



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

OP-00 FILES: 11000
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22 FEB 1972

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OP-00C _____
OP-00D _____

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subj: Reindeer Station

The attached correspondence is provided as additional backup to SECNAV's memo of 31 January, same subject. It is offered as supporting documentation for utilization of the station in an intelligence collection role in addition to the communications functions planned for the Reindeer Station.

Tab A describes the Navy's proposed communications station to provide for the present high frequency radio gaps in the Indian Ocean.

Tab B is a chart describing the present high frequency coverage and includes an approximation of the improvement offered by a high frequency station at Reindeer. It is noted that the Cam Ranh Bay Naval Communications Station currently extends into the gap in the Indian Ocean. It is expected that this station will be phased down as we reduce our South Vietnamese commitments, and that only through a station at Reindeer can we ultimately provide the desired HF coverage.

Tabs C and D, to be provided via SAO material channels, address special intelligence activities proposed for the station. It is considered that this contribution will be significant in any operations at the station and should be weighed heavily in the decision to proceed with the project. Funds associated with providing the facilities discussed in Tabs C and D are not included in any current budget submissions.

Robert A. Froese
ROBERT A. FROSE

Blind copy to:
SECNAV
CNO
ASN (I&L)
OP-92
OP-605
OP-94

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OP-00 CONTROL NO.

ASN(R&D) Control No. 5-300

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CDR R.F. STALDER, USN
Op-605E4/X5-5927
24 February 1970

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PROPOSED NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
ON DIEGO GARCIA (S)

- BACKGROUND (S) - SECNAV memo of 31 January 1970 (TAB A) outlines proposal for development of austere communications facilities on Diego Garcia and requests SECDEF approval for inclusion of the first construction increment of the project (\$5.4 million) in DOD FY 71 MILCON Budget.
- While recognizing the potential follow-on strategic advantages which would accrue, the current SECNAV proposal is based on the immediate requirement to close the gap in reliable communications which now exists in the Central Indian Ocean-Bay of Bengal areas. *expansion*
 - Lack of reliable command and control capability for our forces operating in or transiting the Indian Ocean area becomes an increasingly critical communications shortcoming with greater maritime reliance on the Indian Ocean sea routes and expanding Soviet naval activities in the Indian Ocean. *but not a new one*
 - Existing naval communications facilities which serve the Indian Ocean, and their arcs of reliable communications coverage, are shown at TAB B.
 - Naval Communications Station, Asmara, Ethiopia, provides coverage of the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and the northwest quadrant of the Indian Ocean.
 - Naval Communications Station, Harold E. Holt, Northwest Cape, Australia, provides VLF coverage of the entire Indian Ocean, but its HF coverage is limited to the eastern third of the Indian Ocean, excluding the Bay of Bengal.
 - Naval Communications Station, Philippines has a coverage capability limited to the eastern Bay of Bengal/eastern Andaman Sea.
 - As shown in TAB B, a substantial gap exists which, could be filled by scribing an arc of reliable communications coverage around Diego Garcia similar to that of the existing NAVCOMMSTAs. *? only in the 10-50- what contingencies in Red Sea?*
 - All arcs shown in TAB B are based on the "Area of Acceptable Readability" of the NAVCOMMSTAs indicated. Area of Acceptable Readability is that area in which the communications reliability in communicating with an afloat unit is 90%. Anything outside of this radius (which is variable

