

OAS, NHC, 00, 16/3x20, 11000/1B

INCOMING
MESSAGE

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SECRET

PRECEDENCE (ACTION)	PRECEDENCE (INFO)
ROUTINE	ROUTINE

R 251901Z

FM ADMINO CINCUSNAVEUR

TO RUECW/JCS

INFO RUCKHC/CINCLANT
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
RUCQKKB/CINCMEAFSA
ZEN/CINCMEAFSA US ELEMENT US UK PLANNING GROUP LONDON

NOFORN
Indian Ocean

SECRET **NOFORN**

INDIAN OCEAN DISCUSSIONS, FIRST DAY SUMMARY (C)

RADM LEVERTON SENDS TO ALL CONCERNED FOR INFO ONLY

1. UK SIDE IS REPRESENTED BY PEOPLE FROM FOREIGN OFFICE, COLONIAL OFFICE, COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE AND DEFENSE. FOREIGN OFFICE AND DEFENSE SEE EYE TO EYE ON THE OVERALL PICTURE AND THE PROBLEMS. COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE HAS SEPARATE VIEWS BUT NOT NECESSARILY WIDELY DIVERGENT FROM THE OTHERS. THE COLONIAL OFFICE ON THE OTHER HAND SEES GREAT PROBLEMS IN GETTING ANYTHING DONE IN VIEW OF THEIR POLICIES IN THE COLONIES. AS A CONSEQUENCE, FUTURE PROGRESS WILL BE MEASURED BY THE SUCCESS WHICH THE OTHERS HAVE IN BRINGING THE COLONIAL OFFICE TO HEEL.

2. THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT POINTS WERE MADE DURING THE DAYS SESSIONS:

(A) THOUGH WE CLAIM THAT THE FORTHCOMING CRUISE OF THE CVA GROUP IN THE AREA IS NOT A PART OF A PACKAGE WITH OUR PRESENT MISSION, THE UK SIDE PREFERS TO TIE THEM TOGETHER. THEY VERY DEFINITELY WELCOME THE CARRIER TASK FORCE AND THEY WELCOME OUR DISCUSSION OF OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE AREA.

ACT.....J3-7

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CSA-2 CSAF-2 CNO-2 CMC-8 RR-1 FILE-1(43)WD

NCC/96240/JJ/JC/4
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B. UK SIDE WELCOMES A JOINT US/UK MILITARY AND POLITICAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA SINCE THIS WOULD GIVE JOINT ASSURANCES TO THE VARIOUS SMALL EMERGENT COUNTRIES AROUND THE PERIPHERY. U.S. AND/OR THE UK WILL BE ABLE TO REACT QUICKLY AND DEAL WITH LOCAL DISTURBANCES. MORE IMPORTANT TO DEAL QUICKLY WITH SMALL FORCE THAN LATER WITH LARGE FORCES.

C. UK ESPECIALLY NOTES THAT U.S. PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN MEANS THAT THE U.S. WILL EMPLOY THE SEVENTH FLEET THERE. THIS FURTHER MEANS THAT THE SEVENTH FLEET MUST PASS THROUGH, NEAR AND IN SIGHT OF INDONESIA. THE BRITISH CONSIDER THIS TO BE VERY GOOD.

D. UK HAVE NO IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT FOR DIEGO GARCIA EXCEPT AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATE FOR CAN. THEY HAVE 30 YEAR AGREEMENT (TO 1987) WITH MALDIVE GOVERNMENT BUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOT GOOD.

E. COLONIAL OFFICE POINTED OUT THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSULT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TO GET SPECIAL LEGISLATION IN THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN AND THIS MAY TAKE A LONG TIME.

F. MAY BE POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER DIEGO GARCIA FROM MARITIUS TO SEYCHELLES WHICH WILL BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH. DIEGO GARCIA PLANTATION WENT BANKRUPT AND NOW HAS A NEW OWNER FROM SEYCHELLES. ONLY 200 PEOPLE INVOLVED.

G. COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONG RUN HOPES THAT GROUP OF NEW EAST AFRICAN NATIONS, THE FORMER COLONIES, WILL FORM A FEDERATION FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES.

H. TIMING OF VISIT AND TIMING OF REQUEST TO COMMONWEALTH NATIONS, ESPECIALLY EAST AFRICAN, ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO VISITS BY CARRIER TASK FORCE. WHERE THE SHIPS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN AND WHERE THEY ARE NEXT GOING IS ALSO IMPORTANT. THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IS UNWILLING TO PREDICT WHETHER REACTIONS WILL BE GOOD OR BAD BUT WILL PREDICT THAT IT WILL NOT BE NEUTRAL.

(But US knows this not to be the case)

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I. AFTER HAVING BEEN PRESENTED THE U.S. MILITARY POSITION REGARDING POSSIBLE REQUIREMENTS IN THE AREA THE UK SIDE THOUGHT THAT PROBABLY ONE SITE IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR ALL OUR PURPOSES. I THINK THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE US NOT NECESSARILY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN SINCE THEY ARE ALREADY IN GAN THEMSELVES. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE US HELP THEM PAY FOR AN AIRBASE AT ALDABRA AND POSSIBLE ALSO GET ESTABLISHED IN THE COCOS ISLAND.

J. THE COLONIAL OFFICE WOULD NOT WANT US TO "TAKE OVER" ANY ISLAND SUCH AS DIEGO GARCIA BUT WOULD MUCH RATHER SEE US HAVE SMALL INSTALLATIONS IN NUMEROUS ISLANDS. ALL THIS OF COURSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUCKING UP THE ECONOMIES OF THE VARIOUS PLACES.

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