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CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY

18 Dec 1970

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ADMINISTRATIVE OF INFORMATION FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subj: Reindeer Station (U)

1. (S/RF) On 7 December 1970, State notified the British of Congressional approval of Reindeer Station. On 10 December 1970 the U.K. requested that U.S. construction plans be made public on 15 December 1970, prior to the adjournment of Parliament.

2. (S/RF) On 11 December President Nixon signed the FY 71 MILCON Appropriations Bill which provides for first increment funding for the Diego Garcia project. On 12 December Secretary Laird approved early public release of information on the project. After extensive staffing within State over the weekend (with particularly good work being performed by exchange officer Navy CAPT FROM) early this morning, Under Secretary Irwin approved the public release for State. After White House approval early this afternoon, State released a comprehensive message to London and the littoral country embassies. In this message, notification language, a press release, and extensive public affairs guidance in the form of questions and answers were provided.

3. (S/RF) There are several pressing items which must receive immediate attention. OPNAV is now staffing a message to AnEmbassy London proposing firm arrangements for landing an initial Navy recon team on Diego Garcia in January 1971. In addition, a firm U.S. commitment must be made in response to the U.K. request that we send a small Navy team to brief Mr. Todd, British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Administrator, in the Seychelles. Op-61 is pursuing both of these items on an urgent basis.

Copy to:

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Op-03

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