



OP-00 FILES: 11000

09 Chap 9/3

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

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IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-61/afc

Ser 01780P61

26 FEB 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Via: Vice Chief of Naval Operations *WMC*

Subj: Diego Garcia - Status Report on International Aspects (U)

Ref: (a) Op-61 memo ser 01678P61 of 22 Jan 1971 (C-1151)
(b) Op-61 memo ser 01738P61 of 12 Feb 1971 (C-2194)

1. (U) In accordance with VCNO note on reference (a), the following is the status report on the international aspects of Diego Garcia for the two week period ending 26 February.
2. (C) USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113) has sailed from CONUS en route Diego Garcia. The Government of Mauritius has given approval for transfer to USS CHARLESTON at Port Louis on 15 March of the advance party of about 200 USN personnel who will be flown to Mauritius.
3. (C) CDR Robert WHITE, Commanding Officer of MCB-40 and leader of the reconnaissance party, gave informal briefings for OPNAV, OSD and State personnel on 18 February. He described the physical condition of the island and the circumstances surrounding planned relocation of the copra workers. His briefing aided Washington understanding of the relocation question and seemed to be particularly effective in reducing State concern about the relocation program. Relocation is proceeding; about 60 Seychellois returned to Mahe from Diego Garcia aboard NORDVAER when the reconnaissance party returned from its survey.
4. (C) The Royal Society of the UK has nominated a scientist to accompany the advance party aboard CHARLESTON to monitor construction activities for the first two months of operations. He will make a report on the environmental aspects of construction on his return to UK. We have agreed to support his activities on the island.
5. (C) NAOPNAV is proposing that Navy representatives visit London during the week of 15 March to begin discussion of details of UK participation in manning the communications station. Capt R. J. BRABANT of COMNAVCOMM is the Navy action officer for this effort.

GROUP 4
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intervals; declassified
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6. (C) A proposed draft agreement to be presented to the UK on the details of the Diego Garcia station has been prepared for VCNO approval. Upon his concurrence, the draft will be forwarded to OSD for transmittal to Embassy London through State. The proposed draft is in response to a UK "skeleton" draft and is intended to provide Navy with maximum flexibility in construction and on-going communications operations.



J. H. DICK
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director, Politico-Military Policy Division

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