

OAS, NH, 00, 72, BX 158, 11000

NAVAL MESSAGE

*****CONFIDENTIAL*****

NAVY DEPARTMENT

ROUTINE

R 110046Z DEC 71

FM JCS

INFO CSA

R 101641Z DEC 71

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9547

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 11267

EXDIS

SUPJ: DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT

REF: LONDON 11245

ACCOUNTABLE

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1. NEW U.S. POSITION EMBODIED IN STATE 219330 APPEARS TO HAVE TRANSFORMED DIEGO GARCIA NEGOTIATION FROM NEAR-TOTAL IMPASSE TO DRAFTING EXERCISE. WHILE BRITISH REACTIONS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL ARE NECESSARILY PROVISIONAL, IT IS CLEAR THAT OFFICIALS IN BOTH MOD AND FCO NOW BELIEVE WE ARE ON ROAD TO EARLY AGREEMENT AND ARE IMMENSELY RELIEVED.

2. IN PAST FEW MONTHS BRITISH HAVE HAD GROWING CONVICTION THAT U.S. WAS ATTEMPTING TO WRITE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD EXPAND HMG'S APPROVAL OF A LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY TO A LICENSE TO DO WHATEVER WE PLEASE IN DIEGO GARCIA. WHILE CONSTRUCTION ON ISLAND PROCEEDED APACE, WE MAINTAINED OFFICIAL POSITIONS, SEEN HERE AS CONTRADICTORY, THAT (A) WE HAD NO PRESENT PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION BEYOND WHAT WE HAD ALREADY TOLD HMG, BUT (B) WE COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY BRITISH INHIBITIONS ON FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OR LAND USE. AS RECENTLY AS DECEMBER 8, WE JOKINGLY REASSURED MOD OFFICIAL THAT USN DID NOT REALLY INTEND TO SNEAK IN A POLARIS BASE UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, AND MET STONY REPLY "YOU HAVE GIVEN US VERY LITTLE REASON TO FEEL SURE OF THAT".

expansion

3. COMPROMISE SOLUTION OF SCOPE PARAGRAPH WAS MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENT IN RESTORING BRITISH CONFIDENCE AND PERMITTING BOTH SIDES TO RESUME GENUINE NEGOTIATION. BRITISH APPREHENSIONS HAD REACHED A POINT WHICH REQUIRED THE ADDITIONAL CONCESSION WE HAVE MADE, BY INCLUDING MANY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS IN THE GOVERNMENT-LEVEL EXCHANGE, TO MAKE THE PACKAGE WORK. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, THESE

FILE 417 (1)

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

CONCESSIONS WILL NOT IN THEMSELVES WORK SERIOUSLY TO OUR
DISADVANTAGE, OR INHIBIT ACHIEVEMENT OF LEGITIMATE US OBJECTIVES
IN BIUT.

4. WE BELIEVE WE WILL NOW GET A GOOD AGREEMENT, AND PUT TO REST
LINGERING BRITISH DOUBTS. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO WASHINGTON FOR
EXCELLENT SUPPORT IN PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL MAKE IT
POSSIBLE.

GP-3.

ANNENBERG

BT

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cal
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