

TOP SECRET - ATOMIC

OPERATION: NIMBUS



By Order of Her Britannic Majesty the Queen

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ATC OPERATION 80

To: *Maj. C KING BSc (Hons), MSc DSc PhD, ATC 3*

From: *Col A AUSTIN DSO MC, Officer Commanding ATC*

Precedence: PRIORITY

Date and Place of Issue: March 3, 1961, London

TEMPORARY DUTY ORDERS: OPERATION NIMBUS

SITUATION REPORT

Op LAMACHUS

Is the TOP SECRET joint project by HM Government and the Government of the United States of America to:

- a) locate a suitable Forward Ballistic Missile base for **POLARIS** class missiles in the United Kingdom as part of the overall objective to accomplish ultimate strategic nuclear deterrence through the doctrine of Massive Retaliation, and;
- b) to safely transfer a number of POLARIS ballistic missiles from the United States to the United Kingdom creating an arsenal of ballistic missiles for this base consistent with the above identified strategic purpose.

The current element of LAMACHUS is the arrival at HOLY LOCH, on March 3, of the depot ship, *USS Proteus* which will support the imminent arrival of the POLARIS submarine, *USS Patrick Henry*.

LAMACHUS is approved of at the most senior levels of National Government.

Op NIMBUS

On February 25 Mr Roger JENKINS, one of the local police's most valued informants, indicated to his Police handler that he intended to infiltrate the rudimentary "peace camp" established at DUNOON, close by **Royal Navy Base (RNB) HOLY LOCH**. The peace camp was recently established by a gathering of loosely affiliated peace protesters and, exploiting his cover as a journalist, report upon their activities to the local Special Branch of the Argyll County Police and MI-5.

On March 1 Argyll County Police Special Branch reported to their Chief Constable the disappearance of JENKINS (known to MI-5 as agent WHISKY 11).

JENKINS, aged 42, is a highly regarded and well placed informer of the local Special Branch. His disappearance has caused anxiety. JENKINS is also a journalist (specialising in crime reporting for the Daily Record newspaper) and, as such, enjoys privileged access to a wide range of contacts in the criminal underworld, local Trade Union's and other similar Left Wing political factions.

The local Special Branch requested, *via* the Ministry of Defence, and received, approval for Military Aid to the Civil Power (MAC-P).

The Police have already investigated his home address, his known haunts and interviewed his close associates in an attempt to deduce any motive for his disappearance. JENKINS is reported to be ordinarily reliable and a well liked man. His vanishing is out of character and, according to the investigation carried out by the local police, without obvious explanation.

This is creating anxiety. The disappearance of a journalist who – in public at least – exhibits sympathy for the supporters of disarmament and Left Wing politics could be related to some unknown and hostile interference in the arrival of the POLARIS missiles from the United States.

There are an estimated 800 – 1000 protesters now gathered at HOLY LOCH. Policing the large gathering is placing a burden on the small local police force. Though reinforced from other local constabularies, the Argyll Police have requested assistance – particularly in light of the possible political and espionage dimension to the case.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

We urgently require clarity of understanding.

Examine, investigate and report upon the disappearance of a journalist and police informant, Mr Roger JENKINS.

It is vital that we fully understand the nature of his disappearance.

QUERY: Is the disappearance simply misfortune – or related to the activities of: a saboteur; an aggressor nation; a political movement or some other hostile power?

EXECUTION

Proceed immediately, by whichever transportation you find operationally expedient, and report to the local Special Branch.

Provide all necessary MAC-P.

You may avow your identity and mission to the local Chief Constable and senior police officers within the local Special Branch. Covert action is likely to be critical. Do not avow yourselves to others except *in extremis*.

ADMINISTRATION and LOGISTICS

The details of transport, billeting and travel are left to operational expediency and subject to the completion of the usual MoD Form 382.

ATC 8 will, if supplied with a completed MoD Form 441, arrange transport and travel.

