



SECRET

2

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

2. Bundy
2. WKS
3. Kosche

October 2, 1963

Indoor
Oct 2

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY

SUBJECT: Indian Ocean Task Force

Attached is a copy of the response being sent today to Dean Rusk's letter of August 17, 1963, on the Indian Ocean task force.

The views expressed in this response should be read in conjunction with the analyses in the draft of the Memorandum for the President on Attack Carrier Forces, of which an advance copy has been sent to you by Alain Enthoven's office. This draft memorandum is now being considered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Enclosure

For Zelsetec

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 SEC. 3.6
NLIC-05-205a
By JMF NARA, Date 10/6

NSF, Box 422, India, Indian Ocean (IOTF) 1963

OCT 4 1963

SECRET

Rec'd. 10/6/63

X6486-1

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

2 OCT 1963

14968

Honorable Dean Rusk
 Secretary of State
 Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Dean:

With reference to your letter of August 17, 1963, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have concluded their study of the feasibility of deployment of a carrier task force in the Indian Ocean, including consideration of alternative means for bringing US military power to bear in the area. Their conclusions are that in light of the relatively lower strategic priority, the current and planned US military activities in the area (see attached exercise schedule) are appropriate to indicate continuing support of US strategic interests in the Indian Ocean area; but intermittent deployment of a carrier task force is feasible if political considerations make this desirable.

The Chiefs feel deployments in this area must be considered in the light of global requirements for maintaining a US military posture adequate to respond to possible contingencies and, additionally, make the following observations:

- a. With respect to US national security, the Indian Ocean area continues to hold a strategic priority generally less than the other areas in which our forces are deployed.
- b. The military situation which might require the deployment of US forces in the Indian Ocean, such as resumption of Sino-Indian hostilities or an outbreak of hostilities between Pakistan and India, does not require the continuing presence of US forces.
- c. Current and planned US military activities beyond those described in the enclosure provide substantial evidence of continuing US interest. These include US affiliations with CENTO, membership in SEATO, US bilateral defense agreements, US military assistance programs, a MIDEASTFOR consisting of a command ship and two destroyers, an Air Force unit deployed in Saudi Arabia, plans for establishment of the Defense Communications System Asian Gateway Station, and others.

S
 K
 M
 G
 CIPR
 NRA
 AF
 EME
 FE

100-14968-10
 100-14968-10

OCT 4 1963

SECRET
 SECURITY
 CLASSIFIED

NLK-05-205a

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
By: <i>[Signature]</i>
NARA Date: 1/01
SEC-DEF CONT NO. X-6468

NSF, Box 422, India, India Ocean (IOTF) 1963

~~SECRET~~

The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider the permanent deployment of a carrier task force to the area inadvisable on the basis of the forced diversion of military capability committed to support of other missions under current force levels combined with the infeasibility of increasing force levels to maintain such a full time deployment.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff also have examined your proposal that the carrier group (ESSEX) participating in MIDLINK VI be maintained on station for an extended period of time. It is possible to extend this exercise deployment, but its impact in the area is limited in that the ESSEX is configured for anti-submarine warfare rather than as an attack carrier. It seems preferable not to disturb present planning which involves a similar exercise in 1964.

It is recognized that it may become necessary to increase US military presence in response to specific situations, and in support of specific political objectives. In such instances, the selection of forces to be employed should consider the capabilities of all types of forces in relation to the nature of the requirement. In each instance selection can be made by the Department of Defense from among the following feasible alternatives, collectively or individually:

- a. Intermittent deployment of a carrier task force for periods not to exceed one to two months out of each six.
- b. Intermittent deployment of selected elements of a Composite Air Strike Force (CASF) as required, consisting of fighter, reconnaissance and troop carrier aircraft.
- c. Intermittent deployment of Army airborne forces.

We might, in fact, find that a selective escalation or intermittent deployment of US strength beyond planned exercises might be of greater political value than a carrier permanently assigned. Should political conditions call for increased activity, the Department of Defense can quickly deploy a carrier task force from the western Pacific, or air or army units, or a combination of all three, as conditions then pertaining so indicate.

Sincerely,

Encl.

