

CARD
0035



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

CNO BRIEFING SUMMARY

12 JUN 1967

OP-00 FILES: 11000/2
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CONFIDENTIAL

IN REPLY REFER TO
Op-61FS/ret ;
Ser 01780P61
5 JUNE 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subj: Diego Garcia Survey (U)

1. The USN survey team departed for the UK facility at Gan (Maldives) 31 May 1967. The party will board HMS VIDAL at Gan on 2 or 3 June and a Combined USN-RN survey party will arrive at Diego Garcia on 7 June. Survey operations will be completed on 5 August. The USN party will then return to the US while HMS VIDAL will go on to Aldabra where a scientific group will make further investigations of that island's flora and fauna.

2. We expected that a report on the survey will be ready by the end of September. (The US and UK will exchange reports.) The report will provide information for refining the cost data in the Navy's PCR and for drawing up contracts when a decision to initiate construction is taken.

3. The survey party consists of 2 civil engineers, 9 MCB personnel (1 officer and 8 men), one officer from the Oceanographer's office, and 2 civilian scientists from the Smithsonian Institution. These latter were included at the invitation of the Royal Navy. Although we do not anticipate wildlife problems on Diego Garcia in any way comparable to those on Aldabra, the scientists have been requested to be alert for possible difficulties.

4. Op-61 Comment. The actual conduct of the survey culminates almost a year of joint US-UK planning following SECDEF's authorization in August 1966. We expect that, as a result of the information obtained, the Navy will be able to proceed without delay to the construction phase whenever a decision is made to build.

5. All of the above paragraphs are classified Confidential.

James W. O'Grady
JAMES W. O'GRADY
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