

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0521

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: MCAP NATO

SUBJECT: LORAN A AND C-FUTURE OPERATIONS

REFS: A. STATE 244780

B. STATE 012987

C. NATO DOCUMENT AC/4-D/2293

GEGIN SUMMARY. IN MEETING SPONSORED BY PORTUGAL ON 29 JAN 74, THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES OF HOST AND USER NATIONS OF LORAN A CONSIDERED REF C. ALLIES ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH PERSONNEL AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 1975 AND FUTURE PLANNING. SALIENT QUESTION IS WHETHER THEY CAN COUNT ON THE US (IN LIGHT OF REF B) TO CONTINUE PAYING ITS PRESENT SHARE OF O&M COSTS FOR LORAN A BEYOND 1974 (PARA 4 OF REF C PERTAINS). END SUMMARY.

1. MEETING WAS PROMPTED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF MOD PORTUGAL WHO THROUGH THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION, SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE CONTROLLER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, ALL NATO DELEGATIONS AND SACLANTREPEUR;

QUOTE: SUBJ: INTENDED SUSPENSION OF LORAN A CHAINS ATLANTIC

AREA. REF AC/4-D/2293.

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1. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:

A. THE ADVICE OF THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP 1 E

9/5 TO THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON NAVIGATION/POTITION FINDING

AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, ABOUT NAVIDS WHICH CAN ACHIEVE THE

NAVIGATIONAL ACCURACIES CALLED FOR BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN MC 139;

B. THE DECLARED INTENTION OF SEVERAL NATO NATIONS TO ADOPT THE OMEGA SYSTEM TO SERVE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR LORAN A;  
C. THAT, FOR MAY REASONS, AT PRESENT THE OMEGA SYSTEM CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS A FULLY OPERATIONAL SYSTEM;  
D. THAT THE PLANNING ESTABLISHED IN 1971 FOR THE CLOSE DOWN OF LORAN A HAS BEEN BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE OMEGA SYSTEM WOULD BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY 1973.

2. THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WISHES TO SUBMIT TO YOUR ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL:

A. THE CLOSEDOWN OF LORAN A SHOULD NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE BEFORE TWO YEARS OF FULLY OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE OMEGA STATIONS COVERING ALL THE NATO AREA;

B. REGARDING THE PRESENT FORECAST FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE FULLY OPERATIONAL STAGE OF OMEGA SYSTEM, IT SEEMS THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, THE SLOSDOWN OF LORAN A WILL TAKE PLACE ON 31 DEC 77;

C. THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE SHOULD RE-EXAMINE THE STATUS OF BOTH SYSTEMS, DURING THE SECOND HALF 1976, IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE MOST ADEQUATE DATE FOR THE CLOSEDOWN OF THE LORAN A;

D. THE PRESENT SHARING FORMULA FOR THE O&M COSTS OF LORAN A SHOULD KEEP UNCHANGED. /S/ QUESADA, INFRA REP UNQUOTE.

2. DURING DISUCSSION, PORTUGAL'S REPRESENTATIVE FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO NATO DOCUMENT AC/141(IEG/5) SG/2-WP/6, 26 OCT 71, WHICH REPORTED ON A US NAVY NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. IT APPEARS THAT THIS IS THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION PORTUGAL HAS CONCERNING US INTENTIONS REGARDING TENURE OF LORAN A AND THE PHASING IN OF SUCCESSOR SYSTEM(S). IN PART, THIS DOCUMENT STATES CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE UNITED STATES NAVY PLANS TO INSTALL OMEGA NAVIGATION RECEIVERS AS PRELACEMENTS FOR LORAN A RECEIVERS OVER THE NEXT FOUR-FIVE YEARS, AND THAT WORLDWIDE OMEGA COVERAGE IS EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED FROM EIGHT TRANSMITTING STATIONS BY MID-1973. IT SUMMARIZES PLANS CALLING FOR

QUOTE(A) OUTFITTING ALL SRFACE SHIPS WITH OMEGA RECEIVERS, AS REPLACEMENTS FOR LORAN A RECEIVERS, TO BE COMPLETED BY 1975.

(B) OUTFITTING OF MARITIME PATROL AND CERTAIN TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WITH OMEGA RECEIVERS, AS REPLACEMENT FOR LORAN A RECEIVERS, TO BE COMPLETED BY 1976.

(C) OUTFITTING OF SUBMARINES (SS,SSN) WITH OMEGA

RECEIVERS, AS REPLACEMENT FOR LORAN A RECEIVERS, TO BE COMPLETED BY 1976.

THE FLEET-WIDE INSTALLATION OF MEGA RECEIVERS PROVIDES NOT ONLY SHORT-TERM INTERIM IMPROVEMENTS BUT MEETS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE ACCURACY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN MC 139 UNQUOTE.

(MC 139 REQUIREMENTS ARE REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 OF REF C.)

3. SUBSEQUENT NATO DOCUMENT AC/141 N/200-AC/141(TSG/1)N29 CONTAINS STATEMENT FROM PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE IN VIEW OF THE POSITION OF THE OTHER NATIONS USING LORAN A, THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED THAT PORTUGAL WILL GIVE UP ITS POSITION AS A USER NATION OF THE LORAN ALPHA CHAIN AFTER 1975 UNQUOTE.

4. IN LIGHT OF REF B, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE JCS MASTER NAVIGATION PLAN, SM-525-73 OF NOVEMBER 1973 (PARA 4 OF REF A) MAY BE MODIFIED TO PROVIDE FOR US MILITARY USE OF LORAN A AFTER 1974, AND THAT, ACCORDINGLY THE US WOULD CONTINUE ITS SHARE OF O&M FINANCING BEYOND 1974. THE CONTINUED USE BY OTHER NATIONS WOULD DEPEND UPON A US DECISION IN THIS REGARD, WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD RESULT IN A CONTINUING NATO MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR LORAN A.

5. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR CONVEYING TO NATO HOST AND CONFIDENTIAL

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USER NATIONS OF LORAN A CITED IN REF C. FOR PERSONNEL AND FISCAL PLANNING, THESE NATIONS ARE ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER THE US INTENDS TO CONTINUE PAYING ITS PRESENT SHARE OF O&M COSTS FOR LORAN A BEYOND 1974 AND FOR HOW LONG (PARA 4 OF REF C PERTAINS).

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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