

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL


4715

DOS REVIEWED 16 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

SECRETINFORMATION
October 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

A. Denis Clift 

SUBJECT:

Planned NATO Naval Operation in Baltic Sea Area

With the memorandum at Tab A, the Department of Defense informs you of changes in a naval operation planned by Headquarters, European Command for the Baltic Sea area for October 4-13. The operation, in which naval and air units of the US, FRG, UK, Netherlands and Denmark are participating, is similar to annual operations in this area since 1971 intended to exercise the right of free passage through international straits and demonstrate continued US interest in the security of Northern Europe.

This year, however, the Department of State objected to conduct of the exercise as planned since it would coincide with the visit to the US of Polish First Secretary Gierk. State specifically objected to Phases III and IV of the operation which would take place about 25 miles off the coast of Poland, and requested that these phases of the operation either be relocated north and west of the island of Bornholm or be postponed. George Vest checked this with me on October 4 and I concurred in his proposed course of action. The Chairman, JCS, after consultation with the European Command, has chosen to relocate Phases III and IV of the operation to the area suggested by State.

The Defense memorandum informs you that, with this modification, the operation will continue as scheduled and that State has no further objection. I concur. Defense's memorandum is forwarded for your information. I do not believe any action is required on your part.

OSD REVIEWED 15-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

SECRET

**SECRET**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

9 OCT 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Planned Naval Operation in Baltic Sea Area

- (C) Headquarters European Command has scheduled an operation for the Baltic Sea area during the period 4-13 October. The operation includes naval and air participation by the UK, FRG, Netherlands and Denmark, as well as U.S. Naval elements. Similar operations have been conducted in this area at this time of year since 1971. A brief of the operation as originally planned is attached for information.
- (S) The State Department was notified of the operation in accordance with established procedures. On 2 October, we were informed that the State Department objected to the conduct of the exercise as planned since it coincided with the scheduled visit to the United States of the President of Poland. Specifically, the State Department objected to the location for Phases III and IV on the basis that these operations, some 25 miles off the coast of Poland, might cause political embarrassment. The State Department requested that Phases III and IV either be relocated north and west of the island of Bornholm or the operation be postponed until a later date.
- (C) JCS consulted with the European Command to determine the feasibility of these two courses of action. The Command responded that, although a relocation of the Phases would result in planning difficulties and maneuver restrictions, such a move could be made if necessary. Further, the Command indicated the relocation was preferable to a delay since the latter action would cause adverse Allied reaction.
- (C) Accordingly, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed that U.S. participation in Phases III and IV be limited to operations north and west of the island of Bornholm. With that modification, the operation will continue as scheduled. The Department of State has been notified of this change and has no further objection.
- (U) Conduct of the operation as now planned should allow us to meet minimum objectives and maintain Allied support for future operations of a similar nature, while at the same time satisfying political considerations.

(W)

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL, USA
MILITARY ASSISTANT

Attachment
a/s

Classified by ASD/ISA
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 3/DEC 86

SECRET

3020

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

CM-76-74

20 September 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Military Operations In or Near Politically
Sensitive Areas (U)

1. (C) Reference is made to Department of Defense Directive C-5030.44, of 29 June 1973 which requires that the Joint Chiefs of Staff notify the Secretary of Defense of significant military operations scheduled to be conducted in or near politically sensitive areas.
2. (C) In accordance with the above reference the following is provided: (U)
 - a. (C) USCINCEUR intends to conduct a multilateral operation in the Straits of Skagerrak and Kattegat, and in the Baltic Sea during the period 4-13 October 1974.
 - b. (C) The objective of the exercise is to continue a policy of periodic US Navy operations in the Baltic Sea and its approaches in exercise of the right of free passage through international straits, and to demonstrate continued US interest in the security of Northern Europe. Toward these purposes, and in order to increase mutual levels of readiness, invitations have been extended to Northern European Navies to participate in exercises with US Naval units during the period. Germany, the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Denmark have accepted and will participate during part of the 4-13 October period.
 - c. (C) The areas of operation include Special Patrol Zones (SPZ) Alpha, in the Strait of Skagerrak, Bravo and Charlie, in the Baltic Sea, and the track between them, as shown in Enclosure 1.

