

Ref: FO 32/719 102049

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Embassy London
IN TELEGRAM SECRET

ACTION: 53 POL/M

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RUQVRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 5724
RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 9535
RUMJBT/AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA 7443
RUEIKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1406
RUESFD/AMEMBASSY LISBON 2369
RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 5003
RUQVAN/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 6252
RUQSDA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 8159
RUQSOH/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 2518
RUQSRV/AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE 1526
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RUQVGM/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6676
RUMJSH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 3334
RUMJKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 3926
RUMJSH/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 2465
RUMJRV/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 1645
RUENBAC/AMEMBASSY CAENERRA 4532
RUENBAZ/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2715
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6676
RUQVKV/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 3104
RUENCR/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 2743
RUQSHG/AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 3085
RUENCR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 3312
RUENCR/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3178
RUQSFY/AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE 1596
RUENCR/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS 11294
RUQVDA/AMCONSUL DHAKRA 11706
INFO RULESAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUDONBA/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUQJAAA/CINCSTRIKE
RUQBSDE/COMIDEASTFOR
RUHNNQA/CINCPAC
RUENDY/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5042
RULESAAA/CINCLANT
RUSNAAA/CINCEUR
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FROM: STATE

NO: 202722 X

RECD: DEC 14 1970
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FLASH

ACTION OFFICE NOTIFIED
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E:E
E:GEN
E:FW
E:C-2
E:AND
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ATO-3
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COA:L
CG:P
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SECRET SECTION 1 OF 7 STATE 202722.
JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

CN-2
DAO-3
STRIKE
WHCA
SUSLO
ONR-5
USCG
FBIS
SERVING
CRS-2
CINCPAC
MORONA

REF: A. STATE 206310 B. LONDON 10242 C. LONDON 10243
D. LONDON 10244 E. LONDON 10247 F. LONDON 10248 G. LONDON 10249
H. LONDON 10250

1. WE AGREE TO PUBLIC RELEASE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 10:00 AM WASHINGTON TIME (4PM LONDON TIME). PRESS RELEASE, NOTIFICATION STATEMENT AND A'S AND A'S PROVIDED HEREIN IN ENTIRETY HAVE BEEN FORMULATED AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION REFS A THROUGH H (NOTAL, AND FURTHER REFLECTIONS HERE. POSTS ARE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH THIRD COUNTRIES AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO PUBLIC RELEASE TIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.

2. JOINT US/UK PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Ref: FO 32/719

102049

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED TODAY (15 DECEMBER) THAT CONSTRUCTION WILL COMMENCE IN MARCH 1971 ON AN AUSTERE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA ATOLL IN THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY. THE FACILITY IS BEING BUILT UNDER THE TERMS OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.K. AND THE U.S., SIGNED IN DECEMBER 1966, WHICH MAKES THE ISLANDS OF THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY (BIOT) AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. AND U.K. GOVERNMENTS FOR DEFENSE ACTIVITIES FOR 50 YEARS. THE FACILITY WILL CONSIST OF COMMUNICATIONS, AND MINIMUM NECESSARY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING AN AIR-STRIP. CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES. UNITS OF THE U.S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE WILL BUILD IT. BOTH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN FLAGS WILL FLY OVER THE FACILITY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL ASSIST IN ITS MANNING.

THE FACILITY WILL CLOSE A GAP IN THE U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. IT WILL PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO U.S. AND U.K. SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS.

3. LIST OF ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS AND APPROVED ANSWERS - (UNCLASSIFIED WHEN AUTHORIZED FOR USE ONLY IN RESPONSE TO QUERY).

1. Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE FACILITY?

A. TO CLOSE A GAP IN OUR WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO U.S. AND U.K. SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. Q. WHAT IS MEANT BY A COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY?

A. AN ACTIVITY OUTFITTED TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT.

3. Q. WILL SHIPS BE ABLE TO USE THE FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA?

A. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON HARBOR ACCOMMODATIONS.

4. Q. WHAT WILL BE THE DEPTH OF THE CHANNEL?

A. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON HARBOR ACCOMMODATIONS.

5. Q. HOW LONG AND WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE RUNWAY?

A. THE 8,000 FOOT RUNWAY IS FOR SUPPORT OF LOGISTIC AIRCRAFT.

6. Q. HOW MUCH WILL THE FACILITY COST?

A. CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY MIGHT ULTIMATELY COST ABOUT DOLS 19 MILLION.

7. Q. IS THE U.K. SHARING THE CONSTRUCTION COST?

A. NO. THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENT LIES WITH THE U.S. AND THE

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ACTION: none - 206/115

FROM SETN.