Planned Jt/Combined
Exer in or near Indian
Ocean Area



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
PLANNED JOINT/COMBINED
EXERCISES IN OR NEAR THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA

1

NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME	APPROXIMATE FORCE PARTICIPATION	PURPOSE
SHAHBAZ IX EUCOM (CENTO) (CONF)	Combined Air Defense Exercise	CENTO Area (Turkey Iran Pakistan)	2nd week Dec 63 (3 days)	UK, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, US. USAFE: 36 F-100 sorties in Turkey; 6 RB-66 sorties in Turkey and Iran; 1 C-130 for log support; 4 Weapons controllers SAC: 9 aircraft sorties in Iran and Pakistan	To exercise Air Defense Systems in Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.
MIDLINK VI CENTO (NELM) (CONF-NOFORN)	Major CENTO Maritime Exercise	Arabian Sea vicinity of Karachi Pakistan	Nov 63 (15 day duration)	US: 2 destroyers (CINCNELM) 1 anti-sub carrier group 2 submarines auxiliaries as required (CINCLNAT). Other nations participating: Pakistan, UK, Iran, Turkey	To exercise and train CENTO maritime forces.
SHIKSHA (ORIENT EXPRESS) CINCNELM	Combined Air Defense Exercise	India	Nov 63 (30 day duration)	US: 1 ftr Sq; 2 mobile radar. UK: 1 ftr Sq Indian air defense forces. RAAF: target acft and controller personnel	To exercise and train Indian forces.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 SEC. 3.6
NLK-05-205a

By MF NARA, Date 1/06

~~SECRET~~

NSF, Box 422, India, Indian Ocean(IOTF) 1963

NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME	APPROXIMATE FORCE PARTICIPATION	PURPOSE
SEATO GROUND CPX (PACOM) (SECRET)	Phase I of a three phased Grand Scale exercise which SEATO sponsored is follow-on to FY 63 Ground Defense Exercise. It is based on simulated implementation of SEATO OPLAN 6B/61 which resulted from Overt aggression by DRV during exercise play of Ground Defense Exercise.	Thailand	1st half of Apr 64	Staff and HQ support personnel for SEATO Force, Field Force, Ground and Air Components, TF ALFA, TF CHARLIE, one Inf Div Hq Base Area Command; Logistic Support Elements and CVA (acting as naval supporting elements under national control)	Routine annual SEATO exercise to provide combined training to member nations' forces operating together and familiarization of SEATO plans and terrain in possible area of operations.
SHAHBAZ X CENTO SUBMITTED BY EUCOM	FTX and test of air defense systems of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. Same as SHAHBAZ IX, Nov 63	Turkey Iran Pakistan Cyprus	1st week in May 64	Same as SHAHBAZ IX, Nov 63	Same as SHAHBAZ IX, Nov 63
MIDLINK VII CENTO-NELM (CONF-NOFORN)	Minor CENTO maritime exercise	Arabian Sea vicinity of Karachi, Pakistan	Nov 64 15 days duration	US: 2 destroyers (CINCNELM) 1 submarine (CINCLANT) Other nations participating: Pakistan, UK Iran, Turkey.	To exercise and train CENTO Maritime forces.
SHAHBAZ XI CENTO (Submitted by EUCOM) (CONF)	FTX and test of Air Defense systems of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan	Turkey, Iran Pakistan Cyprus	Nov 64	See SHAHBAZ IX, Nov 63	Exercise and test CENTO Air Defense System.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

NAME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME	APPROXIMATE FORCE PARTICIPATION		PURPOSE
MIDDLE EAST II CINCNELM (Final name to be mutually agreed by US and Iran) (SECRET-NOFORN)	US Army and AF units will deploy through Turkish bases and conduct tactical air drop demonstration at Teheran. Subsequently, US Army units will operate in coordination with Iranian Army units at Teheran and Abadan respectively. Subsequent air operations will be coordinated with Iranian units in Teheran. Joint sponsorship - US - Iran.	Iran	15-30 April 64	Iran: Infantry Brigade (Teheran); Infantry Regt (Abadan); Air Wing (Teheran); Patrol Frigate Task Force (Persian Gulf).	To demonstrate the capability and intention of the US to carry out commitments under the existing bilateral agreement to come to the assistance of Iran; to enhance the readiness of US forces to conduct contingency operations in the Middle East under CINCNELM OPLANS to provide training in bilateral coordinated operations.	
SEATO TAC AIR EXERCISE PACOM SEATO sponsored (SECRET)	Phase I of Grand Scale Exercise. TAC Air exercise involving deployment of fighter, bomber & recce A/C.	Thailand	April 1964	Staff, HQs and representative members and types of A/C provided under SEATO Plan 6B/61. TAC Air participation from in-theater resources.	To exercise SEATO air units and develop coordination through AOC to test SEATO standard procedures, to familiarize SEATO member air forces in probable area of operations and to determine support and services requirements that may arise in this type of operation.	
SHIKSHA II CINCNELM	Same as SHIKSHA I	India	April 1964	US: 1 ftr Sq. UK: 1 ftr Sq. Indian air defense forces.	Same as SHIKSHA I	

~~SECRET~~