



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

DECLASSIFIED

IN REPLY REFER TO
Op-61/cy
Ser 002074P61
NOV 17 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Subj: Press Statement on Reindeer Station (U)

Encl: (1) AMEMBASSY LONDON 151218Z NOV 70
(2) AMEMBASSY LONDON 161635Z NOV 70

1. (S) On this date, OSD/Public Affairs informed CHINFO that the Department of State desired to issue a short release on Reindeer Station at the regular press briefing at 1100. The OSD action office indicated that personnel at the highest levels of State and Defense had participated in the decision to make a release. The requirement for an early release was generated by numerous inquiries from the press to State regarding an article which appeared in the 15 November London Sunday Express (enclosure (1)).

2. (U) OPNAV and OSD have concurred in the State Department text which is as follows:

"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."

3. (S) Inquiries received by State related to funding, possible basing of Polaris, Soviet activities in the area, etc., all of which were mentioned in the Express article. There will be no response to these inquiries or to any other questions.

4. (S) The Express story has been picked up in other London newspapers including the influential Telegraph and Guardian (enclosure (2)) but HMG has assured us that they will do everything possible to stick with the agreed guidance and to give us advance warning if they are forced into the open.

Copy to:

Op-09 Op-094 Op-007
Op-03 Op-092 NAVCOMPT
Op-04 OLA GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 10 years

F. J. Blouin
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