NO: 96732

REC'D: DEC 14 1970

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RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY DAN ES SALAH
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RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS 1295
RUEVDA/AMCONSUL DHAKHAN 1707
INFO RULESAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUDOMBA/CINCUSMAVEUR
RUCJAAA/CINCSTRIKE
RUCBSDE/COMIDEASTFOR
RUHHQA/CINCPAC
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5043
RULESAAA/CINCLANT
RUSNAAA/CINCEUR
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3. Q. WHO WILL COMMAND THE FACILITY, AN AMERICAN OR BRITISH OFFICER?

A. AN AMERICAN DEFECTOR.

9. Q. WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THIS FACILITY IS BEING BUILT?

A. THE FACILITY IS BEING BUILT UNDER THE TERMS OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.K. AND THE U.S. SIGNED IN DECEMBER 1966, WHICH MAKES THE ISLANDS OF THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY (2013 AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. AND U.K. GOVERNMENTS FOR DEFENSE ACTIVITIES FOR 40 YEARS

id. q, WILL NUCLEAR OR CBW WEAPONS BE STORED AT THIS LOCATION

(4)

A. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES NEITHER TO CONFIRM NOR DENY THE PRESENCE OF SUCH WEAPONS.

11. Q. WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET NAVAL FORCES IN THIS AREA, SINCE THE SOVIETS SEEM TO BE BARGAINING FOR BASES ELSEWHERE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA?

A. NO MORE THAN ANY OTHER LOCATION WHERE UNITS OF BOTH FORCES OPERATE.

12. Q. IS THIS PART OF A U.S. BUILD-UP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A. NO.

13. Q. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED REACTION FROM ARAB, AFRICAN AND OTHER STATES ON THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL?

A. NEITHER THE MODEST SIZE OF THIS FACILITY NOR THE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES PLANNED THERE SHOULD PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR CONCERN AMONG THE COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE INDIAN OCEAN, WHO HAVE BEEN INFORMED REGARDING THIS SUBJECT.

14. Q. HOW MANY U.S. AND U.K. MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL BE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO DIEGO GARCIA?

A. ABOUT 275, INCLUDING A SMALL NUMBER OF U.K. PERSONNEL.

15. Q. HOW LARGE IS DIEGO GARCIA ATOLL AND HOW MUCH OF IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FACILITY?

A. DIEGO GARCIA IS AN IRREGULAR V-SHAPED ATOLL, ROUGHLY 14 MILES IN LENGTH AND FIVE MILES IN WIDTH. THE WIDTH OF THE ISLAND SURROUNDING THE LAGOON VARIES BETWEEN 300 AND 700 FEET. THE FACILITY WILL OCCUPY APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF ITS 5,700 ACRES.

16. Q. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE POPULATION OF DIEGO GARCIA?

A. THE POPULATION CONSISTS OF A SMALL NUMBER OF CONTRACT LABORERS FROM THE SEYCHELLES AND MAURITIUS ENGAGED TO WORK ON THE COPRA PLANTATIONS. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR THE CONTRACTS TO BE TERMINATED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND FOR THEIR RETURN TO MAURITIUS AND THE SEYCHELLES.

17. Q. WILL THIS FACILITY BE USED TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM (INDOCHINA)?

A. NO SUCH USE IS CONTEMPLATED.

18. Q. WHEN WILL THE FACILITY BE IN FULL OPERATION?

A. PROBABLY MARCH, 1974.

19. Q. WILL OTHER FACILITIES BE BUILT IN THIS AREA?

A. NO OTHERS ARE CONTEMPLATED.

20. Q. WILL THE FACILITY BE OPEN TO COMMERCIAL SHIPS AND

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ACTION: POL/M

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RUFKNA/USMISSION NATO 7483
RUQVRA/AMEMBASSY JEDDA 5726
RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 9537
RUMJBT/AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA 7445
RUEIKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1408
RUESFD/AMEMBASSY LISBON 2371
RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 5667
RUQVAN/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 6254
RUQSDA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 8161
RUQSCR/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 2520
RUQSRV/AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE 1522
RUQSHI/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 7134
RUQVGN/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6278
RUMJGN/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 3336
RUMJIL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 5928
RUMJSH/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 2467
RUMJRV/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 1647
RUEHBA/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 4534
RUEHBAZ/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2717
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6878
RUQVKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 3106
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 2745
RUGSNG/AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 3687
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 3314
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3189
RUGSFY/AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE 1598
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS 1296
RUQVDA/AMCONSUL DHAKA 1708
INFO RULESAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUDONBA/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUCJAAA/CINOSTRIKE
RUCSEDE/COMIDEASTFOR
RUHINQA/CINCPAC
RUENDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5044
RULESAAA/CINCLANT
RUSNAAA/CINCEUR

