

013, NHC, 00, '64, Bx 20, 11000/18

INCOMING
MESSAGE

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SECRET

PRECEDENCE (ACTION)	PRECEDENCE (INFO)
ROUTINE	ROUTINE

R 261819Z

FM ADMINO CINCUSNAVEUR

TO RUECW/JCS

INFO RUCKHC/CINCLANT
 RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
 RUCQHKB/CINCMEASFA
 ZEN/US/UK PLANNING GROUP (US ELEMENT)

NOFORN

Indian Ocean

SECRET

NOFORN

INDIAN OCEAN DISCUSSIONS SECOND DAY SUMMARY (C)

RADM LEVERTON SENDS TO ALL CONCERNED FOR INFO

1. THE DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES ON BOTH SIDES MET IN THE FORE-NOON AND DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT POINTS.

A. UK HAS NO PLANS FOR MILITARY EXPANSION INTO OTHER PLACES IN THE AREA BUT ARE CONSIDERING SOME ISLANDS AS STANDBYS. IN THIS RESPECT, THEY ADMIT THAT OUR THINKING IS QUITE AHEAD OF THEIRS UNQUOTE.

B. THEY HAVE REQUIREMENT FOR STAGING AIRFIELD TO GET FROM ADEN AROUND SOUTH AFRICA IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT BEING WELCOME TO OVERFLY SOME OF THE FORMER COLONIES. IN THIS RESPECT, THEY ARE CONSIDERING ALDABRA AND HAVE MADE A SURVEY, OF WHICH THEY PROVIDED US A COPY. THE ORIGINAL PLANS CONSIDERED A QUOTE MOUNTING OUT BASE UNQUOTE BUT DISCARDED AS TOO EXPENSIVE.

C. GAN IS IN A GOOD POSITION AND THEY ARE DOING SOME THINKING ABOUT MAKING IT A FUEL DEPOT FOR SHORT LEGGED SHIPS. DIEGO GARCIA COMES INTO THE PICTURE ONLY AS A FALL BACK IN CASE GAN IS LOST.

D. DEFENSE THINKS THAT THEY WILL HAVE TROUBLE GETTING MONEY FOR AIRSTRIP IN DIEGO EVEN THOUGH THE ONLY COST WOULD BE LAND ACQUISITION.

ACT.....J5-6

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 CNO-2 CMC-8 RRA-1 FILE-1(51)FJC
 NCC/96548/JJ/JC/4 60(2)....COG
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 ADV CY TO CJCS DJS NMCC 06 61(2) 63(1) 92(4) 94(10) 1P(1)
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E. BIGGEST PROBLEM IS NOT AT THE LONDON END BUT THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT END. WE TRIED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF DEALING WITH ANY COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

F. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING RIGHTS OR PROPERTY IN THE SEYCHELLES FOR BASE DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. UK DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES ACCEPTED THIS, I BELIEVE, WITH SOME SATISFACTION AS THEY HAVE TOLD THE COLONIAL OFFICE THE SAME THING WITH RESPECT TO THEIR OWN REQUIREMENTS. THE COLONIAL OFFICE INTEREST IS ONLY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

G. UK WILL PROVIDE THE SHIP, PROBABLY A SURVEY SHIP, FOR ANY JOINT SURVEY WHICH IS MADE. IN THE MORNING THE THINKING WAS THAT THIS SURVEY COULD BE MADE VERY SOON, STARTING WITHIN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HOWEVER, THE AFTERNOON DEVELOPMENTS CHANGED THIS.

2. IN THE AFTERNOON PLenary SESSION THE COLONIAL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTED ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS WHO IS IN LONDON. THE P.M. STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO TELL HIS MINISTERS ABOUT THE SURVEY WHETHER UNDER UK COVER OR NOT, SINCE THE US WOULD BE INVOLVED.

3. THE US SIDE STATED THAT WE COULD NOT GO ALONG WITH ONLY A UK SURVEY AND IF MAURITIUS HAS TO BE CONSULTED WE WOULD WAIT UNTIL DIEGO GARCIA HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE SEYCHELLES. THE COLONIAL OFFICE COULD NOT SAY HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER. THE SUBJECT HAS YET TO BE BROACHED WITH THE MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT. BOTH WE AND FOREIGN OFFICE REPS HOPE THAT COLONIAL OFFICE WOULD NOT BE LEISURELY IN THIS. MEANWHILE WE WOULD MAKE NO MOVE TO UNDERTAKE A SURVEY AS THIS WOULD ONLY START RUMORS AND RUIN UP THE PRICE, BOTH MONETARY AND POLITICAL. THE COLONIAL OFFICE THINKS THAT THE DEAL CAN BE MADE BUT THEY WILL HAVE TO TREAD VERY LIGHTLY.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT WE WOULD HOLD OFF ON SURVEY, UK SIDE WILL GO TO ITS MINISTERS AND GET THE GO AHEAD ON TRANSFERRING THE ISLAND, WHEREUPON COLONIAL OFFICE WOULD BEGIN TO TAKE STEPS. AFTER THIS, SURVEY UNDER UK AUSPICES WITH US PARTICIPATION WOULD BE MADE. IF THE SURVEY PROVES THAT THE ISLAND IS WHAT WE WANT IT TO BE, THE UK WILL THEN TAKE STEPS TO ACQUIRE THE LAND FROM THE CURRENT OWNERS.

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5. WE WOULD INCLUDE IN THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE A GENERAL STATEMENT THAT BOTH SIDES CONSIDER IT VERY HELPFUL THAT THINKING HAS BEEN STARTED ON LONG TERM STRATEGY IN THE AREA.

6. THE REPORT WILL STATE THAT WE ARE QUITE INTERESTED UNQUOTE IN OTHER ISLANDS BUT WILL MAKE NO DEFINITE STATEMENTS NOW. HOWEVER, ALDABRA AND COCOS ALONG WITH DIEGO GARCIA GIVE A GOOD COVERAGE OF THE AREA. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WAS AGREED THAT A JOINT APPROACH WOULD BE MADE TO AUSTRALIA REGARDING COCOS SINCE THE UK HAS ALREADY BROACHED THIS SUBJECT WITH THE AUSTRALIANS.

7. WE ALSO AGREED TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS FROM TIME TO TIME AS NECESSARY.

8. JUST AS THE DAYS SESSION WAS ABOUT TO BREAK UP ON THIS HAPPY NOTE THE COLONIAL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT AN AIRFIELD ON MAHE ISLAND AS THE PRICE OF RIGHTS IN THE AREA. THE AIRFIELD COULD WELL SERVE MILITARY, BUT WOULD BE THE ISLAND CIVIL AIRPORT. OUR BASE RIGHTS COULD THEN INCLUDE ANYTHING WE WOULD WANT THEM TO. OUR SIDE MADE IT PLAIN THAT WE WOULD TALK, BUT FOR MANY REASONS WHICH WERE EXPLAINED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BUILD THEM AN AIRFIELD.

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