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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: MARR, OPRC, PREL, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR EXPECTED VERDICT IN DIEGO
GARCIA COURT CASE

REF: DEAN/PITTERLE EMAIL OF 11/2/00

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1. PER REF-EMAIL REQUEST, BELOW FOLLOWS APPROVED PRESS
GUIDANCE FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF INQUIRIES RELATING TO THE
ANTICIPATED DECISION IN THE COURT CASE BROUGHT BY SOME
FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO:

Q: WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THE DECISION IN THE COURT CASE
BROUGHT BY SOME FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO
(DIEGO GARCIA)?

A: WHILE THE U.S. OF COURSE HAS STRATEGIC INTERESTS ON
DIEGO GARCIA, THIS IS A MATTER BETWEEN BRITISH AUTHORITIES
AND THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT THE CASE. I WOULD REFER YOU TO
THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, WHICH ADMINISTERS THE

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BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY (BIOT), FOR COMMENT.

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