FROM: STATE
NO: 202722

RECD: DEC 14 1970

FLASH
ACTION OFFICE NOTIFIED

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STRIKE
WCA
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MASTER

SECRET SECTION 3 OF 7 STATE 202722

AIRCRAFT?

A. NO. HOWEVER, INTERNATIONAL LAW REQUIRES THAT ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN TO SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IN DISTRESS.

21. Q. HOW WILL THIS FACILITY BE SUPPORTED?

A. FROM CONUS LOGISTIC BASES.

22. Q. WILL DEPENDENTS BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY U.S. PERSONNEL?

A. NO. THE TOURS OF DUTY FOR U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL
WILL BE 12 MONTHS UNACCOMPANIED.

Q. WHAT PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THIS FACILITY?

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OF U.S. CINCLANT AND U.K.C-IN-C WESTERN FLEET BECAUSE IT FALLS WITHIN THEIR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

24. Q. WHY IS THIS FACILITY BEING BUILT WHEN WE ARE CLOSING BASES AROUND THE WORLD?

A. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS FACILITY WILL FILL A LONGSTANDING GAP IN THE WORLDWIDE COVERAGE OF THE U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AS EXISTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

25. Q. WILL THERE BE ANY SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES?

A. NO.

26. Q. WHAT OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE LOCATED AT THE AIRSTRIP? (HANGARS, REPAIR FACILITIES, ETC.)

A. MINIMAL AIRCRAFT PARKING AREA AND A MODEST AIR OPERATIONS BUILDING.

27. Q. DOES THIS INDICATE THAT AN INCREASE IN TEMPO OF OPERATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A. NO.

28. Q. HOW MANY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT WILL BE BASED AT THIS FACILITY?

A. NO SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT ARE PLANNED TO BE BASED AT THIS FACILITY.

29. Q. IF NO SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WILL BE BASED AT THE FACILITY, WHY DO WE NEED IT?

A. THERE IS A GAP IN THE WORLD WIDE COVERAGE OF THE U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE FACILITY WILL COMPLETE THIS COMMUNICATIONS LINK. ADDITIONALLY, IT CAN PROVIDE A MEASURE OF EMERGENCY FUEL SUPPLY FOR TRANSITING FLEET UNITS (SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT).

30. Q. WILL THE FACILITY BE USED TO COMMUNICATE WITH POLARIS SUBMARINES?

A. THE INSTALLATION IS NOT DESIGNED TO SUPPORT POLARIS SUBMARINE OPERATIONS. THE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY WILL PROVIDE TIES WITH THE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, SHIP-TO-SHORE, AIR-TO-GROUND, AND WEATHER COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA.

31. Q. WILL THERE BE ANY RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO U.S. ACTIONS AND THE USE OF THE FACILITY SO FAR AS THE BRITISH ARE CONCERNED?

A. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1966 AGREEMENT THE BRITISH HAVE CONSENTED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON THE ISLAND.

32. Q. WHY NOT USE SATELLITES FOR COMMUNICATIONS PURPOSES?

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DUCE WEEDS AND CULTIVATED PLANTS, WITH ONLY SMALL EVIDENCE OF NATIVE FLORA. THERE ARE NO LARGE NATIVE LAND ANIMALS, AND BIRDS ARE FEW IN BOTH SPECIES AND NUMBERS.

THE MINOR FACILITY WILL REQUIRE SOME REMOVAL OF COCONUT PALMS. SINCE NO APPRECIABLE CHANGES WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE SHORELINE AND ADJACENT WATERS, ADVERSE AFFECT ON MARINE LIFE SHOULD BE MINIMAL. AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, THREE SMALL ASSOCIATED ISLETS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AS GAME PRESERVES.

THE AUSTERE FACILITY SHOULD CAUSE NO PERMANENT OR SIGNIFICANT TEMPORARY CHANGE IN THE ECOLOGY OF DIEGO GARCIA OR OUTLYING LAND OR WATER AREAS.

