

**March 28, 1963**

**American Embassy Rome Airgram A-1368 to State  
Department, 'Exchange of Notes Affecting  
Replacement of Jupiter Missiles in Italy'**

**Citation:**

"American Embassy Rome Airgram A-1368 to State Department, 'Exchange of Notes Affecting Replacement of Jupiter Missiles in Italy'", March 28, 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://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/300453>

**Summary:**

On March 22, 1963, through an exchange of notes, the U.S. and Italy confirmed the final agreement on the dismantling of the Jupiter missiles and their replacement with patrols of Polaris submarines assigned to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. The Polaris patrols would begin on April 1, 1963, and the dismantling operation would occur during the next 25 days.

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AIR PRIORITY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: ANKARA, PARIS

Embassy ROME

March 28, 1963

Exchange of Notes effecting replacement of Jupiter Missiles  
in Italy.

Department Telegram 1819 of March 19, 1963.

DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISER FOR TREATY AFFAIRS. PARIS FOR  
USRO, STOESSEL AND McUIRE.

In accordance with the cited telegram, notes were exchanged on March  
22 to effect replacement of the Jupiter intermediate range ballistic miss-  
iles stationed in Italy with Polaris submarines in the Mediterranean.  
Charge d'Affaires Francis T. Williamson signed for the United States and  
Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Edoardo Martino signed for  
Italy.

In accordance with 11 FAM 326 there are transmitted the following:

- Enclosure No. 1. Certified copy of the Embassy's Note No. 1047 of  
March 22, 1963, and the same text copied on re-  
producible form.
- Enclosure No. 2. Signed original of Foreign Office Note No. 21/603  
of March 22, 1963 in reply to the Embassy's No.  
1047 (Enclosure No. 1 above), and the same text  
on reproducible form.

For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:

Michael R. Gannett, Chief  
Mutual Defense Affairs Section

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and declassification.

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Encl. No. 1  
Rome A-1368

No. 1047

Rome, March 22, 1963

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to the recent conversations held by the Government of the United States of America with the Government of Italy and the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and to the notification to the North Atlantic Council that NATO weapons systems will be modernized by replacing the Jupiter intermediate range ballistic missiles in Italy with Polaris submarines operating in the Mediterranean.

In accordance with the foregoing, I have the honor to communicate the agreement of the United States of America to the following understandings:

1. To ensure that NATO continues to have the most effective weapons systems at its disposal, the Jupiter intermediate range ballistic missiles stationed in Italy will be replaced by Polaris submarines in the Mediterranean. It has been agreed by P these submarines will not be based in Italy. The first submarine armed with Polaris missiles will arrive in the Mediterranean on or about April 1st.
2. The Polaris submarines operating in the Mediterranean will be assigned to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. The manner of deployment and operation in the Mediterranean of the Polaris submarines will be determined by the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.
3. In accordance with the understandings of the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Italy, the dismantling of the Jupiter intermediate range ballistic missile weapons system will begin concurrently with the arrival of the first Polaris submarine in the Mediterranean and will be completed within 25 days.
4. Further arrangements required to implement these understandings shall be worked out between agencies designated by the two Governments.

I have the honor to propose that, if these understandings are acceptable to the Government of Italy, this note and Your Excellency's note in reply concurring therein shall constitute an Agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of Your Excellency's reply.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

/s/ Francis T. Williamson

Francis T. Williamson  
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

His Excellency  
Eduardo Martino,  
Under-Secretary of State,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Rome.

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Ministero degli Affari Esteri

No. 21/603 di Prot.

Roma, il 22 marzo 1963

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Signor Incaricato d'Affari,

Ho l'onore di accusare ricevuta della lettera della S.V. in data di oggi, del seguente tenore:

"Ho l'onore di riferirmi alle recenti conversazioni intercorse tra il Governo degli Stati Uniti, il Governo italiano ed il Comandante Supremo alleato in Europa, ed alla notifica al Consiglio Nord Atlantico che i sistemi di armamenti NATO saranno modernizzati con la sostituzione dei missile balistici a media portata Jupiter in Italia con sottomarini Polaris operanti nel Mediterraneo.

In relazione a quanto precede, ho l'onore di comunicare l'approvazione degli Stati Uniti d'America alle intese riportate qui di seguito:

- 1)- per assicurare che la NATO continui ad avere a sua disposizione il più efficace sistema di armamenti, i missili balistici a media portata Jupiter stazionati in Italia saranno sostituiti da sottomarini Polaris nel Mediterraneo. E' convenuto che tali sottomarini non abbiano basi in Italia. Il primo sottomarino armato con missile Polaris arriverà nel Mediterraneo all'incirca il 1° aprile.
- 2)- I sottomarini operanti nel Mediterraneo saranno assegnati al Comandante Supremo alleato in Europa. Lo spiegamento e l'impiego dei sottomarini Polaris nel Mediterraneo sarà determinato dal Comandante Supremo alleato in Europa.
- 3)- In base alle intese tra il Governo degli Stati Uniti ed il Governo italiano, lo smantellamento del sistema dei missili Jupiter inizierà con l'arrivo del primo sottomarino Polaris nel Mediterraneo e verrà completato entro 25 giorni.
- 4)- Ogni ulteriore intesa per mettere in pratica il presente accordo verrà stabilita tra gli organi designati dai due Governi.

Ho l'onore di proporre che, se le presenti intese sono accettabili da parte del Governo italiano, la presente Nota insieme alla risposta di accettazione di V.E. costituiscano un accordo tra i due Governi che entrerà in vigore alla data della risposta di V.E.

Per il Ministro  
Francis T. Williamson  
Incaricato d'Affari a.i.  
dell'Ambasciata degli Stati Uniti d'America

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La prego di accettare, Eccellenza, la rinnovata assicurazione della mia più alta considerazione."

In risposta, ho l'onore di comunicarLe che il Governo della Repubblica accetta le intese sopra specificate e conviene che la lettera della S.V. unitamente alla presente risposta, costituiscano un accordo tra i due Governi che entrerà in vigore alla data di oggi.

La prego di gradire, Signor Incaricato d'Affari, gli atti della mia più distinta considerazione.

/s/ E Martino.

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