



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO
Op-61/afc
Ser 002070P61

NOV 17 1970

DECLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Subj: News Reports on Reindeer Station (U)

Encl: (1) AMEMBASSY LONDON 121540Z NOV 70
(2) AMEMBASSY LONDON 101442Z NOV 70
(3) AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 091300Z NOV 70.

1. (S) Enclosure (1) reports that the UK Foreign Office is preparing replies for a "flood of parliamentary questions" on Diego Garcia which have been sparked by recent speculation in two London newspapers (enclosure (2)). At least one newspaper in Nairobi has also carried a story on the same subject (enclosure (3)). The Foreign Office will try to stick to the agreed line, i.e., that the British Indian Ocean Territory is available for US/UK use but no definite decision has been made to proceed on a specific project. In any case, US news media may well pick up the story from the London reports and possibly may pose questions to DOD and State.

2. (S) CHINFO has been furnished a copy of pertinent telegrams and is preparing material for response to possible questions. We will continue to avoid public statements before the FY 71 MILCON Bill receives final congressional approval. This probably will occur during the next ten days to two weeks.

F. J. BLOUIN
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
(Plans and Policy)

Copy to:

Op-09
Op-03
Op-94
Op-92
Op-04
Op-44
Op-60
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GROUP 1

intervals; declassified
after 12 years

NAVAL MESSAGE

How far 6P

NAVY DEPARTMENT

ACTION

DISTR CJCS DJS SJCS(03) J3(12) J5(02) SECDEF(07) ASD:ISA(09)
ASD:PA(01) DA CSAF CNO CMC DIA(20) MCCC FILE(1)

ROUTINE

R 091300Z NOV 70
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2783

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 2
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 1776

AMEMBASSY LONDON 1169
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE 451

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NAIROBI 4604

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT PORT LOUIS

1. NAIROBI SUNDAY NATION YESTERDAY CARRIED ARTICLE (UNATTRIBUTED, BUT APPARENTLY WIRE SERVICE ORIGIN) REPORTING ON US/UK TALKS THIS PAST WEEK IN LONDON ON QTE STRENGTHENING WESTERN SECURITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AGAINST ANY FUTURE BUILD-UP OF SOVIET NAVAL POWER UNQTE. ARTICLE STATES QTE A BRITISH SOURCE REPORTED THE WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGES INCLUDED A FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROJECT FOR ESTABLISHING AN AMERICAN TRACKING STATION, A COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AND AN AIR STAGING POST ON THE CORAL ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA IN THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY UNQTE.

2. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT OF WHICH WE SHOULD BE AWARE?

3. FYI BLACKWILL PLANS NEXT TRIP TO SEYCHELLES, PRIMARILY TO ASSESS ELECTION RESULTS, ON NOV. 26. GP-1
MCILVAINE
BT

61(3) ...COG

60(3) 63(1) 092(7) FP(1) BFR(1) IP(5) + ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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ACTION SAGA(01) ASD:ISA(09)
DISTR CJCS DJS SJCS(03) J3(12) J5(02) SECDEF(07) ASD:PA(01) DA CSAF
CNO CMC DIA(20) MCCC FILE(1).

ROUTINE
R 101442Z NOV 70
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1305
DOD .

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 780

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LONDON 9288

DOD FOR OSD/ISA
SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

1. NOV 9 ^{LONDON} TIMES ARTICLE STATES THAT TALK BY TORY GOVT OF
COUNTERING RUSSIAN NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN HAS
IGNORED FACT OF BIOT AS BASIS FOR WESTERN PRESENCE IN
INDIAN OCEAN. "IF THE PRIME MINISTER IS SERIOUS ABOUT
THE RUSSIAN NAVAL BUILD-UP, THEN IT IS LIKELY THAT HIS
DEFENSE ADVISORS ARE ALREADY BLOWING DUST OFF THE RELEVANT
FILES."

2. TIMES NOTES RECENT REPORT IN PRIVATE EYE (ABRITISH
POLITICAL SCANDAL SHEET) THAT PLANS FOR A JOINT BRITISH/US
BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA ARE SO FAR ADVANCED THAT BUILDING IS
NOW WELL UNDER WAY. TIMES REPORTS MOD COMMENT THAT BIOT REMAINS
AVAILABLE AND QUESTION OF EVENTUAL USE REMAINS UNDER REVIEW.
ANNENBERG

61FS
Save for 614
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[REDACTED]
61(3) ...COG
00(2) 09(1) 03(1) 32(5) 33(6) 34(2) 37(2) 04(2) 40(8) 44(5)
05(7) 50(16) 51(1) 06(1) 60(3) 094(20) FP(1) BFR(1)+

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