



DEF 15 IND - UK

JOINT MESSAGEFORM				RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>		DIST: CJCS-1 NMCC-4 S/DEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 STATE-1 CNO-2 CSAF-1 FILE-1(26)DC			
TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE		
			X		
PRECEDENCE					
ORON	PRIORITY				
INFO	ROUTINE				
FROM: SECRET		DTG		121605Z OCT 67	
TO: AMEMBASSY LONDON					
INFO: STATE DEPARTMENT/ZEN					
SECRET DEF 3708		FROM OASD/ISA.			
JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE					
Subj: Diego Garcia (S)					
Ref: LONDON 2565					
1. (S) Request you advise Fcnoff that advisability of establishing facility at Diego Garcia still under active consideration, but final determination of US position not expected in immediate future. Until we are nearer to arriving at US position, responses to specific queries would be premature.					
2. FYI. We would prefer to keep the possibility of a base at Diego Garcia in low profile for time being to avoid further complications on Aldabra question. End FYI. GP-4					
STATE DEPARTMENT SYSTEMATIC REVIEW					
<input type="checkbox"/> Retain class'n <input type="checkbox"/> Change/classify to					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassify with concurrence of ASD					
EO 12958, 25X					
FPC/HDR by <u>ms</u> Date: <u>3/6/96</u>					
Withdrawal No. <u>DEF. Box 82 1967-69</u>					
CENTRAL FILES #7					
TYPED NAME AND TITLE		PHONE	SIGNATURE		
DR. WILLIAM H. LEWIS		72247	<u>William H. Lewis</u>		
Staff Assistant			Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary		
Policy Planning Staff (ISA)			Policy Planning Arms Control		

DEFENSE
10-12-67

Distribution:
STATE
DEFENSE SAF/USI
CNO
NSA
Distribution:
Sec Exch. (CNO)
Sec Exch.
Capt Hader (G/10)
ISA:
Col. S. S. S. (Bar)
1st Asst. Sec. Reg.
Col. S. S. S. (HESA)
Mr. H. H. H. (AF)
inform.

81
GP-3
IND-1
IND-1
RSR-1
EUN-1

20

ACTION		
J/PM-1		
RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	EA
	5	4
NEA	CU	INR
7		5
E	P	IO
		5
L	FBO	AID
3		
S/P		
1		
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	20	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3
NSC		
6		

22

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

29464 WLA 52269

A-137

ENCLOSURE REPRODUCED IN 11 PPR

~~SECRET~~

NO.

TO : Department of State

INFO : Amembassy LONDON Amembassy NEW DELHI
Amembassy CANBERRA Amembassy COLOMBO
CINCLANT CINCMEAFSA
CINCPAC

FROM : Amembassy WELLINGTON

DATE: May 15, 1969

SUBJECT : DIEGO GARCIA

REF : Wellington 799
CINCLANT, CINCPAC, CINCMEAFSA FOR POLADS

Transmitted herewith is a copy of the letter on the Diego Garcia defense project which was forwarded by the British High Commission to the Department of External Affairs on May 7, and subsequently made available by the High Commission to the Embassy.

DECLASSIFIED

NMD 959000

DEF 15 IND - US

FOR RM USE ONLY

1969 MAY 22 PM 3 04

COPYFLO-PBR

XXXXXX

Concurrence: DEFATT:LHWalker

2 FH
per
HANNING
AND

DECLASS
E.O. 12958
NW 26962
By TB/DM 5/6/10

Attachment:
Letter on Diego Garcia

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

☐ Retain class'n ☐ Change/classify to

☒ Declassify ☒ with concurrence of UKG

☒ after 1999

EO 12958, 25X

FPC/MOR by CT Date: 3-7-96

Withdrawal No. DEF 15 BOX 83 #9
67-69

FORM 4-62 DS-323

~~SECRET~~

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

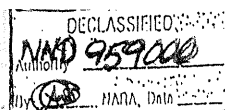
☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: PCL: MVTrent:jmn (5/14/69)

Contents and Classification Approved by: DCM:HVOSS

~~SECRET~~

ENC TO A-1
FROM WELLINGTON



C
O
P
Y

10/37

7 May, 1969

Dear Sir,

DIEGO GARCIA DEFENCE PROJECT

The High Commissioner has asked me to let you know, on instructions from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, that in accordance with the 1966 Agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom, the British Government have approved in principle a United States proposal to establish a naval refuelling and communications facility on Diego Garcia, one of the islands of the Chagos Archipelago, which is part of British Indian Ocean Territory. Diego Garcia, the largest and most southerly of the Chagos Islands, is 1,100 miles east of Mahe and consists of a V-shaped sand cay some 15 miles long XXXX a maximum width of 7 miles.

