



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: OEOB  
TIME: 3:15 p. m.  
DATE: March 26, 1974

SUBJECT: Ambassador Tasca Visit

PARTICIPANTS: The Vice President  
John O. Marsh, Jr.

Ambassador Henry J. Tasca, U.S. Ambassador  
to Greece

Vice President met with Ambassador Tasca who outlined the political situation in Greece leading up to the coup which occurred through the results of a small number of individuals.

The Ambassador indicated that the present leaders are doing a poor job and the best elements of the Greek community were not cooperating with them. The support of the business community has been lost and there were economic problems. The biggest problem of the new regime is that it has no contact with the people.

He warned of a danger of a collision with Turkey over oil in the Aegean Sea.

In response to the Vice President's question about Homeporting, Tasca said Phase I was going well but congressional support was needed for Phase II, and he predicted the Greeks would go along. We must be realistic and realize that we must deal with the military in Greece. He cautioned against the efforts of an individual in this country named Demetrocopils (phonetic). Tasca had strong views about this individual.

In response to questions about Ahepa, he said that Ahepa supported Papadopoulos. He warned there is instability in the Greek Army because the new Premier is only a one-star general and the senior leadership of the Army had not gone along with the recent coup.

In response to a question, he mentioned that instability might produce either a counter-coup or a purge of the senior leadership in the Army.

Prepared by: John O. Marsh, Jr.



*Tommy*

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1974

*OK*

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Churchill, Greek desk officer at State, called advising that Ambassador Tasca is in Washington and would like to pay a call on you. Ambassador Tasca will be in town through March 27th. He is scheduled to testify on March 27th before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and probably before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, regarding the Navy's plan to base a carrier task force near Athens.

In view of recent developments in Greece, I recommend that Ambassador Tasca be given an appointment with you.

*Jack Marsh*  
Jack Marsh

NEW YORK TIMES  
16 MARCH (18) p7

## U.S. DEFERS BASING CARRIER IN GREECE

New Athens Regime Seeking  
Arms for Use of Port

Special to The New York Times

ATHENS, March 15—Diplomatic sources said today that a final decision on basing a United States carrier near Athens had been postponed for a year or more because of delays in working out the arrangements with the new Greek Government.

The military rulers who ousted the Government of President George Papadopoulos last November told the United States Navy in January that Greece expected modern arms and equipment in exchange for granting home-port facilities.

The United States Ambassador to Greece, Henry J. Tasca, flew to Washington yesterday for consultations.

Ambassador Tasca is scheduled to testify on March 27 before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and probably before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The subcommittee, headed by Representative Benjamin S. Roland, Democrat of Long Island, has been highly critical of the United States Navy's plan to base a carrier task force near Athens.

### 6 Destroyers Are There

The first phase of the Navy's plan was completed in Sept., 1972, when six American destroyers anchored at Eleusis, an industrial port 15 miles west of Athens. They are now based there at a specially built pier and are to be joined soon by a Navy hospital ship.

It was while the second phase of the agreement was under negotiation that the Papadopoulos Government was overthrown by another military group on Nov. 25, after a student-worker revolt that was quelled by tanks and martial law. At least 13 civilians were killed.

When the Navy resumed the negotiations, the new Greek leaders, unlike the deposed ones, pressed for modernization of Greek weaponry in exchange, reportedly producing a list of demands for planes, ships and tanks worth several hundreds million dollars.

Qualified sources said that the talks would be resumed at the Greek Foreign Ministry soon.

(See CARRIER, Pg 2)



flying by pilots of the carrier task force.

Home-port facilities for the carrier would add 2,150 American naval dependents to some 1,500 already settled in the greater Athens area.

If the diplomatic negotiations succeed and the "agreed amendments" to the 1973 arrangement with the ousted Government are signed, American experts here say, the Defense Department will then ask the State Department for its decision on the home-port agreement.

According to State Department officials, the political situation in Greece would then be reviewed before the department decided whether to endorse the arrangement.

#### Difficulties Acknowledged

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 15—

Defense Department officials acknowledged today that difficulties and delays have been encountered in working out arrangements with the Greek Government for basing an aircraft carrier near Athens.

One highly placed official described the negotiations as being "in a state of limbo" and said it was "now an open question" whether a carrier would ever be stationed outside Athens.

necessarily" have to share the views put forth.

In fact, he said, the Soviet fleet, having been built rapidly after World War II, now is going to face a prospect of shrinking and aging such as the American fleet is putting behind it with new construction.

Regarding Admiral Zumwalt's assumptions on the October war had the superpowers' fleets become involved, Mr. Schlesinger said those assumptions dealt with a "particular scenario," and solely on that basis the admiral's conclusions were right.

What Mr. Schlesinger did not go on to say, but is known to believe, is that the admiral's assumptions were wrong. They were that the 6th fleet might have had to face Moscow's 23 submarines and its missile-armed surface ship without help from other American services or from European allies.

Secretary Schlesinger simply does not think it would happen that way, if the superpowers' navies got into a war on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's southern flank.

