

DECLASSIFIED

Reproduced at the National Archives

Authority *IND 969023*By *KD* NARA Date *8/13*
Def 15 Ind - US
 Department of State

TELEGRAM

*31**for Sec 13 Activities*

SECRET 925

PAGE 01 LONDON 02509 031233Z

22

ACTION/PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

P-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AF-12 L-04 *RSR-01* /080:W*003625*

R 031145Z APR 70

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708

SECRET LONDON 2509

DOD: FOR OSD/ISA

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 45312

1. URWICK CONFIRMS THAT DECISION TO PROCEED WITH DEPOPULATION CHAGOS IS VIEWED BY HMG AS BRITISH DECISION TAKEN TO MEET RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER 1966 AGREEMENT. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS MAKE IT DESIRABLE TO ACT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. POSSIBILITY OF US CONSTRUCTION NEXT YEAR MERELY MAKES IT PRUDENT TO ACT ON THIS DECISION URGENTLY. HMG FULLY UNDERSTANDS DIEGO PROJECT NOT ASSURED OF FUNDING AND HMG WOULD WISH TO PROCEED ANYWAY EVEN IF PROJECT NOT IN FY 71 MILCON BUDGET.

2. FONOFF WILL INSTRUCT GOVERNOR TO ASK MOULINIE TO WORK UP AGELAGA PLAN, WITH TWO PROVISOS: (A) NO REFERENCE WILL BE MADE TO US TIME TABLE, EXPLANATION WILL BE ENTIRELY IN TERMS OF ECONOMICS; (B) BEFORE ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM, BRITS WILL CONSULT FULLY WITH US IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION AT THE TIME.

3. RE PARA 3 REFTL, FONOFF NOTES HMG BOUGHT OUT MOULINIE IN CHAGOS IN 1966 AND HE NOW OPERATES PLANTATIONS UNDER CONTRACT. HIS ONE/THIRD OWNERSHIP OF AGELAGA GIVES HIM FAR GREATER STAKE IN NEW DEVELOPMENT THERE.

4. RE PARA 4, REFTL, FONOFF BELIEVES IT TOO EARLY PREDICT GOM REACTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ASSESSED JUST BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS.

SECRET

*London-2509
4-3-70*

DECLASSIFIED

Reproduced at the National Archives

Authority NNDP 9023
By KD NARA Date 8/13



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 02509 031233Z

URWICK MADE ROUGH GUESS THIS POINT MIGHT BE REACHED ABOUT
AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER.

5. URWICK CORRECTED PREVIOUS INFO ON UK TIME TABLE, SAYING
NINE MONTHS WAS MINIMUM TIME TO COMPLETE AGELAGA PLAN AND OBTAIN
GOM BLESSING. ADDITIONAL NINE MONTHS PROBABLY REQUIRED TO
PREPARE AGELAGA AND COMPLETE RELOCATION. THESE ARE MINIMUM
ESTIMATES AND THERE WILL STILL BE PEOPLE ON DIEGO IF CONSTRUCTION
BEGINS NEXT SPRING. BRITS THINK THIS PROBLEM MANAGEABLE.

6. FONOFF WILL WORK UP CONTINGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS LINE TO COVER
"MOULINIE PHASE."
ANNENBERG

SECRET