Classified by Director, J-3
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31 1980

d. (C) US Navy units participating in the operation during the 4-13 October 1974 period will be:

- *USS DEWEY (DLG 14)
- USS JOHN KING (DDG 3)
- USS MCCANDLESS (DE 1084)
- HS-2 LAMPS HELO EMBARKED
- USS MCCLOY (DE 1038)
- USS SARSFIELD (DD 837)
- USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)
- CH 46 HELO EMBARKED

*Commander Destroyer Squadron Fourteen, as Commander Task Group 100.1, is designated Officer in Charge Command (OTC) and will be embarked in USS DEWEY.

e. (C) The operation will be conducted in four phases:

(1) (C) Phase I, 4-5 October: Conduct multilateral exercises in Special Patrol Zone Alpha (Skagerrak) with Netherlands submarine TONIJN (S 805), Federal Republic of Germany Navy and Royal Danish Air Force fighter-bombers, and maritime patrol aircraft from the German and Royal Netherlands Navies.

(2) (C) Phase II, 5-7 October: US Navy units transit the Great Belt and rendezvous with Royal Navy surface forces at position "X" on Enclosure 1.

(3) (C) Phase III, 7-8 October: Conduct multilateral anti-air warfare exercises with German fighter-bombers and Royal Navy surface units. Upon completion of the anti-air warfare exercise participating US Navy and Royal Navy units will conduct surface exercises and replenishment in Zones Bravo and Charlie. At the conclusion of operations on 8 October Royal Navy units will proceed in accordance with national directives.

(4) (C) Phase IV, 9-14 October: US Navy units conduct Individual Ship Exercises in Zone Charlie until the morning of 10 October at which time ships transit to ports as follows:

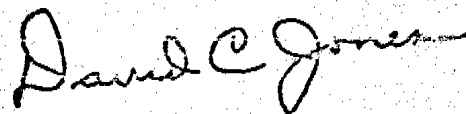
- USS DEWEY/USS SARSFIELD TO KIEL (GERMANY)
- USS SAVANNAH TO COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)
- USS MCCLOY TO AALBORG (DENMARK)
- USS JOHN KING TO GOTEBOG (SWEDEN)
- USS MCCANDLESS TO MALMO (SWEDEN)

(5) (C) Routine port visits will extend from 11-14 October at which point all TG 100.1 units will return to CINCLANFLT operational control.

f. (C) All ships' navigational tracks will remain outside of territorial waters with the exception of transits through the Great Belt and Sound which will be cleared with the Danish Government by CINCUSNAVEUR. Ships will remain at least 15 miles from Warsaw Pact coasts during Baltic operations. Gunnery firing exercises will not be conducted within the Baltic Sea. Full period communications will be maintained with NAVCOMMSTA Londonderry.

