

"CARD"
0038

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

TO : Op-09

Op-614/vm
Ser 0050P61

DATE: 25 JUN 1964

FROM : Op-06

SUBJECT: Indian Ocean Island Survey (S)

1. Latest information from AmEmb London indicates that Indian Ocean Island problem is rapidly nearing climax. The U.K. planned to inform PM Ramgoolan of Mauritius prior to 25 June of plan to detach Chagos Archipelago from administration of Mauritius. They were then to similarly advise certain Seychelles authorities concerning possible detachment of islands in that group. Depending on the reaction of these officials, we can expect a go-ahead for the departure of the survey party. Upon completion of surveys, US/UK to decide which islands are required for potential strategic purposes. Steps will then be taken to withdraw these islands from the present administrative chain and place them directly under London control.
2. Admiralty has set a provisional date of 3 July for the survey party to be in Aden. CINCUSNAVEUR has tentatively planned to fly the survey party from London to Aden on 2 July. An RAF plane would take the survey party from Aden to Gan about 4 July, when it is known that the HMS DAMPIER has arrived there. Party will go directly aboard ship at Gan. DAMPIER will remain in Chagos area supporting the survey party until completion about 20 July, then return to Gan to disembark communications technicians and proceed with survey of western islands.
3. U.S. originally desired to look at Desroches, Coetivy, Cosmoledos, and Aldabras. U.K. gave us a copy of their survey report of Aldabras and our people believe it contains adequate information. Admiralty informs us that for political reasons we cannot visit Desroches and Coetivy. Admiralty desires to inspect Agalega on same trip. However, we see little potential use for that island.
4. STATE has requested Embassy London to verify with Foreign Office that the survey of Desroches and Coetivy is not possible. In this event, survey of western islands would be limited to Cosmoledos and would be of marginal value.

DOWNGRADED AT 3-YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

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Op-011/1a1
Ser 0050P61

5. Should the Foreign Office indicate that it is politically feasible to survey Desroches and Coetivy, we would have about 5 man survey team remain with the ship to complete this western portion of the survey.

6. The survey party has been reorganized in accordance with your views. An Op-04 project officer (CDR, USN) has been assigned and the number of communications personnel reduced. The party now includes:

Project Officer

*CDR H. A. Hart, USN
(Op-04 Rep)
(Vice Communication Officer
previously designated)

Base Develop. & Logistics

* Mr. F. D. McGuire, GS-15
(BuDocks)
*LT O. R. Carden, CEC, USN
*(One to be designated)

Communications Eng.

Mr. Vance Vaughan
Mr. R. L. Clinkenbeard, GS-11

Communications Tech.

R. M. Young, ETCM, USN
M. J. Mesciji, RMC, USN

Air Force Reps

*Maj. H. H. Gall, USAF
(General Air Base)
Mr. G. M. Marks
Mr. H. J. Pansch

*Will continue with survey of islands in the western section of Indian Ocean if such survey includes Desroches and Coetivy.



A. MCB. JACKSON
Rear Admiral, U S Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans and Policy)
(Acting)

Copy to:
Op-04
Op-40
Op-94

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