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LIMDIS

Ref: Dept Circlet 1747

Concord Squadron II

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ/RAC 05-30
By isl, NARA, Date 12-26-06

JCS has proposed schedule for next phase of intermittent naval presence in Indian Ocean under Concord Squadron concept, planned for April-May 1965. Squadron to consist of carrier (USS Midway), four destroyers and supporting oiler. Schedule follows:

April 13-22 Enroute via Strait of Malacca

23-25 Carrier and destroyer visit Madras; oiler and destroyer visit Visakhapatnam India); two destroyers visit Chicom (in Pakistan)

26-30 Enroute

May 1 Four hour visit Cocos Islands

May 1-5 Enroute SW Australia ports. Carrier and destroyer visit Fremantle; destroyer visit Albany; destroyer visit Geraldton

7-10

G/PM-CAFreshman

G/PM - Jeffrey C. Kitchen

ALL IN DRAFT:

RPM - Mr. Conroy

BNA - Mr. Judd

WE - Mr. Beigel

Navy - S/S-

SOA - Miss Laise

FE - Mr. Cuthell

NEA - Mr. Poulashin

AF - Mr. Poulashin

White House-

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May 7-10 Oiler and destroyer visit Darwin

10-14 Enroute

15 Rejoin at Christmas Island

16 Transit Sunda Strait (If port call Djakarta scheduled)

*16-22 Enroute Subic via Java Sea and Makassar Strait

*Return via Lombok Strait if Squadron does not call at Djakarta .

In order more fully meet objectives of Concord Squadron cruises in Indian Ocean, above schedule would require extensive broadening. State and Defense will jointly examine possibilities, keeping in mind CINCPAC's operational requirements and other factors. One possibility might include detaching carrier, if available, and supporting units from Sixth Fleet to transit Suez Canal for port and underway visits, where indicated and feasible, en route to and along western littoral Indian Ocean and in South Asia. Participation of such Sixth Fleet units would be timed to coincide approximately with entry into Indian Ocean of Seventh Fleet units with both fleet elements being under Concord Squadron aegis. In addition tentative rpt tentative schedule

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schedule proposed by JCS, other port or underway visits could include Jidda, Port Sudan, Massawa, Aden, Dar, Mombasa, Tamatave, Karachi, Bombay, depending among other things on whether expansion of JCS schedule accomplished by detachment of Sixth Fleet units or by lengthening cruise of vessels from Seventh Fleet.

Purpose this message solely to inform addressees of present status next Concord cruise and to elicit your comments on local aspects affecting cruise, as they may relate to problems you anticipate US may face at time locally and as local situation relates to larger problems, e.g. Congo in Africa. Host govts should not rpt not be approached until instructed to do so. We would expect have schedule more firmly developed with assistance addressee comments and recommendations before making final decision.

For Jidda: In addition to problem of Faisal's health, are there other factors which might outweigh advantages of inviting Faisal to visit carrier during Red Sea transit, if it takes place?

For Khartoum: Assuming govt situation relatively stabilized at time, would US interest be served by inviting top Sudanese officials

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officials to visit carrier during possible Red Sea transit?

For Addis: Assume carrier visit by HDM and key Ethiopians potentially useful, provided Ethiopians did not interpret consequent bypassing of Somalia as encouragement Ethiopia policy toward that country. What are your views? (Mogadiscio comments also desired.)

For Dar: Request your assessment regarding potential value Concord Squadron visit in view local and Congo situations and recommendations for making best use Squadron presence, if visit comes off. Would emphasis on military capability, i.e. via weapons demonstration and fly-by, be contrasted unfavorably with Chicom assistance Tanzania? Should visit be low key or fully exploited?

For Nairobi: Are recommendations in Embassy's A-574 for conventional powered vessels still valid? Are there more recent additional elements which need be taken into account in view African developments such as Congo?

For Tananarive: If port call Tamatave feasible, planning will be governed by Ambassador's helpful A-299, with any

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subsequent modifications Embassy may now wish send in.

For Karachi: In view successful SEA ORBIT visit, notwithstanding adverse circumstances, is Fonoff likely go along with proposed visit? To what extent would visits to India ports prior to or following visits Pakistan affect Fonoff judgment? If proposed Karachi visit were to involve Sixth Fleet units, as opposed to Seventh Fleet units, would this enhance Pak receptivity? In any event we would propose hold in reserve JCS proposal for Seventh Fleet units visit Chittagong, etc. until we have clearer indication likely Pak reaction to more important Karachi visit.

For New Delhi: We note arguments which Indians invoked against SEA ORBIT visit no longer seem applicable, and also Shastri's reported favorable initial reaction to that cruise. In light these factors does Embassy believe GOI likely be more receptive to approach on Concord visit than in past? What is Embassy's view on possibility raising through military channels?

For Kuala Lumpur: While visit to Singapore or Swettenham not now scheduled, believe this can be arranged contingent on favorable political climate and if Embassy so recommends.

For Djakarta

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For Djakarta: We presently contemplate notification to GOI at appropriate time of impending Concord Squadron transit of archipelago, perhaps coupled with inquiry whether Indonesians would wish visit. If negative, Squadron would return Subic via Lombok Strait. Would appreciate Embassy views on this approach.

For Aden: Would courtesy call along lines 1964 cruise suffice?

For London and Paris: When schedule more definite, Embassies will be requested notify British and French, probably immediately preceding brief announcement in NAC, keeping in mind necessary arrangements with UK for Aden and Mombasa and with French for Tamatave, if these become firm on US side.

Dept would appreciate early response all action posts, in order facilitate submission agreed State/DOD schedule to White House.

GP-

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