B. ECOLOGICALLY ORIENTED QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE GENERATED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MILITARY FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA.

1. Q. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT CHANGES DO YOU ANTICIPATE IN THE ECOLOGY OF THE AREA?

A. THE PRIMARY AFFECT WILL BE ON THE CULTIVATED COCONUT GROVES WHICH WERE PLANTED TO PROVIDE COPRA AND WILL BE REMOVED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE RUNWAY AND OTHER FACILITIES. THE OVERALL IMPACT OF OUR PRESENCE WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANT SINCE WE WILL ONLY BE USING ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE ISLAND.

2. Q. WHAT PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR SEWAGE AND TRASH DISPOSAL, AND FOR POWER GENERATION, AND WILL AIR POLLUTION BE CONTROLLED?

A. A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED, AND TRASH WILL BE DISPOSED OF BY EITHER SANITARY LAND FILL OR THROUGH CONTROLLED INCINERATION. DIESEL-POWERED GENERATORS MAY PROVIDE ELECTRICAL POWER. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION, THE LACK OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND THE SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

3. Q. HOW WILL YOU DEEPEN THE CHANNEL AND TURNING BASIN, AND WILL THIS ADVERSELY AFFECT MARINE LIFE?

A. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON HARBOR ACCOMMODATIONS.

4. Q. WILL THE ENVIRONMENT BE MONITORED?

A. YES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A BRITISH SCIENTIST WILL MONITOR ANY ECOLOGICAL CHANGES DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, AND PRESUMABLY THERE WILL BE PERIODICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKS MADE AFTER THE FACILITY BECOMES OPERATIONAL ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO FIRM COMMITMENTS IN THIS AREA.

5. Q. WILL HUNTING AND FISHING BE PERMITTED?

A. SURF AND LAGOON FISHING WOULD BE POSSIBLE. MINIMUM EFFECT ON MARINE ECOLOGY IS EXPECTED DUE TO THE WIDE EXPANSE OF FISHABLE AREA COMPARED TO THE SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ON THE ISLAND. THERE ARE NO ANIMALS TO HUNT.

IN TELEGRAM

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RUQVRA/AMEMBASSY JEDDA 5728

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RUMJBT/AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA 7447

RUEIKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1410

RUESFD/AMEMBASSY LISBON 2373

RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 5069

RUQVAN/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 6256

RUQSDA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 8163

RUQSON/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 2522

RUQSRV/AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE 1524

RUQSHI/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 7186

RUQVGM/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6880

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RUMJKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 3930

RUMJSN/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 2469

RUMJRV/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 1649

RUEHBC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 4536

RUENBAZ/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2719

RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6880

RUQVKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 3168

RUENCR/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 2747

RUQSEB/AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 3080

RUENCR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 3316

RUENCR/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3182

RUQSFY/AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE 1680

RUENCR/AMEMBASSY FORT LOUIS 1298

RUQVDA/AMCONSUL DHAHRAN 1710

INFO RULESAA/CINCLANTFLT

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S E C R E T SECTION 5 OF 7 STATE 202722

6. Q. WHAT IS THE FRESH WATER SUPPLY AND HOW WILL THE NEW FACILITY AFFECT IT?

A. THERE IS NO NATURAL FRESH WATER SOURCE ON THE ISLAND. IT CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF COLLECTED RAIN WATER. A DESALINIZATION PLANT WILL SATISFY POTABLE WATER NEEDS OF THE NAVAL ACTIVITY.

7. Q. ARE THERE ANY BIRD-NESTING OR BREEDING GROUNDS ON THE ISLAND?

A. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE OF SMALL BIRD-NESTING ON THE ISLAND, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THE FACILITY WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THESE AREAS.

CN-2

DAO-3

SERICE

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INTELEGRAM
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ACTION: POI/NA

