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ORGANISATION DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION

PLACE DU MARÉCHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY - PARIS (XVI^e) - TÉL. KLE. 60-20

BUREAU DU REPRÉSENTANT
DU GROUPE PERMANENT

OFFICE OF THE STANDING GROUP
REPRESENTATIVE

LOM 9/64

10th January, 1964.

MEMORANDUM FOR : Secretary, Standing Group.

SUBJECT : NAMFI

Reference : PARWA 1357

Enclosed is copy of U.S. statement mentioned in PARWA 1357.

FOR THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

G. H. Shorland
G. H. SHORLAND
Colonel, UKA.

Enclosure : 1 copy of U.S. statement on NAMFI, Crete, Greece (N° INFRA/5007/64)
dated 9th January, 1964.

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NATO CONFIDENTIALUNITED STATES DELEGATION
TO THE
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCILIn Reply Refer:
INFRA/5007/64

9 January 1964

NOTE TO ALL NATO DELEGATIONS

SUBJECT: NAMFI, Crete, Greece

I have been instructed by my authorities to make the following statement in the R&P Committee regarding NAMFI.

"U.S. notes with great concern that basic difference of opinion still exists between CEAC and SHAPE authorities concerning restrictions on air and sea traffic in NAMFI range area and operation of range itself. According latest information available US Government in Washington, it appears that SHAPE approach to problem would be to issue warnings of firings and/or restrict range area at certain times, whereas East Mediterranean Working Group (EMWG) of CEAC holds view that principle of "controlled firing area" must be applied - i.e., controlled firing would take place only when range area clear of danger of non-participating aircraft and surface vessels. This issue poses serious problems which appear to remain unresolved.

"Under conventional and customary international law, and in accordance with U.S. traditional policy and legal view, high seas and air space above them may be used for conducting guided missile tests of a military character if such tests do not unreasonably interfere with use of high seas and superjacent air space by other states. What constitutes "reasonable use" must be decided ad hoc. In our view SHAPE approach raises considerable questions in this regard. While controlled firing plan of EMWG does not appear to raise same kind of question, real issue appears to be whether controlled firing plan is practicable in this geographic area. Range area appears to be heavily traversed by aircraft and ships of many countries, including those of the Communist and Arab blocs. A preliminary check indicates three airways traverse range area and are used by some thirty airlines with about 238 flights per week. Statistically difficult to envisage a period of four consecutive hours per week for actual firing of missiles as we understand required of NAMFI. We further understand substantially large numbers of vessels (well over 100 large ocean-going ships) also call at Crete ports every year in addition to

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coastal, pleasure craft and fishing vessels. (Total figure may run into thousands.) With passage of time and with anticipated increase of use of range as well as air and sea traffic in area involved, situation can only become worse. In these circumstances it may very well be that no sufficient block of time will be available at usable periods of day to make missile range practicable.

"In light of problems of legal and practical nature we believe NATO Infrastructure and P&P Committees, and if necessary NAC, should review whole matter and determine whether and under what circumstances it is desirable to go forward with proposed range project.

"In light this problem, U.S. also takes position that although qualification and technical proposal documents submitted by bidding firms may be evaluated, main proposal envelopes (containing actual bid price) should be held unopened until operational problem resolved. Since reviews should be completed by January 31, this should pose no delay re instrumentation. U.S. action is in no way preempted by our reservations previously expressed re NAMFI bids. We see possibility that resolution this problem could conceivably alter the form and scope of the project."