

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 4, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mrs. McCaffree

AIDE MEMOIRE RELATIVE TO USS NAUTILUS

NAVY has just called. NAUTILUS will get underway at eleven this morning and they expect to cross the 20,000-league mark a little after 8:00 p.m. tonight. A dispatch will be sent to the Chief of Naval Operations when this happens.

There is much interest in this little milestone both by the press and by the Congress. Apparently a number of the press are on board the ship including one of the editors of TIME magazine. They will not be permitted to file stories until they have returned to port early Tuesday morning. This is the last trip the NAUTILUS will make with her current fuel loading. She now goes into overhaul and will be out of service for a number of months. The atomic reactor will be taken out, replenished with new active material and reinstalled. A number of other items will also be accomplished.

This is a noteworthy milestone which will not be repeated. It is the first time any ship, submarine or otherwise, has rivalled Jules Verne's fictitious NAUTILUS.

I would like to recommend that Mrs. Eisenhower send a telegram of congratulations upon this historical achievement of "her ship". Since the ship now becomes inactive and this is, in effect, the culmination of her career to date, it would be my suggestion that the message be prepared for transmittal tonight. If it is delayed until tomorrow its effect will largely be lost since notice will already have been taken.

Suggested telegram:

Message
X 111

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF USS NAUTILUS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CREW OF MY SHIP FOR YOUR WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT. MAY SUCCESS CONTINUE TO FOLLOW YOUR ENDEAVORS IN THE FUTURE AS IN THE PAST.

MAMIE DODD EISENHOWER

Sub
2/4/67
via Capt
Beach's
office

East Wing File