The facility will consist of a dredged anchorage, communications installations, fuel storage and an 8,000 foot runway. The estimated cost is approximately US\$26 million with a further US\$11 million for communications equipment. Construction may begin in early 1970 and the facility will probably take about three years to become operational. Britain will make no financial contribution, but shall have the right to use the facility, will fly the British flag over the location and will provide a liaison officer.

A classified appropriation item to cover the cost of the new facility has been included in the United States Budget for the fiscal year 1970 and Congressional Hearings in Executive (Secret) Session are expected to be held in early June to discuss the project.

/The

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
WELLINGTON.

~~SECRET~~

ENC To A-137
 FROM WELLINGTON

~~SECRET~~

-2-

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have asked the High Commissioner to emphasize to the New Zealand Government the importance which Britain and the United States attach to there being no leak about this project until after the Secret Congressional Hearings begin in early June and as long as possible thereafter. The decision to establish the Diego Garcia facility was one taken by the previous United States Administration. Britain has been informed that the present Administration have approved the project in principle but still reserve the right to review the project on financial or other grounds.

In the event of a leak before the Congressional Hearings begin, Britain and the United States have agreed to consult together immediately before taking action. Should the leak be a major one and receive undue publicity, the two Governments would use the following agreed formula in reply to questions:-

"A number of islands in the Indian Ocean remain available for development for defence purposes by Her Majesty's Government and the United States Government. Whether or how we shall use them is a matter which is being kept under review by both countries since our agreement with the United States was signed in 1966. No decisions have yet been finalised in the course of this review."

Yours faithfully,

— —

(D. Tonkin)
 First Secretary

~~SECRET~~

POL/M:Goplinger/jl		Drafting Date: 2/7/69	Phone No.: 149	Contents and Classification Approved by: POL RISpiers
--------------------	--	--------------------------	-------------------	--

O - 12634

Enclosure No. 1

A-~~A~~-250

from LONDON

London, England

D-1503
February 3, 1969

Richard A. Sykes, Esq., C.M.G., M.C.
Defence Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Dear Richard:

We have been informed that the proposed project for a naval facility on Diego Garcia was included (without identification) in the FY 1970 Department of Defense military construction budget request presented to Congress last week. The proposal envisages construction of the 26 million dollar facility as outlined to you last July, plus 11 million dollars for procurement of communications equipment.

As we advised Robin Johnstone in October, the Diego Garcia proposal will be identified as a classified line item when the military construction budget request is presented to the House Armed Services Committee. Committee hearings, which will be in Executive Session, are not expected to be held until March or April.

We fully recognize the need to consult closely with your Government regarding the Diego Garcia project, and intend to do so in detail when our plans are firm. You will understand, of course, that we cannot undertake actual construction without Congressional approval, and some of the details of our planning will perforce remain undetermined until the House Committee has held its hearings and given its approval. For example, many of the administrative planning details will depend upon the method of

~~SECRET~~

Delivered by hand
in 2 sec 10/1/69

Encl 1

London 4 250

~~SECRET~~

Page 2

construction, i.e., whether we use a private U.S. contractor or Naval Construction Forces. If the latter are available, both the foreign exchange costs and construction time would be reduced, and our need for local unskilled labor would be minimal or non-existent. This and other key questions cannot be answered until the hearings are completed.

In the meantime, however, it may be useful to give you Washington's present views on a number of questions of mutual concern.

1. As indicated in my letter to Robin Johnston of November 22, we have no plans for the use of Peros Banhos and Salomon Islands, with the proviso that the absence of current plans does not preclude consideration of using other islands in the Chagos Archipelago should this become desirable at some later time. On this understanding, we have no objection to your proposal to request Moulinie to draw up plans for expanded development of the two northern islands. We are mindful of our obligations under the BIOT Agreement to use Mauritian and Seychellois labor to the maximum extent consistent with our requirements and construction schedules. Our best present estimate is that we still desire ultimate removal of all migrant laborers from Diego Garcia after giving six month's notice to the lessor in accord with the confidential agreed minutes to the BIOT Agreement, but no firm decision has been made at this stage. We share your view that it would be politically unwise to relocate Diego workers on Mauritius where there are serious unemployment problems, and have therefore agreed to the use of Peros Banhos and Saloman Island to relocate them, and others in the archipelago who may in the future have to be moved. However, we hope that no action will be taken on the status of Diego workers until the basic decisions outlined above have been made. We will then endeavor to open meaningful discussions as soon as possible.

