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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

10 November 1966

In reply refer to:  
I-27759/66

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN ASBURY COWARD, G/PM  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT: BIOT - duration provision

London's 3840 suggests that Mr. Kitchen be prepared to state, out  
the outset of our meetings, the reasons why we seek a 50-year term.

In our view the following arguments would be suitable:

- (a) The US-UK approach to the BIOT arrangements has not been based primarily, as in other cases involving base rights agreements, on existing requirements or immediate projects with predictable useful lines. We have been setting aside a group of sites with potential value for possible future defense needs, against contingencies and developments which are not all yet foreseen. Such developments, if they ever arise, may not appear for many years. When they do, we should have assured time for effective long-term planning.
- (b) The longer the term, the more decisive the break-off of the BIOT from Seychelles and Mauritius. We believe this is important to suppress any continuing speculation in international groups, and particularly among Seychellors and Mauritians, anticipating the time and terms of a possible restoration of the BIOT to their jurisdiction.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW  
Classified by: [redacted]  
Declassify on: [redacted]  
Date: 1.03.01  
31-111

DEF 31 (111)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

☒ Retain classification ☐ Change classification to  
☒ With concurrence of 300  
☒ Declassify ☐ In part and extend as follows  
50 12356, Sec. 1.3 (a) (1)(3)(4)(5)  
REC/HDR by MB 15 March 85

Ray W. Bronez, Director  
Foreign Military Rights Affairs

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NW 23721  
Ham/DK 02/1/03

DEF 15 IND-25 XR DEF 15 IND-4K

NR DEF 15-4 UK-US

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