

Authority *NNDP 9023*
By *KD* NARA Date *8/13*



Department of State

TELEGRAM

XR DEF 15 IND-UK

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ACTION: PM-05

INFO: OCT-01 AF-12 EUR-20 EA-15 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-08
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 NEA-13
NASA-04 RSR-01 /132 W

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RI 310630Z DEC 70
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6499
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
CINCPACFLT
CINCLANTFLT
COMIDEASTFOR
DOD/ISA

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JOINT EMBASSY/USDAO MESSAGE

SUBJ: STAGING AND SUPPORT FOR DIEGO GARCIA

REF: (A) STATE 208825 - *DEF 15 IND-US*
(B) PORT LOUIS 1140 *XR DEF 15 IND-UK*

1. EMBASSY PLANS RAISE PROPOSED USE FACILITIES COCOS ISLANDS ORALLY WITY DFA NEXT WEEK. IN VIEW STRONGLY FAVORABLE GOA REACTION TO PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA, WE BELIEVE GOA WILL GIVE PERMISSION FOR STAGING PURPOSES OUTLINED REF A.

(2) 2. IN COURSE OF EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOA RE USE OF COCOS, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BRIEF GOA ON INITIAL STAGING AND SUPPORT OPERATION INCLUDING PROPOSED USE OF MAURITIUS. SUCH BRIEFING WOULD ANTICIPATE SERIES OF LOGICAL QUES-

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TIONS FROM GOA ABOUT SUPPORT OPERATIONS. INFORMATION ABOUT MAURITIUS PORTION OF OPERATION COULD BE CONFINED TO DESCRIPTION GENERAL NATURE OF SUPPORT EXPECTED THERE INCLUDING SUPPLY OF SOME FOODSTUFFS, ETC. PROVISION THIS INFORMATION WOULD HAVE ADDED VIRTUE OF PUTTING GOA IN PICTURE SHOULD FURTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF COCOS FOR SUPPORT OF DIEGO GARCIA DEVELOP AFTER AIRSTRIP IS COMPLETED OR IN EVENT IT DECIDED GO BACK TO ORIGINAL PLAN OF STAGING ALL THREE PERSONNEL INCREMENTS THROUGH COCOS. IF CONSIDERED PREFERABLE, WE COULD DELAY APPROACHING GOA UNTIL PORT LOUIS HAS TAKEN INITIAL SOUNDINGS WITH GOM. AFTER PLANS ARE FIRM, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE APPROVAL BRIEF OUR BRITISH COUNTERPARTS HERE.

3. WITH REGARD USE OF COCOS FOR STAGING TWO PERSONNEL PICKUPS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION EVEN THOUGH TENTATIVE INCLUDING TYPE OF AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS, ROUTES TO BE TAKEN, REQUIREMENTS FOR FUEL, ETC. IN VIEW VERY LIMITED ACCOMMODATION OF WEST ISLAND, SITE OF AIRPORT WHERE ONLY 124 EUROPEANS (AND NO COCOS ISLANDERS) RESIDE, WOULD BE NECESSARY SCHEDULE SHIP ARRIVALS PRIOR ARRIVAL PERSONNEL BY AIRCRAFT. SUGGEST ARRANGEMENT BE MADE SIMILAR TO THAT PROPOSED FOR PORT LOUIS, I.E., TRANSPORT OF PERSONNEL DIRECTLY FROM AIRPORT TO SHIPS WITHOUT NEED FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION. WITH REGARD SHIPS, LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT ONLY 13 1/2 FOOT DRAFT SHIPS MAY ENTER HARBOR AREA WEST ISLAND AND THAT MAXIMUM DRAFT FOR SHIPS IN OUTER ANCHORAGE IS 23 FEET. BROCHURE ON COCOS ISLANDS BEING TRANSMITTED BY POUCH TODAY FOR ATTENTION PM/ISO.

4. WITH REGARD SUPPORT OPERATIONS AFTER AIRSTRIP COMPLETED ON DIEGO GARCIA, WE BELIEVE AUSTRALIANS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUPPLYING SOME ITEMS FROM HERE. WE HAVE INDICATED IN BILATERAL DEFENSE PROCUREMENT TALKS US INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS OBTAIN MORE PRODUCTS INCLUDING FOODSTUFFS FROM AUSTRALIAN SOURCES. PROCUREMENT OF EXCELLENT HOMOGENIZED MILK IN AUSTRALIAN COULD BENEFIT BOTH OUR PURPOSES, ESPECIALLY SINCE SUPPLY OF MILK FROM MAURITIUS SEEMS DOUBTFUL. OVER LONGER TERM THERE MAY BE POSSIBILITIES OF AUSTRALIA'S SUPPLYING WHOLE RANGE OF OTHER ITEMS, E.G., CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS,

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AVIATION FUEL, ETC. WE REALIZE MATTER OF TRANSPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BUT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION AND ADVICE THIS MATTER. AS MATTER OF TACTICS SHOULD IT PROVE POSSIBLE PROCURE SUPPORT ITEMS FROM AUSTRALIA, WE REQUEST INITIAL DISCUSSIONS BE HELD HERE. WE BELIEVE OUR EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD WITH GOA OFFICIALS WOULD BE USEFUL IN OBTAINING BEST POSSIBLE DEAL AND IN RELIEVING SOME PRESSURE ON EMBASSY WITH REGARD PROCUREMENT IN AUSTRALIA BY US FACILITIES HERE. OF INTEREST TO GOA ALSO WOULD BE POSSIBILITY THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER US PERSONNEL FROM DIEGO GARCIA MIGHT WISH VISIT AUSTRALIA ON LEAVE DURING THREE-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PERIOD PROVIDED SUITABLE AIR TRANSPORTATION CAN BE ARRANGED.

5. AS DEPARTMENT AND DOD AWARE, GOA IS VERY RECEPTIVE TO US USE OF AIRPORT AT COCOS FOR VARIETY OF PURPOSES LIKE AD HOC AIRCRAFT STOPOVERS AND SUPPORT FOR APOLLO PROGRAM ON CONTINUING BASIS INCLUDING OUR CURRENT REQUEST FOR USE OF COCOS FOR APOLLO 14 NEXT MONTH. IN VIEW OUR EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA, WE RECOMMEND EVERY EFFORT BE MADE PROVIDE EVEN LIMITED BENEFITS IN WAY OF PROCUREMENT, ETC., WHICH ARE POSSIBLE IN CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 3 ABOVE FOR USE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA. IF POSSIBLE WE WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON PARA 4 WITHIN FOUR-SIX WEEKS.

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