~~SECRET~~

Encl 1
London 14250

~~SECRET~~

Page 3

On this point, we have recently had a report of a request by the BIOT Administrator to hire 50 Chagos-born laborers now living on Mauritius, and to transport them and their families to Diego Garcia. In view of our desire to transfer most or all of the copra workers elsewhere, we are somewhat concerned about the possibility of continued movement of additional workers to Diego. I wonder if you can provide us with any clarification of this report and your views on the subject.

2. In the course of our conversations during Bob Remole's visit here last December, you put to us a number of points concerning BIOT problems. I have been asked to give you the following response or comments:

(a) We are puzzled by the request of Sir Hugh Norman-Walker that future activities in BIOT should be "mounted" out of the Seychelles. Although the presence of the USAF tracking station on Mahe does give us a reliable communications point for the Indian Ocean area, we wonder whether this suggestion is intended to apply to activities which would otherwise be staged through Mauritius, or directly from east coast ports. In any event, we would prefer to await the message you expected to give us soon on the general question of communications before taking any position.

(b) We will henceforth be particularly careful to keep the U.S. Commander of the Mahe tracking station fully informed regarding all activities undertaken in the BIOT. We fully agree that this is desirable; I am sure it is understood that he is not a diplomat and does not represent the U.S. Government.

(c) Regarding the general question of advance notice, we will of course give you as much notice as possible of our intentions in BIOT, consistent with the sometimes difficult problems inherent in reaching timely internal decisions.

~~SECRET~~

Encl 1
Lon dm # 250
~~SECRET~~

Page 4

(d) With regard to the physical layout of the proposed Diego installation, our plans are based on the 1967 survey report. We have not received details of Sir Hugh Norman-Walker's reservations concerning the layout, but would be happy to consider any additional information he may have submitted that might be useful to us.

(e) Our requirement (if any) for local labor in the construction of the facility, as explained above, will not be known until after the House Armed Services Committee hearings.

(f) We would suggest that copra production on Diego Garcia be continued until we are in a position, later this Spring, to establish a construction timetable.

(g) J/PM (formerly G/PM) in the Department of State is now the primary point of contact for BIOT matters, and coordinates with other interested bureaus within the State and Defense Departments.

3. When and if a facility on Diego Garcia comes into operation, the current Mauritian meteorological service now being provided from Diego would apparently become redundant, since a comparable service could be furnished to the Mauritian Government by the U.S. Navy. Alternatively, the present meteorological station could possibly be moved elsewhere in the archipelago and continue to furnish the same kind of weather information.

4. We concur with your rejection of applications from private firms for mineral exploration of Diego Garcia. We would have no objection to such exploration in other islands of the archipelago on the clear understanding that all such activity would be halted immediately if a future US/UK decision were made to use the islands in question for defense purposes under the 1966 agreement. In this connection, we would appreciate any information on the current status of the question of exploration and exploitation.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Encl 1
London A 258

Page 5

of mineral rights. Has there been any recent clarification of this question, and are there any outstanding differences between your Government and the Government of Mauritius regarding mineral rights?

5. We will, of course, consult with you regarding notification to other interested Governments in the area, but we do not wish to take such a step at this time. We believe it would be most appropriate to do so in connection with the Department of Defense presentation to the House Armed Services Committee.

6. Notwithstanding our desires, we recognize there is a danger of premature leakage before the Committee hearings are held. To preserve our general credibility, we believe that any public statement we find it necessary to make at this time should take into account the facts previously given out, and, to the extent that security permits, prepare the ground for an eventual announcement of the decision to proceed with facilities in the BIOT. In the event that a public statement becomes unavoidable, therefore, we propose using the following:

"Since concluding an agreement (subsequently published) with the United Kingdom in 1966 we have been in a continuing review with British authorities about the possible use for refueling and communications facilities of a number of islands in the Indian Ocean. Additional review and decisions have yet to be made prior to the implementation of any plans."

(The U.S. representative in the United Nations Committee of 24 made a statement on July 19, 1967, acknowledging that the U.S. and U.K. had an agreement permitting the establishment of "refueling and communications facilities" in the BIOT, but disclaiming plans to build a "military base".)

Please let me know if this press guidance is acceptable to your Government.

~~SECRET~~

Encl 1

~~SECRET~~ London A 25 Page 6

7. Finally, if asked about the Geodetic Satellite teams now in Diego Garcia, we would respond with the form of words agreed last August (beginning "The UK has authorized the US to place a temporary NGSP station on Diego Garcia..."), as amended in November with an additional paragraph on the composition and schedule of the three teams. I would appreciate it if you will confirm that this agreed line continues to be acceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Gerald G. Oplinger
 Politico-Military Affairs

~~SECRET~~

Enclosure No. 2

A-250

from LONDON

~~SECRET~~



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

DP 15/527/1

6 February, 1969.

Dear Jack

Diego Garcia

I am writing to answer some of the questions put in Gerry Oplinger's letter to me of 3 February and to confirm our thinking on some of the other points covered during our lunch with the past and future Governors of the Seychelles on 5 February.