FROM: STATE

NO: 202722

RECD: DEC 14 1970

2142

REPORT

POL:POL
POL:POL
POL:POL
POL:POL
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POL:POL
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E: E
E: GEN
E: EN
E: C-2
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CCA
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RUQSRV/AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE 1525
RUQSWI/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 7187
RUQVGE/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0881
RUMJGN/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 3339
RUMJKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 3931
RUMJSH/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 2470
RUMJRV/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 1650
RUENBAC/AMEMBASSY CANDERRA 4537
RUENBAZ/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2725
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6881
RUQVKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 3109
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 2748
RUQSMG/AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 3690
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 3317
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3183
RUQSFY/AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE 1601
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY FORT LOUIS 1299
RUQVDA/AMCONSUL DHANRAN 1711
INFO RULESAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUDOMBA/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUCJAAA/CINCSTRIKE
RUQBSDE/COMZDEASTFOR
RUHHKQA/CINCPAC
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5047
RULESAAA/CINCLANT
RUSNAAA/CINCEUR
BT
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A. THE MODEST NATURE AND MISSION OF THE FACILITY IS ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLOSING A GAP IN NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE WHEN THE APOLLO 13 FLIGHT WAS FORCED TO ABORT ITS PLANNED TRIP TO THE MOON, FIRST INDICATIONS WERE THAT RECOVERY WOULD BE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE HAD A US NAVAL SHIP WITHIN 24 STEAMING HOURS OF THE INTENDED SPLASH-DOWN POINT, WE COULD NOT COMMUNICATE WITH THE SHIP UNTIL IT HAD STEAMED WELL PAST THE INDICATED RECOVERY AREA DUE TO GAPS IN THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. HAD THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA BEEN IN OPERATION, COMMUNICATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN INSTANTANEOUS.

D. WHILE WE ARE AWARE OF SOVIET MARITIME ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THIS FACILITY HAS BEEN UNDER

8. Q. WILL DISRUPTION OF THE PLANT LIFE AFFECT WILD-LIFE NESTING OR FEEDING GROUNDS?

A. NO. NO SUCH EFFECT IS ANTICIPATED.

9. Q. WILL COMMUNICATIONS RADIATION OF ANY SORT EFFECT THE ECOLOGY?

A. THE FACILITY WILL BE SIMILAR TO OTHERS THE NAVY HAS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. NO ADVERSE EFFECTS ON WILD-LIFE HAVE BEEN NOTED AT OTHER LOCATIONS, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE WILD-LIFE WILL BE AFFECTED IN THIS INSTANCE.

10. Q. ARE THERE NATIVE FISHERMEN AND WILL THEY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED?

A. ONLY THE CONTRACT COPRA WORKERS FISH THE AREA, AND THEY WILL BE RELOCATED.

11. Q. WILL EXTENSIVE DREDGING BE REQUIRED FOR FILL PURPOSES?

A. NO, DREDGING WILL BE PERFORMED AFTER COMPLETION OF THE MAJOR PORTION OF CONSTRUCTION ASHORE. SOME FILL WILL BE HAULED FROM AN AREA THAT IS DRY ONLY AT HIGH TIDE, BUT THE AMOUNT WILL BE INSIGNIFICANT.

12. Q. WILL LARGE NUMBERS OF SHIPS BE ANCHORED IN THE BASIN AND WILL THEY BE PERMITTED TO PUMP WASTES OVERBOARD?

A. ONLY OCCASIONAL RESUPPLY SHIPS WILL VISIT THE ISLAND. NO IMPACT IS EXPECTED FROM PUMPED WASTES BECAUSE OF THE SMALL AMOUNTS INVOLVED AND THE WATER FLOW IN THE ANCHORAGES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT PRESENT DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS ON SHIPBOARD WASTE DISPOSAL WILL ELIMINATE PUMPING WASTES OVERBOARD WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

13. Q. WHAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO PREVENT POLLUTION BY STORED POL PRODUCTS?

A. OIL STORAGE TANKS WILL BE IN REBUTTMENTS IN ORDER TO RETAIN ANY ACCIDENTAL OIL SPILLS.

14. Q. WILL JET FLIGHTS DISTURB THE BIRD LIFE?

A. THE RUNWAY IS INTENDED FOR PERIODIC LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF THE ISLAND AND WILL ONLY BE UTILIZED SEVERAL TIMES PER MONTH. THIS MINIMAL AIR TRAFFIC SHOULD HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT UPON BIRD LIFE.

15. Q. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL AVAILABLE LAND ON THE ISLAND WILL BE USED BY THE FACILITY?

A. AT THE MOST, ONE-THIRD OF AVAILABLE LAND.

5. AS A COURTESY TO THE HMS WE REQUEST YOU NOTIFY THE FCO THAT IN THE EVENT THE QUESTIONS OF INDIAN OCEAN SECURITY, U.S. COMMITMENT, THE ARMS EMBARGO TO SOUTH AFRICA OR PRIME MINISTER HEATH'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON ARE RAISED WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES THEY WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW FROM THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

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C. THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIEGO GARCIA AND OUR POLICY REGARDING ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE WILL CONTINUE, AS WE HAVE OFTEN STATED, TO ABIDE BY THE EMBARGOS ON ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

D. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE FACILITY AT THIS TIME IS THE RESULT OF HAVING RESOLVED PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES AND OTHER PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS. IT HAS NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE TIMING OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT.

