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3 December 1969

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Diego Garcia (U)

1. At 1900 on 2 December I received word from CAPT TRAIN that Admiral MOORER had talked about Diego Garcia with Senator Russell. Senator Russell was against the project and his position was firm, but he did agree to receive a Navy information paper on the subject. He gave as a reason for his opposition a desire to "hold the Brits feet to the fire" and keep them from departing the Indian Ocean.
2. In compliance with Admiral MOORER's desires, I delivered the information paper to Mr. CAMPBELL, Senator RUSSELL's legislative assistant at 0915 this date. Mr. CAMPBELL said that Senator RUSSELL was not due to arrive at his office until just before the Appropriations Committee meeting. He promised to personally deliver the information paper, but informed me that there would be no opportunity for me to talk with Mr. RUSSELL.
3. At 1000, CDRs JOHNSON and GARABEDIAN, Mr. FOLEY and myself arrived at the Capitol, and made ourselves available to Mr. REXROAD, the Senate Appropriations Committee staff assistant. We were not called upon during the Senate Appropriations Committee executive session, and at its conclusion Mr. REXROAD related the following:
- He stated that when the Diego Garcia milcon item came up, Senator RUSSELL made a short speech opposing it, and stated that the British should help out on such a project. Senator MANSFIELD then made a similar statement. Then Mr. REXROAD briefed the Committee on the Navy's proposed project. On conclusion, the Committee voted unanimously to leave the project out of the Senate bill.
4. The prognosis for Diego Garcia is not good. The House-Senate conferees will be designated shortly and OPNAV should continue an all-out effort to have the project included in the final bill. Strong House support is essential if we are to win out.

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*R. S. LEDDICK*  
R. S. LEDDICK

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2 December 1969

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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Diego Garcia (U)

1. CDR JOHNSON (Op-605E4), Mr. FOLEY (Op-61FS), and I briefed Mr. HARTUNG, minority staff assistant to the Senate Appropriations Committee, at 1400 this date. We covered essentially the same ground that had been covered for Mr. NEASE and Mr. REXROAD yesterday.

2. Mr. REXROAD dropped in briefly and gave us a short dress-rehearsal on what he intended to tell the Senate Appropriations Committee tomorrow on Diego Garcia. He asked for criticism and we cleared up several inaccuracies in his presentation.

3. Mr. HARTUNG was somewhat antagonistic at the beginning of our presentation, but was clearly on board at its completion. He said that he was sure he could persuade Senator Young to support the project, and recommended that we make every effort to brief Senators Russell and Mansfield.

*R. S. Leddick*  
R. S. LEDDICK

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