Re-location of Population

2. We note your view that it would be politically unwise to attempt to re-locate Diego workers on Mauritius where there are serious unemployment problems. We have not yet reached any decisions about re-location and these will of course have to be taken by our Ministers. As we see it, however, there are only two practical alternatives in view of your requirement that Diego be evacuated. Solution A would involve the transfer of the population of Diego to Peros Banhos and Salomon. The coconut plantations on Diego would then be abandoned but those on Peros Banhos and Salomon would be developed further to give employment not only to the workers from Diego but to those illois at present in Mauritius, whom the Mauritian Government regard as being our responsibility. We are advised by Sir Hugh Norman Walker, however, that if Moulinie & Co. are to be persuaded to continue the management of the Peros Banhos and Salomon plantations they would have to be sure of sufficient security of tenure to make the work and investment worth while. In Sir Hugh's opinion, Moulinie would want about twenty years tenure, probably with some provision for compensation if you or we needed to re-possess the plantations earlier for defence purposes. With his knowledge of the islands, Sir Hugh has expressed the opinion that neither the United States nor United Kingdom Governments would be likely to wish to install a facility on either atoll (other than perhaps of a type which would not require any evacuation) since they are too small for runways and they would hardly provide a suitable permanent facility for medium or large ships. I should therefore be grateful if you would let us know as soon as possible whether, in the event that our Ministers decide to re-locate the Diego population on the other two atolls, you would agree that economic exploitation of Peros Banhos and Salomon should be on for, say, a twenty year period.

DEF 16
DIEGO GARCIA

- 2 -

Encl. 2. London A 250

3. The alternative solution, B, would be to clear the population of the Chagos Archipelago and re-locate them to the Seychelles and Mauritius. In U.N. terms, this would be

/ideal

Mr. J.D. Stoddart,
 United States Embassy,
 Grosvenor Square,
 W.1.

~~SECRET~~

ideal solution since we could argue that there are no 'inhabitants' anywhere on BIOT: this is of cardinal importance since the only legitimate way in which BIOT could be raised in the Committee of 24 or the Fourth Committee would be in the context of Art. 73 of the United Nations Charter and our obligation to the inhabitants. On the other hand, we could have considerable difficulty in persuading the Mauritian Government to take the ex-Mauritian Ilois and we could also be criticised in humanitarian terms for uprooting people from the Chagos and depriving them of a livelihood there. We must bear in mind that these people are expert only in copra production and that there is no outlet for their skills in Mauritius. Your United Nations experts may have views on all this.

4. We consider it important to reach a decision on re-location before news of the decision to proceed with the naval facility either leaks or is announced. Once the news becomes known, we shall at once be faced with enquiries about our intentions with regard to the population and will incur considerable criticism both from the Mauritians and in the United Nations if we are unable to say what we intend. The goodwill of the Mauritian Government is particularly important in the United Nations context. We hope therefore that you will be able to let us know within the next two weeks not only the answer to the question above but whether there are any other considerations you think should be borne in mind.

5. With reference to the first paragraph on page 3 of Oplinger's letter, we understand that there is a misunderstanding here and that there is no present intention of moving additional workers to Diego Garcia.

6. With reference to Oplinger's paragraph 2(a), we have had an opportunity to discuss liaison with the Governor. He does not ask that future activities in BIOT be "mounted" out of the Seychelles. He does, however, ask that both he and the U.S. Base Commander at Mahe be kept closely informed of any proposed expedition from the earliest stages of planning. Where the expedition is of sufficient importance (e.g. the survey of Farquhar) it would probably be desirable for a liaison officer to fly to Mahe beforehand for preliminary discussions with the Governor on administrative problems wherever the expedition is to be mounted from. This could avoid difficulties like those encountered over the geodetic survey team and I hope you will represent to Washington the importance we attach to adequate liaison of this kind.

Encl 2 London A250

7. With reference to Oplinger's paragraph 2(d), Sir Hugh Norman Walker tells us that he has given full details of his comments on the physical layout of the proposed Diego installation to Captain Martinson of U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Captain Martinson, who I understand is

based on London, visited Mahe in January 1969. His doubts concerned both the position of the proposed anchorage and certain details concerning parts of the proposed road which might be subject to encroachment by the sea. These details will, however, be available in Washington.

