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

IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-003:fs
Op-00 Memo 463-70
20 Oct 1970

DECLASSIFIED 06A

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
(PLANS AND POLICY) AND THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Subj: Phone Conversation with Captain Browning, British
Navy Staff

1. Captain Browning, British Navy Staff, called at 1225 today indicating he had met today with the First Sea Lord and the First Sea Lord asked him to pass on the following four points to the CNO:

a. DIEGO GARCIA: The First Sea Lord wants to know the number and what sort of men the CNO wants to get the British to supply--sailors, scientists, etc. A

b. ISLAND OF GAN: The First Sea Lord will mention UK position re U.S. Navy visits.... There is a small problem why they can't say "be our guests." B

c. SINGAPORE: They want an estimate from the CNO of U.S. Navy usage and anticipated usage of Singapore by number of ship days monthly or yearly. "Some feel of how often we would like to use the facility." C

d. This has not appeared on the agenda, but the First Sea Lord is very keen on talking with the CNO on the concepts of ASW. He will not go into any detailed equipment, but purely concepts about the horizon of ASW and our efforts. He wants to raise this subject and have a chat and perhaps this will lead up to staff level talks. D

2. Captain Browning will be in his office the first thing tomorrow morning if Captain Shepherd wants to chat.

Very respectfully,

Ran

R. E. INMAN
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
Secretary (Administration) to the
Chief of Naval Operations

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

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22 October 1970

(00 Control #)

(Date)

IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-003:fs

Op-00 Memo 463-70

20 Oct 1970

CNO COMMENT SHEET

PERATIONS

TANT TO THE

Subj: British Participation on Diego Garcia

owning, British

Ref: OP-614 Point Paper of 20 Oct 1970

1. The CNO made the following comment/notation on referenced material:

called at 1225 today
: Sea Lord and the
following four points

002

1. The purpose of having UK in, is to satisfy Senator Russell.

wants to know the
to get the British

A

THEREFORE,
2.1 Ask RADM Johnson what our intelligence
is AND what it will take to satisfy him.

I will mention UK
is a small problem

B

a.

b. Per cent of US vs UK.

from the CNO of
Singapore by number
el of how often we

C

da, but the First
CNO on the concepts
equipment, but
and our efforts.
chat and perhaps

D

Action:

002

Copy to:

Please provide answer/comment/report action taken not

later than

e the first thing
s to chat.

fully,

Kan

R. E. INMAN
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
Secretary (Administration) to the
Chief of Naval Operations

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CAPT R.S. LEDDICK, USN
Op-614, x77821
20 October 1970

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SUBJECT (S)

British Participation on Diego Garcia

QUESTION (S)

The First Sea Lord wants to know the number and what sort of men the CNO wants to get the British to supply--sailors, scientists, etc.

ANSWER (S)

Op-61 is currently staffing a letter (draft copy attached at TAB A) which will be sent to Mr. Jerry Green, the DCM for Am Embassy London. It will be forwarded to State via ISA and will probably be signed by Mr. Ron Spiers, Director of Politico-Military Affairs in State. The letter's objective is to begin preliminary planning with the British on four separate items of business concerning Diego Garcia. One of the items addresses the subject of British participation and suggests that a Royal Navy representative meet with the U.S. Navy (Op-094) to determine what sort of participation is feasible.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

In conversations between the CNO and the First Sea Lord, it is recommended that this same course be followed. Op-094 will be prepared in the near future to discuss Royal Navy contribution with the Royal Navy representative.

602
1. The primary having a UK in 4
to setup San Russell
2. In last RPAI show what can
be done who it will be to setup here
3. Civil is not
4. 22 USNOK

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

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RAFT OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER

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Dear Jerry:

We have recently been informed that the Senate version of the FY 71 Milcon Appropriations Bill was acted upon favorably by the full Senate just prior to the recess on October 14. Reindeer Station was included in the Bill. This means that the project has passed its most difficult hurdle, since it is already included in the House version. Shortly after the Congress reconvenes on November 16 the House-Senate conference on the Bill should take place. Since the conference will consider only those items not appearing in both versions of the Bill, Reindeer Station should not be raised. Final congressional approval should occur about the first of December; apportionment in Defense shortly thereafter. If all goes well, this will mean that ships with SeaBees on board should leave the eastern United States in mid-February, to arrive at Diego Garcia and commence construction about mid-March.

We have not been pushing ahead with the British on the relocation of copra workers, public affairs plans, etc. because the outcome of Senate consideration of the project has been very much in doubt until recently. Now, even though there are several more hurdles to be crossed in the funding process, it appears that we can begin to be much more optimistic with HMG. If you concur, you should inform HMG of developments which gives us cause for optimism, and ask

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active consideration be given to the several areas which require action. For the time being we would like very much to keep such discussions in a low key and on a limited basis, because we fear that funding could still be jeopardized by drawing attention to the project. Guidance from our Congressional sources also has been to lie low until final action is taken.

There are four areas where detailed planning and action should be taken by our two governments:

a. The British should make final plans and commence to implement the relocation of copra workers from Diego Garcia. We recognize that it probably will not be possible to have them all removed before construction starts, but we would at least need unencumbered access to the western half and southern tip of the island in March. The people should be moved from those areas prior to the arrival of the construction team.

b. Specific agreement on British participation in the operation of the station should be reached. Our proposal to the First Sea Lord has been that the British furnish watchstanders and technicians but perhaps the British have other ideas. In any event it appears that they are willing to increase their participation in the project. Perhaps the best way to accomplish this would be for a qualified Royal Navy officer to meet with US Navy communications

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...le in Washington to determine exactly what is feasible and interesting to both sides. Participants in such a meeting should be specially cautioned about the sensitivity of the project at the present time.

c. The plans for informing interested governments on the Indian Ocean littoral and other interested governments should be dusted off and brought up to date. We began to work with HMG on this in 1969 and they agreed to take the lead in several of the affected countries. Most of the arrangements still appear to be appropriate but timing, content, etc. should be reviewed.

d. A joint public affairs program for the project should be prepared. Navy is presently putting a package together for presentation to Defense. It envisions a joint US/UK press release to be issued just prior to the time construction personnel leave the United States. It should be closely coordinated with informing the littoral governments. We will send you this package as soon as it is available to us.

The timing on the various actions might be as follows. Relocation implementation should begin immediately. This is not directly connected to final approval and should be as far along as possible by early March. Informal Navy-to-Navy conversations on UK participation could also commence at once. The most concerned third countries (Mauritius, Seychelles, Australia, New Zealand, and perhaps India)

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should be informed shortly in advance of other countries, sometime in January. The press release could be issued in early February.

We are using the official-informal channel, with the concurrence of Defense and Navy, to limit access to a minimum necessary to get consideration of the various required action items back in an active status. While final approval by Congress now appears almost certain, any premature disclosure could result in losing funding for the project. After Congressional approval, we would envision returning the correspondence to the normal telegraphic channel. We appreciate that HMG has been careful to avoid disclosure of developments in the past, and ask that they continue to be cautious until the project is home free.

Please go ahead with the British on the basis described above. We will keep you informed of any new developments here.

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