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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

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IN REPLY REFER TO  
OI-540/GK/aww  
Ser 0043  
17 NOV 1970

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Via: Vice Chief of Naval Operations *me* 11/20

Subj: News Reports on REINDEER STATION (U)

Ref: (a) OP-61 Memo Ser 00207OP61 of 17 Nov 1970 (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Statement on availability to U.S. of British Indian Ocean Territories, as released to news media by the State Department, 17 November 1970

1. This memorandum is to supplement reference (a).
2. A comprehensive public affairs plan on REINDEER STATION is presently with OASD(PA) for clearance. It calls for a simultaneous, low-key, joint U.S./U.K. release in London and Washington, and provides responses for anticipated follow-on questions. The plan also calls for DOD/State coordination with the United Kingdom and Indian Ocean littoral countries as appropriate, and proposes that no statements be made prior to apportionment of funds.
3. DOD has directed that in the interim, all queries regarding REINDEER STATION be referred to Directorate for Defense Information for response within the framework of enclosure (1). For your information, enclosure (1) was released this morning by the State Department in response to media queries.

*L. R. Geis*  
L. R. GEIS  
REAR ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY  
CHIEF OF INFORMATION

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OI-200 GROUP 4

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Statement on availability to U.S. of British Indian Ocean Territories,  
as released to news media by the State Department, 17 November 1970  
Enc (1)

"I have a statement regarding the several questions I have received inquiring into the London Sunday Express story regarding a base in the Indian Ocean. As you know, the British Indian Ocean Territory remains available for the construction of defense facilities by the British and United States Governments under the agreement signed with Her Majesty's Government in 1966. Whether or how they will be used is a matter which is being kept under review by both countries."

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Enclosure (1)