



VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

NHC, 00, 1530, BxIII, 1100

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SERIAL
0031

MAIL ROOM R/S NO.

Diego Garcia (S)

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Sheridan asked that we submit a new
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B parallels exactly the first two
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Project B is then \$17.78 million.

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time required to position equipment and complete dredging would eliminate any
early capability to support an FBM submarine deployment to the Indian Ocean
from Diego Garcia.

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CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
Communications and Cryptology)

1/20

TO: CNO

VIA: VCNO (1)

1. The communication requirements cited as justification are fiction.
2. I know this! But I have an uneasy feeling that CNO DOES NOT.
3. In the current climate surrounding DOD communications, I believe that hanging our requirement on communications is risky business. If unmasked, it could be very damaging to the Navy.
4. I have "chopped" the package, but I do so with the foregoing reservations.

V. Rospig
Jitzpatrick

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ADDRESSEE(S)

SECDEF

SERIAL
0031

MAIL ROOM R/S NO.

Communications Facility on Diego Garcia (S)

d, list references and enclosures immediately below, in naval letter format. It is ary to list references and enclosures to the basic incoming and outgoing documents. n of information contained in the attached incoming or outgoing correspondence, or ted elsewhere on this sheet, should be avoided wherever practicable.)

rd J. Sheridan, OASD(I&L), we have been advised that red the following comment concerning our proposed facility can support only communications with everything else on this comment, Mr. Sheridan asked that we submit a new on the requirement for a communications facility with ces for providing "austere communications facilities" and stallations which would be necessary to support the lity.

ttached, herewith, two alternate proposals which differ on/exclusion of dredging. In both proposals, in keeping n to an austere communications facility, the quantity of severely reduced to a level necessary to support the ght month period. Fleet refueling could only be accomplished his base supply. Proposal A is comprised of two con- s with a total project construction cost of \$13.58 million. mpleted. Proposal B parallels exactly the first two nents but adds a third increment in the amount of \$4.2 million ging to provide a 45-foot entrance channel and turning basin. construction cost of Project B is then \$17.78 million.

vides an ample facility (based on "austere" guidelines) at er, by not providing for dredging we will have denied our- option to use Diego Garcia to a very significant degree. the entrance channel and lagoon are effectively 5 to 5½ obstructions less than 5 fathoms. By carefully marking providing good navigation aids to mark the channel and safe ps of drafts to 28 feet could probably effect safe passage lagoon. However, Diego Garcia would not be available, even nchorage, to CVAs, CVSS, AOE/AO, CG/CGN, DD or SS tenders, the will be the major POL carrier in the MSTIS inventory in the

mid-to-late 1970s, and of course, FBM submarines. Additionally, the long lead time required to position equipment and complete dredging would eliminate any early capability to support an FBM submarine deployment to the Indian Ocean from Diego Garcia.

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SUBJECT
Proposed Naval Communications Facility on Diego Garcia (S)

BACKGROUND/BRIEFING (If required, list references and enclosures immediately below, in naval letter format. It is not necessary to list references and enclosures to the basic incoming and outgoing documents. Duplication of information contained in the attached incoming or outgoing correspondence, or that inserted elsewhere on this sheet, should be avoided wherever practicable.)

1. Through Mr. Edward J. Sheridan, OASD(I&L), we have been advised that Secretary Laird offered the following comment concerning our proposed facility on Diego Garcia: "I can support only communications with everything else subsidiary." Based on this comment, Mr. Sheridan asked that we submit a new justification based on the requirement for a communications facility with revised cost estimates for providing "austere communications facilities" and those additional installations which would be necessary to support the communications facility.

2. You will find attached, herewith, two alternate proposals which differ only in the inclusion/exclusion of dredging. In both proposals, in keeping with the redirection to an austere communications facility, the quantity of stored POL has been severely reduced to a level necessary to support the facility for an eight month period. Fleet refueling could only be accomplished at the expense of this base supply. Proposal A is comprised of two construction increments with a total project construction cost of \$13.58 million. No dredging is accomplished. Proposal B parallels exactly the first two construction increments but adds a third increment in the amount of \$4.2 million to accomplish dredging to provide a 45-foot entrance channel and turning basin. The total project construction cost of Project B is then \$17.78 million.

3. Proposal A provides an ample facility (based on "austere" guidelines) at least cost. However, by not providing for dredging we will have denied ourselves the use or option to use Diego Garcia to a very significant degree. Limiting depths of the entrance channel and lagoon are effectively 5 to 5½ fathoms with some obstructions less than 5 fathoms. By carefully marking obstructions and providing good navigation aids to mark the channel and safe turning area, ships of drafts to 28 feet could probably effect safe passage in and out of the lagoon. However, Diego Garcia would not be available, even as an emergency anchorage, to CVAs, CVSS, AOE/AO, CG/CGN, DD or SS tenders, the T-5 tanker which will be the major POL carrier in the MSTs inventory in the mid-to-late 1970s, and of course, FBM submarines. Additionally, the long lead time required to position equipment and complete dredging would eliminate any early capability to support an FBM submarine deployment to the Indian Ocean from Diego Garcia.

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SUBJECT

BACKGROUND/BRIEFING (If required, list references and enclosures immediately below, in naval letter format. It is
not necessary to list references and enclosures to the basic incoming and outgoing documents.
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3. Important as dredging is to the strategic and operational usefulness of
Diego Garcia, it should be noted that inclusion of the dredging increment with
its attendant cost increase, might well exceed the limit which the Secretary
of Defense considers appropriate. However, there is also the possibility that
limitations on Diego Garcia's utility imposed by not dredging will be clearly
apparent to the large number of Congressional supporters which the initial
proposal had garnered. If your personal evaluation of these pros and cons
indicates that the least cost proposal is the more politic, it is recommended
that you forward Proposal A. If, however, you conclude that a dredged entrance
channel and turning basin should be an integral aspect of this facility, you
should forward Proposal B.

*My personal recommendation is
Proposal B.*

RET

ASN(RG)
MEMO
2/29

ECNAV
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