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NAVSO 5216/5 (7-66) S/N 0104-904-1760

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

SECRET Memorandum

OO BRIEFED

DATE :

Op-61FS/dgb

Ser M001929P61

5 OCT 1967

FROM : Op-61
Via: Op-06 *21 10/5*
TO : Op-90A

SUBJECT : Agenda Material for SECNAV Friday Meeting with SECDEF (U)

Ref: (a) Op-00 Memo 00634-67 of 2 Oct 1967

Encl: (1) Talking Paper (Status of Diego Garcia Proposal and Site Survey Results (S))

1. (S) The current status of Diego Garcia and recommendation is attached as enclosure (1).

James W. O'Grady
JAMES W. O'GRADY

Director, Defense Military Policy Division

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NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

DDO DIR 5200.10

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

10/6/67

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FRIDAY BOOK ITEM



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Op-61FS/dgb
5 October 1967

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TALKING PAPER

Subj: Status of Diego Garcia Proposal and Site Survey Results. (S)

Problem

The JCS has endorsed the Navy project for an austere facility on Diego Garcia and SECDEF has for decision a Navy request that he approve the first increment of construction of the facility. The OASD/ISA recommendation to SECDEF on the proposal seems to have bogged down. //

Background

The Navy Strategic Island concept was developed in 1959 and approved by the JCS in 1960. In essence it calls for a "stockpiling" of islands for use of the United States. In 1963 the U.S. approached the UK on the possible reservation of Indian Ocean Islands for defense purposes. After negotiations the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) was formed in November 1965 and comprised the Chagos Archipelago, Aldabra, Isle de Roches and Farquhar. The selection of these islands was predicated on unquestioned UK sovereignty, low political profile and a negligible population.

A bilateral agreement signed in 1966 gives the U.S. 50 year base rights, unrestricted use, and provides for both unilateral and joint facilities in the BIOT.

In January 1966 SECDEF requested SECNAV to provide Navy plans for Diego Garcia. In February the plan for an austere naval facility was approved in principle by SECDEF. The Navy PCR was turned down without prejudice by SECDEF in order to sound out British interest. The British stated in April 1967 that although interested, they had no funds to commit to this project. In May the UK stated it would be receptive to a diplomatic approach proposing the U.S. build the facility with nominal UK participation.

In July the JCS (JCS 2294/55 25 July) endorsed the Navy project and recommended that an approach be made to the British to determine their willingness to share manning and operation of the facility. The JCS further recommended that the project should be undertaken by the U.S. unilaterally if necessary.

Current Status

SECDEF has not yet acted on the Navy request to approve the first increment of construction on a U.S. facility (13M) in FY 69. OASD/ISA is currently preparing its recommendation to SECDEF on the Diego Garcia proposal.

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Op-61FS/dgb
5 October 1967

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A Joint US-UK site survey of Diego Garcia was completed on 6 August. Surveying, boring operations, soil sampling, harbor and channel investigations as well as other observations were undertaken.

All data desired by NAVOCEANO was obtained in accordance with its specifications with the one exception of sampling the soil at various depths in the lagoon bottom. The information obtained will permit NAVOCEANO to produce a map showing two foot contours, and to prepare a PCE. (This is currently being prepared.) If required, an actual design of the facilities for Diego Garcia could be produced from the data acquired by the survey team.

On 3 October the British Foreign Office informally asked our Embassy the following questions:

- a. Is the U.S. actively considering building a facility on Diego Garcia?
- b. If so, what is the proposed timing of the operation and when would construction begin?
- c. Would the U.S. consider a resumption of the lease for the entire island or if not, what part of the island does the U.S. have in mind in reserving for a facility?

OSD/ISA has action and proposes to reply (but not immediately) in such manner as not to jeopardize either Aldabra or Diego Garcia.

Observation

Agreement has not been reached within OSD on the Diego Garcia proposal. ISA still favors the project. SA still opposes it.

There has been close informal coordination with OSD to insure that all factors supporting the Navy's proposal for a facility at Diego Garcia are both known and understood. This coordination is long-standing and will continue.

Memorandums for the Assistant Secretaries of Defense (ISA and SA) urging a favorable recommendation at this time for the construction of an austere facility are being forwarded to SECNAV for signature.

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5 October 1967

The present atmosphere is clearly not favorable and is considerably complicated by the Aldabra question, which is also in the process of resolution. It is estimated that if forced to a decision now without strong, unified support from ISA and SA, SECDEF would probably disapprove the project. Although not assured, it is possible that prospects will improve once Aldabra is settled.

