

LBJ, NSF, FLS of R.W. Komer, Bx 26, 10 Dec 63 M. Komer  
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April 3, 1965

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY

FROM : G/PM - Jeffrey C. Kitchen

SUBJECT: Proposed Concord Squadron Cruise

Before notifying the Navy to "stand down" planning to utilize the carrier "Independence" to fulfill Concord Squadron objectives in the Indian Ocean area, I would like to place before you the following points:

1. Our major objective is to reassert our right and capability to operate in the Indian Ocean area in the face of a joint Pakistani-Red Chinese statement that we should not interfere in that area.

2. "Concord Squadron" cruise objectives are not the same as "Solant-Amity" cruise objectives. The former is designed to demonstrate an ability to assist and protect friends in the area with force that can range from limited to nuclear (and offset Red Chinese nuclear blackmail). "Solant Amity" is a people-tepeople type cruise of smaller vessels.

3. The proposed itinerary for the Independence can be limited to a sufficiently-publicized underway visit to Madagascar (certain to be friendly) and an inquiry to India and/or Pakistan regarding a call in Bombay or Karachi and still achieve our objective. We can deal with Saudi Arabia and African mainland calls by utilizing other ships at a time of our convenience. Thus we need not encounter any local reaction associated with the general unpopularity of the Vietnam war.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ 05-29

By *iso*, NARA, Date 4-18-05 Downgraded at 12-year intervals;  
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4. Navy cannot provide a carrier alternative to the Independence for this cruise. If Independence is not utilized, in all likelihood there can be no Concord Squadron cruise in 1965, the NSAM notwithstanding.

5. Our best friends in Defense, including Paul Nitze, hope we will proceed in order to (a) protect the Concord concept, and (b) not let their planners become indifferent to meeting our (political) requirements in the area.

6. We have been assured flatly that fulfilling our request will not delay the war mission of the Independence.

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