



OP-00 FILES

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

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CNO ENCLAVE SUMMARY

IN REPLY REFER TO

OP-611C/tms
Ser 0561P61

2 OCT 1971

OO BRIEFED
10/16/71

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Via: (1) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans and Policy) W
(2) Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Diego Garcia - Status Report on International Aspects (U)

Ref: (a) CNO Comment Sheet 1007-71 of 22 Mar 71 (2)

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is the status report on the international aspects of Diego Garcia for the period ending 30 September 1971.

2. At the request of CNO, CINCPAC has agreed to the establishment of two scheduled weekly C-130 flights from Thailand to Diego Garcia to commence the week of 27 September 1971. This will not only permit a more orderly reduction of the backlog of cargo at Utapao but will also permit an increase in the weekly number of personnel going on R&R to 30, and an increase in the amount of fresh provisions and dairy products for the island. The two-flight requirement will be reviewed at a later but unspecified date in order to determine the continuing need.

3. Based on JCS guidelines for Diego Garcia support, CINCPAC has also agreed to establish the monthly fresh fruits and provisions run to Mauritius. Flights should commence in October.

4. The BIOT ship NORDVAER has returned to duty following engine repairs, and as of 25 September had removed all but 10 remaining copra worker families. ISLE DE FAROUHAR is expected to transfer the last of the families by the first week of October. Only the six Mauritian weather service personnel will remain and the FCO has reported plans to remove them by the first of the year.

5. With the departure of the plantation workers and the manager, the UK will be left with no British representation on the island. (The plantation manager has been serving in the capacity of liaison officer.) In that Diego Garcia is a UK sovereign territory, acts of US naval officers to exclude UK, US or third country nationals from the island might well cause

OP-00
OP-09
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GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

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incidents which could have international repercussions. The necessity of having a UK liaison officer serving in the role of, among other things, general representative of the BIOT Commissioner has been emphasized by the visit of eight private vessels within the last four months---three within the week of 5 September. Further informal information indicates that two more vessels are en route. On at least two specific occasions the FCO has been asked to post a liaison officer to the island to assume the representative role. In its most recent communique of 28 September the FCO stated that the lack of a finalized agreement on the island which would validate the expenditure of sending such an individual precluded the arrival of any official representative until at least December, if then. In order to help solve the dilemma and ensure continuing UK representation, informal inquiry is being made through the Embassy in London to determine if the FCO would be willing to keep the plantation manager on the island to serve in this capacity until the Royal Navy Officer-in-Charge can be ordered in.

Walter L. Small

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