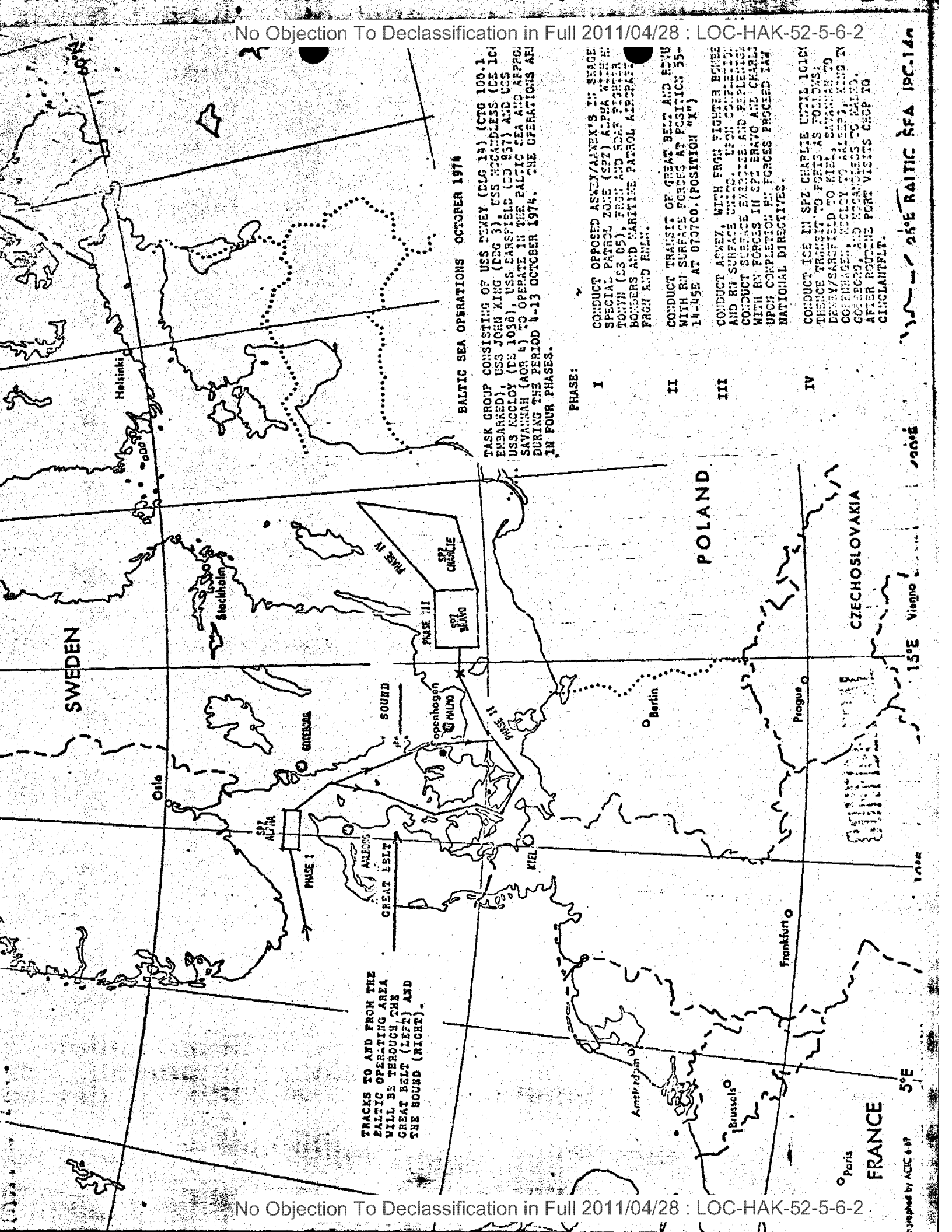
g. (C) USS MCCANDLESS and USS SAVANNAH will have helicopters embarked during the operation period. Helicopter operations will be under positive radar/radio control.

h. (C) CTG 100.1 will report routine activity in normal situation reports. Unusual occurrences will be reported by the most expeditious means as the situation warrants.



DAVID C. JONES
General, USAF
Acting Chairman, Joint
Chiefs of Staff

Attachment
a/s



BALTIC SEA OPERATIONS OCTOBER 1974

TASK GROUP CONSISTING OF USS DREWY (CG 12) (CTG 100.1 EMBARKED), USS JOHN KING (DDG 3), USS MCCLELLAN (DE ICE) USS KCCLOY (DE 1036), USS SARFIELD (DD 837) AND APPROX SAVANNAH (AOB 4) TO OPERATE IN THE BALTIC SEA AND APPROX DURING THE PERIOD 4-13 OCTOBER 1974. THE OPERATIONS ARE IN FOUR PHASES.

PHASE:

- I
- II
- III
- IV

CONDUCT OPPOSED ASSEX/ANNEX'S IN SEAGE SPECIAL PATROL ZONE (SPZ) ALPHA WITH RM TOWNS (CS 05), FRENCH AND ROCAF FIGHTER BOMBERS AND MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT, F-16 AND E-3C.

CONDUCT TRANSIT OF GREAT BELT AND SOUND WITH RM SURFACE FORCES AT POSITION 55-14-45E AT 073700 (POSITION 'K')

CONDUCT ASSEX, WITH FRENCH FIGHTER BOMBERS AND RM SURFACE FORCES. UPON COMPLETION CONDUCT SURFACE EXERCISE AND RELEASING WITH RM FORCES IN SPZ BRNO AND CHARLIE UPON COMPLETION RM FORCES PROCEED IN NATIONAL DIRECTIVES.

CONDUCT ICE IN SPZ CHARLIE UNTIL 1010 THEREAFTER TRANSIT TO POLSK AS FOLLOWS: DENNY/SARFIELD TO KIEL, SAVANNAH TO GÖTTENBERG, MCKLOY TO ALBERT, KING TO GÖTTENBERG, AND MCCLELLAN TO GDAŃSK. AFTER ROUTING PORT VISITS STOP TO CIRCUMLIFT.

TRACKS TO AND FROM THE BALTIC OPERATING AREA WILL BE THROUGH THE GREAT BELT (LEFT) AND THE SOUND (RIGHT).