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17 SEP 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY AND  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subj: Reindeer Station Project (U)

(S) This is to inform you that Mr. Dennis SACHS of the National Security Council Staff called on representatives of OPNAV on 28 August to discuss the Navy's proposed austere communications facility on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean (Project Reindeer Station). He explained that the President had made inquiry of Dr. KISSINGER about Reindeer Station, after being informed about it by ADM MCCAFFEY, COMUSMACV. Mr. SACHS is preparing a report for Dr. KISSINGER which will be used as a basis for further briefing of the President. OPNAV gave him background information and informed him of the current status of Congressional deliberations. Mr. SACHS appeared receptive to explanation of the Navy's position, but did not indicate whether he would recommend NSC Staff support for the project.

(S) The project was initially submitted to Congress in FY 1969. It was authorized but failed appropriation, and has been resubmitted in Navy's FY 1970 MILCON appropriation request. Mr. LAIRD approved the FY 1970 Reindeer Station submission to Congress on 6 March 1970.

/s/ JOHN H. CHAFEE  
Secretary of the Navy

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