Meteorological Station

8. We regard it as essential that the service now supplied by the weather reporting station on Diego continue to be provided, not only to the Mauritian Government but to the World Weather Watch and also to Her Majesty's Government. There is growing need for this service and no foreseeable end to the requirement. We see no possibility of moving this upper air station to another island if we are to continue to comply with the minimum spacing requirements for upper air stations under World Weather Watch. There are no other islands within range to the south, while to move to the north (i.e. somewhere else in the Chagos group) would bring the spacing from the next station, at Gan, below the World Weather Watch minimum. If therefore, for security reasons, you wish the station to be evacuated by the present Mauritian staff (acting on our behalf) we should wish to have an undertaking that the United States will themselves man either this or a similar station on Diego Garcia and will continue to supply the customers with the information they need. Since this change would be made purely to meet United States security considerations we would expect the cost of the station to be met from United States sources, although we take it that this should present no difficulty since your own facility will in fact need to make similar or greater weather observations for their own purposes. Perhaps you would give us this undertaking fairly soon so that we can take up the matter with the Mauritians as soon as news of your facility is announced.

Mineral Exploitation

9. I will write to you separately on this issue.

Notification to Other Interested Governments

10. I must reserve our position on the timing of any approaches to other Governments but hope to write to you again on this very shortly. I should, however, say right away that we are unlikely to be able to agree to the inclusion of the last sentence in your suggested form of words for public consumption, since in our view it might well lead to undesirable speculation about our future plans.

- 4 -

Encl 2 London A.250

~~(C) SECRET~~

-4-

Geodetic Satellite Teams

11. We agree to the form of words proposed in Oplinger's paragraph 7.

Yours sincerely
Richard Sykes

(R.A. Sykes)

Defence Policy Department

DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERENCE SLIP				DATE 9/25/68	
TO: Name or Title		Organ. Symbol	Room No.	Bldg.	Initials Date
1. Capt. Hadden		G/PM			
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW					
<input type="checkbox"/> Retain class'n <input type="checkbox"/> Change/classify to <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassify for clearance purposes of UFG					
Approval		Necessity of Conversation			
As Requested		Prepare Reply			
Comment		See Me			
For Your Information		Date: Signature 3-7-96			
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING NO. DEF 15 8083 (#9) 67-69 6-10-68 Roy Spendlove (British Embassy) gave me this note yesterday. He wants USG comments--presumably "no objection"-- from appropriate parties in DOD. Can you pass it to the right man? 2 copies Passed by hand to Mr. DeLoach (1504) 9-25-68 with request for comment--communication HLL DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, Sec 5.4 NW 26962 TB/DN Date 5/6/10					
FROM: (Name and Org. Symbol)		ROOM NO. & BLDG.		PHONE NO.	
EUR/BMI:I.Cheslaw		5511		3981	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U.10/1/3)

✓ ✓ ✓
Fishing Limits in British Indian Ocean Territory.

(21) ✓
On 27 October 1966 Mr. Trench of the British Embassy left an informal aide-mémoire with Capt. Coward, U.S.N., then seconded to the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Politico-Military Affairs, on the subject of fishing rights in the Chagos Archipelago. In February 1967 the State Department told Mr. Gilmore of the British Embassy, that, after discussion between interested Departments the United States found no difficulty with our proposals.

2. Since these exchanges further thought has been given to the regulation of rights of fishery in the seas round B.I.O.T. and H.M.G. concludes that as soon as possible steps should be taken to establish a régime of control.

The régime should take into account not only defence needs, but also the established fishery practices in B.I.O.T. waters of Seychellois, Mauritian and other fishermen. It is considered desirable to phase the latter out, but to reconcile as far as possible Seychellois and Mauritian interests with defence needs. It is therefore intended to introduce three zones for fishing in the territory:

- (a) a full 12-mile zone open to unrestricted exploitation by Seychelles and (for Chagos only) Mauritius vessels before any defence interests become alive;
- (b) an inner 6-mile zone open to Seychelles and (for Chagos only) Mauritius vessels on a restricted access basis following defence arrangements, such restriction to be the minimum compatible with security requirements;
- (c) an outer 6-mile zone open to foreign vessels for a phase-out period. (This zone would remain open to Seychelles and Mauritius vessels after the phase-out period had been completed, unless security requirements made this impossible.)

/It will

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Handwritten notes on the right margin:
325/6
DEF 15
IND-45
XR
DEF 15
IND-4K

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

It will be noted that foreign vessels will be excluded from fishing after a period not in excess of 12 months from the announcement of the entry into force of the control.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~