Recommendation

If strong unified support for the project is not achieved at the ASD level, it is recommended that the matter not be pressed to decision now. It is believed that it would be more prudent to hold the matter in abeyance at least until Aldabra is resolved.

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

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IN REPLY REFER TO
Op-61FS/dgb
Ser 001927P61

4 OCT 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subj: Navy Policy Council Action Item (U)

Ref: (a) Action Item #1 from Action Memorandum for Navy
Policy Council Members of 22 September 1967

1. In compliance with reference (a), the current status is reported as follows:

a. Agreement has not been reached within OSD on the Diego Garcia proposal. ISA still favors the project. SA still opposes it.

b. There has been close informal coordination with OSD to insure that all factors supporting the Navy's proposal for a facility at Diego Garcia are both known and understood. This coordination is long-standing and will continue.

c. Memorandums for the Assistant Secretaries of Defense (ISA and SA) urging a favorable recommendation at this time for the construction of an austere facility are being forwarded to SECNAV for signature.

d. The present atmosphere is clearly not favorable and is considerably complicated by the Aldabra question, which is also in the process of resolution. It is estimated that if forced to a decision now without strong, unified support from ISA and SA, SECDEF would probably disapprove the project. Although not assured, it is possible that prospects will improve once Aldabra is settled.

2. If strong unified support for the project is not achieved at the ASD level, it is recommended that the matter be allowed to be held in abeyance until a more propitious time.

3. All of the above paragraphs are classified Secret.

B. A. CLAREY
By Direction

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

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FOR NMCC/NO
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SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

1. FONOFF (SYKES) HAS ASKED EMBASSY INFORMALLY FOR INFORMATION RE U.S. PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA, RECALLING THAT DURING SEPT 12 DISCUSSIONS (LONDON 2125) KITCHEN HAD INFORMED BRITS HE HOPED GO AHEAD ON THIS PROJECT REGARDLESS

OF FINAL OUTCOME ON ALDABRA,

2. SYKES REFERRED TO ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS WHICH WOULD FLOW FROM U.S. DECISION TO GO AHEAD ON PROJECT AND NOTED THAT DEGREE OF ECONOMIC LOSS WOULD DEPEND ON PRECISE NATURE OF U.S. PLANS. COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WISHES GAUGE NATURE OF PROBLEM AND TAKE WHATEVER STEPS MAY BE POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO MITIGATE IT (PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS UNEMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL LABOR ON COPRA PLANTATIONS).

3. ACCORDINGLY FONOFF REQUESTS ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, WHICH EMBASSY HAS UNDERTAKEN SECURE FROM WASHINGTON:

A) IS U.S. ACTIVELY CONSIDERING BUILDING FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA

B) IF SO, WHAT IS PROPOSED TIMING OF OPERATION AND WHEN WOULD BUILDING BEGIN

C) WOULD U.S. CONSIDER A RESUMPTION OF THE LEASE FOR THE ENTIRE ISLAND NECESSARY (WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT NONE OF THE COPRA PLANTATIONS COULD BE WORKED); IF NOT, WHAT PART OF ISLAND DOES U.S. HAVE IN MIND RESERVING FOR FACILITY

4. REQUEST REPLY SOONEST.

CP-3, BRUCE

BT

NNNN

ACT: ASD/ISA-9

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-1 J3-8 J4-3 J5-2 J6-3 NMCC-1 SDEF-7 ASD/IL-4

SD/PA-1 DIA-15 CSA-1 CNO-2 CSAF-1 CMC-3 FILE-1(66) GDT/JC

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Op-61FS/agn
27 September 1967

TALKING PAPER

Subj: Status of Diego Garcia Proposal and Site Survey Results (S)

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Op-6178/dgb
27 September 1967

Current Status

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Observation

A draft recommendation supporting the Navy position was prepared by OASD/ISA on 28 July. A draft recommendation objecting to the Navy position has now been prepared by OASD/ISA.

The Secretary of the Navy in a telephone call to Dr. Enthoven, OASD(SA) indicated the Navy interest and urged a favorable response.

The problem is still unresolved.

While Dr. Halperin OASD(ISA) and Dr. Enthoven (SA) will discuss the subject, their schedules will not permit this before the week of October 2-6.

Recommendation

Inform the Deputy Secretary of Defense of the current status of the project, i.e., unresolved but within OSD for decision. Urge his support in obtaining approval of the Diego Garcia project in order that negotiations with the British and construction of the facility may begin.

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