G. PLAN FOR NOTIFICATION OF THIRD COUNTRIES

IN VIEW OF THE NEED TO INFORM INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IT HAS BEEN AGREED USG AND HMG SHOULD DIVIDE UP THE TASK OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS.

LISTED IN THREE CATEGORIES BELOW ARE THE INTERESTED THIRD COUNTRIES WHO ARE TO BE NOTIFIED. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF THE USG AND HMG IN EACH COUNTRY WILL CONSULT PRIOR TO APPROACHING THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS AND CONCUR IN THESE ARRANGEMENTS, AS WELL AS THE GENERAL PROPOSAL FOR FOLLOW-UP BY THE NON-LEADING POWER.

USG LEAD/ HMG FOLLOW-UP	HMG LEAD/ USG FOLLOW-UP	CONFIRMATION OF COUNTRIES PREVIOUSLY INFORMED HMG LEAD/USG FOLLOW-UP
SAUDI ARABIA	KENYA	MAURITIUS
THAILAND	TANZANIA	AUSTRALIA
INDONESIA	UGANDA	NEW ZEALAND
JAPAN	PAKISTAN	INDIA
PORTUGAL	SEYCHELLES (NOTE 1)	
	MALDIVES (NOTE 1)	
ETHIOPIA	CYPRUS	
IRAN	SOUTH AFRICA	
SOMALIA	MALAYSIA	
MALAGASY REPUBLIC	SINGAPORE	
	MALAWI	
	BURMA	
	KUWAIT	
	ZAMBIA	
	FRANCE	
	BAHRAIN (NOTE 1)	

AFTER THE OPENING STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE NOTIFICATION STATEMENT THE PRESS GUIDANCE MAY BE DRAWN UPON TO ANSWER SPECIFIC HOST GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS.

(NOTE 1: USG FOLLOW-UP MAY BE DELAYED.)

7. NOTIFICATION STATEMENT

IN 1965, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, IN 1966, THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS SIGNED A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH MAKES THE ISLANDS OF THE

BT

THERE HAS BEEN A LONGSTANDING NEED FOR A COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY TO CLOSE A GAP IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE FOR COMMUNICATIONS LINKS TO SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT TRANSITING THE INDIAN OCEAN. TO MEET THAT NEED, WE HAVE JOINTLY AGREED THAT THE US SHOULD CONSTRUCT A MODEST COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA IN THE CHAGOS ARCHAPELAGO, ONE OF THE DROT ISLANDS. CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FACILITY WILL BEGIN IN MARCH OF 1971. DUE TO THE REMOTENESS OF THE LOCATION AND THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONNEL TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT, IT IS

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14. SECRET

THE FACILITY WILL NOT BE INIMICAL TO ANY OTHER NATION'S INTEREST, NOR IS IT BEING CONSTRUCTED IN CONNECTION WITH US OR BRITISH SECURITY AGREEMENTS WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY. IT IS, IN FACT, DESIGNED TO MEET AN IMPORTANT NEED IN NAVAL AND AVIATION COMMUNICATIONS. MOREOVER, THE METEOROLOGICAL DATA GATHERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE US/UK OPERATION OF THE FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVED WEATHER FORECASTING, AVIATION FLIGHT SAFETY, SAFE PASSAGE OF SHIPPING, ETC.

THE US AND UK PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE FACILITY WILL PROBABLY TOTAL LESS THAN 275. THE FACILITY WILL HAVE AN ASSOCIATED AIRSTRIP, TURNING BASIN FOR SHIPS, AND LIMITED FUEL STORAGE FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES. THESE CAPABILITIES ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO PROVIDING FOR REPLENISHMENT OF SUPPLIES, CHANGEOVER OF PERSONNEL, AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE FACILITY.

8. WE AGREE TO HMS REQUEST TO NOTIFY WEU AND FOR JOINT US/UK NOTIFICATION OF NATO IN BRUSSELS IN FORM AND MANNER AGREED TO BY OUR NATO AMBASSADORS.

9. FCO AGREEMENT IS URGENTLY REQUESTED IN ORDER THAT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN TIME REMAINING.

ROGERS

SECRET