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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

[R/W 15-18 Jan 1965]

IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-614/gsb
Ser M001518P61

OP-00
OP-02
OP-03
OP-04
OP-05
OP-06
OP-00C

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Subj: Status of the Indian Ocean Islands (U)

1. The matter of reserving certain Indian Ocean islands (Diego Garcia, Aldabra, Coetivy, Farquhar, Iles Des Roches) for future US/UK contingency use, mutually agreed upon in principle, is rapidly becoming critical as a result of the following four factors:

- a. Imminence of initiatives leading to self-governing status for the involved island groupings, i.e., Mauritius (July 1965) and Seychelles.
- b. U. K. insistence for specific U. S. requirements and programmed construction (including funding plans) for targeted islands.
- c. U. S. willingness to meet foregoing only in the case of Diego Garcia for which DCA has imposed requirement upon Navy to establish commsta and supporting facilities.
- d. U. K. determination to approach detachment process on "one shot" basis.

2. U. S. plans regarding rest of Indian Ocean area limited to maintenance of a presence therein by periodic Task Force cruises as required by NSAM 289 and expression to Australian authorities of U. S. interest in availability of facilities (particularly airfield) in Cocos Islands.

3. With respect subpara 1.c. above, Navy plans are to introduce first increment of planned construction in FY 67 budget and be prepared to proceed with minimum preliminary A and E effort as soon as practicable after detachment of Diego Garcia.

4. State Department now pressing U. K. FonOff to have U. K. Reps meet with those of U. S., in February, to resolve the problems outlined in para 1, thereby hastening detachment of specific islands.

5. Prognosis - Measures to detach Chagos Archipelago (including Diego Garcia), Aldabra and Coetivy are anticipated.

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NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

DDO BR 5200.10

A. McB. JACKSON
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations

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← OP94 (Reeder) tells me we have
plans & \$ available to move in
ASAP (when diplomatically ready) for
survey work & preliminary moves
which will produce tangible
evidence of intent without
awaiting '67 \$.