

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE ROUTINE  
O R 112046Z DEC 70  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

DECLASSIFIED

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1950

INFO DOS  
CINCLANTFLO

CNO  
CINCUSNAVEUR

LONDON 10242

SUBJECT: REINDEER STATION

REF: (A) STATE 200310

B) MURRAY/FROM TELECON, 10 DEC 70

(C) OPLINGER/GOLDSTEIN TELECON, 11 DEC 70.

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1. WE HAD EXTENDD DISCUSSION AFTERNOON NOV 10 AND AGAIN EVENING 11 NOV WITH FCO AND MOD REPS ON BASIS REF A. BRITTY HAVE TENTATIVELY PROPOSED, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF MINISTERS, THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT BE RMADE ON WEDNESDAY 16 DEC, AT 1600 HOURS BRITISH TIME, AND THAT THE CLOSELY COORDINATED APPROACHES TOTHRD COUNTRIES BE MADE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO TIME OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. BRITISH FEEL IHESSENTIAL TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK, NOTWITHSTNG VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON ON 1TH AND 18TH. THEY BELIEVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEDNESDAY WOULD DECOUPLE DIEGO GARCIA FROM PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. IT IS EXPECIALLY IMPORTANT, IN BRITISH VIEW, TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE PARLIAMENT ADJRNS ON 18 DEC. PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN KEEN, AND QUESTIONS ARE TO BE RAISED ON HE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY OF NEXT WEEK. IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY HARMFUL O HMG TO MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DURING PARLIAMENTARY RECESS OR TO HAVE PRESS LEAK DURING THAT TIX. ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK (A) MEETS HMG POLITICAL PROBLEM, (B) PERMITS HMG TO PROCEED WITH RELOCATION OF ISLANDERS, (C) PRECLUDES FURTHER LEAKS, AND (D) MAY CAUSE ANTICIPATEDUDVERSE REACTIONS TO BE DILUTED BY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PREOCCUPATIONS. THERE IS FURTHER IMPORTANT POINT THAT PCME MINISTER WILL HAVE BILATERALS

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# NAVAL MESSAGE

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WITH PAKISTAN AND INDIA ON JAN 9 AND 12, RESPECTIVELY, EN ROUTE TO COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE ON 17 JAN. THIS AND PRECEDING POINTS ARGUE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK, NOTWITHSTANDING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON;

2. WEDNESDAY ANNOUNCEMENT IS ABOUT EARLIEST POSSIBLE, GIVEN PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION, BUT WILL STILL BE BEFORE HEATH ARRIVAL WASHINGTON,

3. BRITISH STRESS THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING MARCH DATE FOR RELOCATION OF ISLANDERS. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE DIFFICULTIES CANNOT BE KNOWN UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH TODD, UK ADMINISTRATOR FOR SEYCHELLES, WHO WILL BE UK MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, BRITISH BELIEVE TODD OR HIS DESIGNATE SHOULD ACCOMPANY OR PRECEDE EIGHT-MAN SURVEY PARTY ONTO DIEGO. BRITISH ALSO ASKED IF US WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND NAVY REP TO BRIEF TODD PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF SURVEY TEAM AND ACCOMPANY TODD TO DIEGO GARCIA IF DESIRED. REQUEST WASHINGTON AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO TIMING. FROM BRITISH SUGGESTIONS REGARDING NOTIFICATION OF THIRD COUNTRIES, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, AND PROPOSED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE SUBJECT OF SEPELS.

5. WE HAVE ASKED FOR UK VIEWS ON STAGING OF CONSTRUCTION FORCE, PARTICULARLY EIGHT-MAN SURVEY PARTY. THEY ARE LOOKING INTO AVAILABILITY OF NORDVAER OR ALTERNATIVE BRITISH SHIPS. THERE IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF COORDINATION BETWEEN SURVEY PARTY AND TODD REFERRED TO ABOVE.

6. BRITISH AWAITING LAIRD TO CARRINGTON LETTER BEFORE PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE THEIR PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTION.

7. BRITISH ENVISAGE SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT, PROBABLY EXCHANGE OF NOTES, WHICH INCORPORATES DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENT.

8. EMBASSY AGREES TO NAVAL PARTICIPATION PROPOSED PARA 13 REFTEL, AND WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH ADM. WENDT'S STAFF, ANNENBERG

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