GROUP-4

Downgraded at 3-year intervals;
Declassified after 12 years

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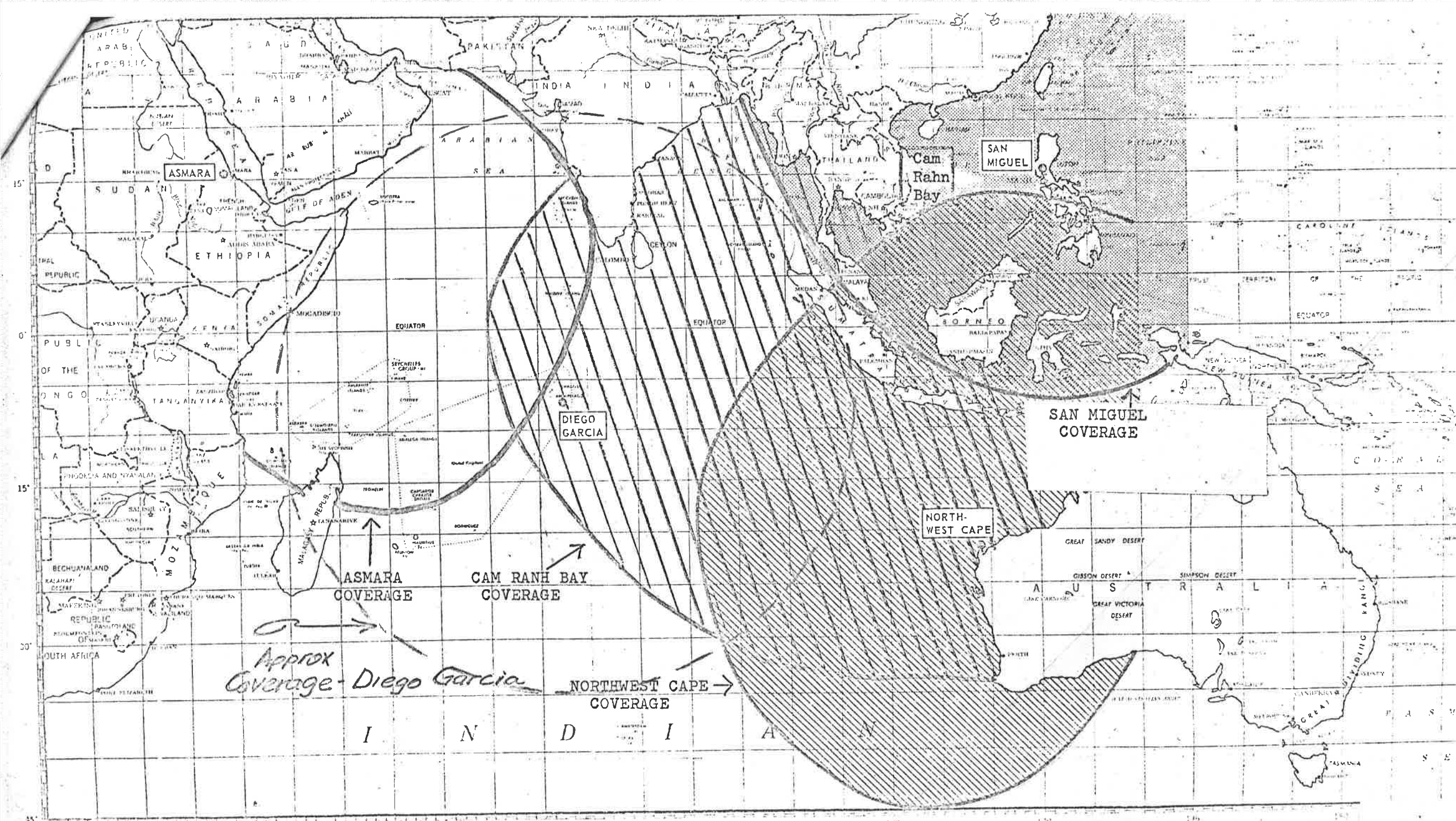
but, in general, approximates 1700-1800 nautical miles) is considered to be below the desired standard and, as such, unreliable. Due to atmospheric conditions and radio-wave propagation, there will be times when communications will be readable outside the Radius of Acceptable Readability; however, over an extended period of time, communications in these areas would be unreliable to the degree reflected by the effectiveness rating. Effectiveness is defined as the ability of the Naval Communications System to provide communications coverage to the area of interest.

- Alternate proposals for filling the Indian Ocean communications gap through reliance on non-U.S. controlled facilities at Maritius and Singapore are entirely dependent upon the assumption that these facilities would be available to the U.S. whenever required. Such an assumption is not considered valid. It is true that special, ad-hoc arrangements have been made in the past to support passive air surveillance missions from Maritius. However, in view of political sensitivities of this area, and lack of stability of Maritius Government, there can be no assurance that communications facilities on Maritius would be available for U.S. use in the future. Neither can unrestricted U.S. use of Singapore communications facilities be assumed. The fact that U.S. participation in Australian negotiations for use of British Singapore facilities must be played in such low key is indication of the tenuous political aspects of our future use of these facilities.

CONCLUSION (S) - Austere communications, as proposed by SECNAV, are required on Diego Garcia to provide assured U.S. Navy communications of acceptable reliability for surface units in those areas of the Indian Ocean-Bay of Bengal which cannot be covered by existing Naval Communications Stations.

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90% reliability - Worst Case Condition (January - daytime) for 2-32 Mhz Freq Range
Computer Prediction from ESSA data; 500 watts power; 35' whip Tx and Rx antenna

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

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24 MAR 1970

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OP-02	
OP-03	
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OP-05	
OP-06	
OP-08	
OP-09	
OP-10	

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

SUBJECT: Proposed Naval Communication Facility on Diego Garcia

Reference is made to your memorandum dated January 31, 1970, in which you propose to establish an austere communications facility at Diego Garcia.

I discussed the matter with the Under Secretary of the Navy and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Logistics) on March 6, 1970, and confirm approval of the concept for an austere communications facility with only those minimum facilities necessary to make this new base self-sustaining.

Accordingly, the \$5.4 million in the FY 1971 Military Construction Funding Program is approved as the first increment for construction under this concept.

[Handwritten signature]

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SecNav Cont No. 3-928

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Sec Def Cont Nr. X-

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10