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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

29 March 1963

Dear Man:

Here is the note I promised you regarding the JUPITER removal -- the physical operation and the press handling.

We have kicked this around with State at length. There is no way to avoid having photographs taken of JUPITERs during the dismantling process. All we can do is to handle the operation in a way to reduce, as much as we can, erroneous comparisons with Cuba.

Here are the essentials of the plan:

1. Physical Actions. Air Force (executive agent). No bulldozers; no surreptitiousness; no "row of sausages" at airheads.

-- ITALY: Start April 1 (Monday); all 30 missiles (at 10 sites) horizontal by April 12; all warheads blown out by April 12; all missiles hauled between 1 and 48 miles into airhead by April 22 (3 every 2 days) resulting in a "grave yard" beginning with 3 on April 6 and 27 from April 22 on for a few months.

-- TURKEY: Start April 15 (Monday); all 18 missiles (at 5 sites) horizontal by April 27; all warheads blown out by April 29; all missiles hauled between 20 and 88 miles into airhead by April 29 (approx. one a day); a "grave yard" beginning with 3 on April 19 and 12 from April 28 on for a few months.

2. Public Affairs Actions.

-- POLARIS: Arrival in Mediterranean of Polaris submarines and April 14-15 sub visit to Turkey will be publicized.

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-- JUPITER: Dismantling will be treated as routine military operation, with no photographers allowed in the launch sites or airheads, but no special limitations can be applied while missiles are in transit along roads from sites to airheads. Press will not be told schedule of movements but, in response to questions, will be told only that flow of missiles will be arriving at airheads over next few weeks. Overflights by civilian aircraft, and therefore aerial photographs, probably cannot be prevented. This is being checked.

[Special problem: Italy may want to advertise JUPITER removal; Reichardt is handling this.]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John T. McNaughton". The signature is written in a cursive style with large loops and is positioned above a horizontal line.

John T. McNaughton

Mr. McGeorge Bundy  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

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