COMMAND, COMMUNICATIONS and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You will place yourselves under the authority of the Chief Constable for Argyll County Police. His intentions are to oversee the location of his Force's valuable informant and have the constables under his command solve any associated malfeasance. He is also concerned with maintaining the Queen's Peace and ensuring the appropriate policing at HOLY LOCH to ensure no civil disorder arises that will fatally compromise the operation of HOLY LOCH and its contribution to National Security.

- i. Maj. Clara KING PhD (who will be operating under a civilian alias), on detached duty to ATC 3 from ATC 8, will provide specialist technical assistance on an *ad hoc* basis and has field command.
- ii. Sub-Lt J. GREY RN - will assume operational field command if Maj KING is no longer able to exercise competent command and control of the ATC Detachment.
- iii. Lt C. MAIR RE – will assume operational field command if Maj KING and Sub-Lt GREY are no longer able to exercise competent command and control of the ATC Detachment.

You are authorised to call upon, and can expect to receive, the assistance in relation to any reasonable request from any officer of the Crown.

You are authorised to carry authorised Service issued side-arms.

RULES of ENGAGEMENT

1. Counter attack and harassment to a similar extent and degree to that experienced by ATC Forces in the AO is authorised.
2. Use of riot control means, where necessary, for the purpose of controlling suspects is authorised.
3. Use of riot control means, where necessary, for the conduct of Public Order Control is authorised.
4. Use of force up to, and including deadly force, to prevent interference with the POLARIS force and allied Forces, equipment and personnel during the conduct of their mission is authorised.
5. Use of minimum force to defend designated personnel is authorised.
6. Use of minimum force to prevent the taking possession of, or destruction of, HM Forces and United States armed forces property is authorised.
7. Use of maximum force to defend against intrusion into Military Restricted Areas or other areas designated by an authorised commander is authorised.
8. Use of minimum force to enforce compliance with diversion and/or boarding instructions is authorised.
9. Use of covert actions is permitted to the extent necessary for mission execution.

10. Deployment of indirect fire and crew-served weapon systems is not authorised.

11. Use of anti-personnel devices and demolitions in the AO is permitted only after prior consultation with HQ

12. Use of non-explosive obstacles in the AO is permitted.

SIGNALS PROCEDURE

Codewords and reports specific to ATC operations.

EMERGENCY SIGNALS

1. DENTIL: request for emergency reinforcements under Op WISHING WELL
2. ROSETTE: request for emergency evacuation under Op WISHING WELL
3. THETA: indicates the loss, and possible compromise, of a POLARIS warhead
4. TRIGLYPH: recovery of confiscated assets and DOC-EX items under Op CANDLESTICK

COMSEC GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Royal Navy JANUS source intelligence indicates that the Soviet Navy is active in the area and appears to have deployed an Auxiliary General Intelligence (AGI) vessel, no doubt, to shadow the arrival of USS *Proteus* and USS *Patrick Henry* in a surveillance and ELINT role.

The presence of the AGI means we must remember to assume the aggressor is listening to our communications. Do not say anything over an open line that you do not wish the aggressor to hear.

"Moscow Rules" thereby also apply.

Supply regular Form 915 Reports to HQ *via* PICCOLO encryption devices. RNB HOLY LOCH is enabled with a PICCOLO machine.

SITUATION

ENEMY FORCES

1. SOVIET FORCES

The presence is noted of a small OKEAN built Soviet Navy ELINT AGI, disguised as a civilian trawler, currently patrolling several miles off shore suggests an estimated ships compliment of up to 160 officers and men. Though intelligence on this Class of AGI is scant, these vessels are not known to be ordinarily armed with the intention to oppose and confront a warship of a NATO power.

However, you can expect the crew to possess small-arms and be ready, willing and able to use them in a determined defence of their vessel. The sailors can expect to receive severe punishment upon return to their Home Port if their mission is viewed as a failure. This coercion encourages in the crews a determination to be positive and active in their espionage. An AGI of this Class may also deploy smaller boats from the mothership to conduct their intelligence gathering operations.

Their intentions will probably be solely to gather ELINT about the USN ships, our own naval activity and to gather intelligence about the POLARIS missiles.

It is unlikely that they will engage in active and hostile measures against the Royal Navy or the United States Navy whilst they are in our National Territorial Waters.

