THE FOLLOWING ASSURANCE, WHICH OF COURSE IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED PUBLICLY. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, SUCH AS INCREASED TENSION OR

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WWD 979507  
By [Signature] NARA Date 1/1/97

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Embassy London  
**TELEGRAM**  
**TOP SECRET**

ACTION: Pol

FROM: STATE

NO: 77586

RECD: MAY 5 1971

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T O P S E C R E T FINAL SECTION OF 2 STATE 077586.

EXDIS

THREAT OF WAR, THE U.S. WILL TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE  
STEP TO CONSULT WITH BRITAIN AND OTHER ALLIES.  
THIS REAFFIRMS THE ASSURANCE I GAVE FOREIGN  
SECRETARY EDEN ON MARCH 9, 1953. END INNERQUOTE  
THIS ASSURANCE IS TO BE TAKEN AS APPLYING WITH ATTENTION  
RESPECT TO FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES (POSEIDON  
EQUIPPED) IN THE SAME MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT  
AS WITH RESPECT TO POLARIS SUBMARINES.

ADMIN  
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ATO-3

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE AGREEMENT FOR JOINT  
DECISION BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER DOES  
NOT EXTEND TO ALL U.S. FORCES UNDER SACEUR AND SACLANT  
BUT ONLY COVERS THOSE FORCES BASED IN THE UNITED  
KINGDOM WHICH ARE ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED FOR ASSIGNMENT  
TO A NATO COMMANDER. THE OTHER U.S. NUCLEAR FORCES  
UNDER SACEUR AND SACLANT WOULD ONLY BE COVERED BY THE  
GENERAL UNDERSTANDING TO CONSULT IF TIME PERMITS.  
THE AGREEMENT FOR JOINT DECISION DOES, HOWEVER, EXTEND  
TO ALL U.S. FORCES OPERATING FROM BERMUDA WHETHER OR  
NOT THEY ARE UNDER SACEUR OR SACLANT.

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4. THERE IS ALSO AN UNDERSTANDING IN RESPECT OF  
U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DESTINED FOR RELEASE IN  
EMERGENCY TO MARITIME AIRCRAFT OF THE NETHERLANDS  
AND STORED IN ST. MAWGAN, CORNWALL, WHICH WAS SET OUT  
IN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER WILSON  
AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN 1965. IN REPLY TO MR. WILSON'S  
LETTER OF AUGUST 5, 1965, PRESIDENT JOHNSON CONFIRMED  
IN A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 11, 1965, THAT INNERQUOTE THE  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTENDED FOR USE BY NETHERLANDS ASW  
FORCES COULD NOT BE RELEASED FOR USE IN ADVANCE OF THE  
JOINT DECISION ON RELEASE FOR USE TO UNITED STATES AND  
BRITISH FORCES OF UNITES STATES ASW NUCLEAR WEAPONS ALSO  
STORED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER THE SAME NATO PLAN.  
END INNERQUOTE UNQUOTE

CN-2  
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STRIKE  
WHCA  
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ONR-5  
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FBIS

CRS-2  
CB-4  
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MASTER

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**TOP SECRET**

OVER

Authority *AMP 979587*  
 By *[Signature]* NARA Date *7/9/97*

**TOP SECRET**

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS TO BRITISH AMBASSADOR DATED MAY 4, 1971:

QUOTE EXCELLENCY: I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR NOTE NUMBER 89 OF APRIL 8, 1971, EXPRESSING THE AGREEMENT OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO THE USE OF HOLY LOCH BY FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES (POSEIDON-EQUIPPED) IN THE SAME WAY AS THEIR SISTERS POLARIS, AND UNDER THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS AS ARE SET OUT IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ANNEXED TO MR. BUTLER'S LETTER TO MR. BRUCE OF FEBRUARY 20, 1964. I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONVEY TO YOU MY APPRECIATION FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS ACTION OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE

5. REFTEL B PARA THREE NOTED THAT DEPT OFF RAISED QUESTION WITH UK EMBOFF WHETHER HMG INTERPRETED CURRENT EXCHANGE OF NOTES REGARDING FBMS (POSEIDON) USE OF HOLY LOCH TO CONSTITUTE AGREEMENT SEPARATE FROM 1964 HOLY LOCH AGREEMENT. ON APRIL 16 UK EMBOFF REPLIED ORALLY THAT FONOFF CONSIDERED THERE WAS ONLY ONE AGREEMENT EXTANT, 1964 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, AND THAT BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S NOTE OF APRIL 8 (SEE PARA 2 REFTEL B) COULD BE VIEWED AS AN INTERPRETATION OR ELABORATION OF 1964 BASIC AGREEMENT. SPECIFICALLY APRIL 8 NOTE HAS EFFECT OF CONFIRMING APPLICABILITY OF 1964 MOU TO POSEIDON-EQUIPPED SYSTEMS. FOR FURTHER UK VIEWS ON 1964 HOLY LOCH AGREEMENT AS APPLYING TO FBMS (POSEIDON-EQUIPPED) AND FUTURE SYSTEMS ALSO SEE STATE 51010 PARA 2. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, SECSTATE REPLY IS IN FORM OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S NOTE, ALL NECESSARY ASSURANCES OR COMMITMENTS HAVING BEEN MADE IN 1964 HOLY LOCH AGREEMENT. GP-1 IRWIN

**TOP SECRET**