However, there may be enemy agents active and present. These agents may be acting with a degree of autonomy. Their missions can be unpredictable. Be alert.

2. PEACE PROTESTERS

While not a serious and deliberate military threat, they do present a risk to themselves and the warships at HOLY LOCH through malicious and criminal damage and possible sabotage to HM warships and those of Friendly Visiting Forces.

There are an estimated 800 – 1,000 civilian protesters who, under the nominal and loose control and direction of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), are currently encamped close to RNB HOLY LOCH to agitate for the neutralisation and removal of the Submarine Nuclear Deterrent Force, its ancillary base and personnel.

The protesters have thus far exhibited general good humour, flexible tactics and careful restraint when attempting to deter the docking of the USS *Proteus*. Whilst they seek to blockade the harbour by using a small flotilla of canoes and kayaks, the protesters seem unwilling to resist arrest and oppose police action. This essentially peaceful resistance is deliberate.

The protesters will, no doubt, continue to exercise similar tactics in an attempt to deter and prevent the mooring of the USS *Patrick Henry*. Their aim appears to be to conduct vigorous and peaceful, if vexatious, protest and deter the arrival of the USN vessels which are known to be carrying the POLARIS weapons. Their leadership is uncertain and *ad hoc* and many of the protesters appear to be attracted to the encampment following publicity of the initial core protest who might not acknowledge or recognise the authority of those in nominal control of the camp.

The peace protesters are equipped with a small flotilla of kayaks which they use to intercept and block any Royal Navy or USN vessel. They appear to have an estimated 10 canoeists. The skill of the canoeists users appears to be of highly variable quality.

We cannot rely on the continued goodwill and good humour of the protesters and we should be ready to consider the threat presented by rogue elements within the camp who might prefer to undertake more Direct Action to prevent the arrival of USS *Patrick Henry*.

FRIENDLY FORCES

RNB HOLY LOCH is a Royal Navy depot and garrison. It has a strength of 800 Officers and Men – this includes a small detachment of Royal Marines. The garrison is reinforced and policed by a small force of Admiralty Police (their local HQ is at ROSYTH).

In addition, there shall be 1,500 Officers and Men of the United States Navy deployed to RNB HOLY LOCH (980 from USS *Proteus* have already deployed) and the vessels currently alongside. The USS *Proteus* also has shipped 500 civilians – the families of serving personnel – to settle at RNB HOLY LOCH. 300 Service Homes have been set aside to help meet this requirement.

OPERATIONAL BACKGROUND AND FURTHER INFORMATION

GEOGRAPHICAL INTELLIGENCE

There are small civil settlements close by the RNB. The largest and most important is **DUNOON**: a small sea-side and bathing resort of mostly Victorian antiquity. DUNOON is two miles to the south of HOLY LOCH and is home to an estimated 4,500 civilians. There are several churches and a Post Office. In a time of National Emergency there are provisions to evacuate the civilians to a safe distance from the Base.

RNB HOLY LOCH has been seen intermittent military use in the last century. During the Second World War HOLY LOCH was used extensively as a Royal Marine training depot; was the HQ of the Royal Navy Third Submarine Flotilla and also served as a training and supply depot for elements of MCR and allied commando units. The local submarine HQ recently relocated to HM Royal Naval Dockyard ROSYTH.

HOLY LOCH harbour is well sheltered except from occasional north-west gales once or twice per year, and offers no navigational difficulties. The loch is fairly open to the south but the steep hills rise up directly from the north shore.

HOLY LOCH is known to the United States Navy (USN) as "Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) Refit One" and will form the regional HQ for the USN "14th Submarine Squadron" (SUBRON 14).

- i. USS *Proteus* (AS 19), with its cargo of two POLARIS warheads and ballistic missiles, arrived on March 2 and is now moored at RNB HOLY LOCH to unload its cargo of missiles and replenish prior to the return voyage to the United States.
- ii. USS *Patrick Henry* (SSBN 599) is scheduled to arrive on March 7. Once armed with the POLARIS missiles SSBN 599 will commence a Deterrent Patrol.

Good luck

God Save the Queen

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