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RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(A), 1.4(B), 1.4(D), 1.4(G)

ACTION PM-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DOT-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	NEA-00
	NSAE-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	TFBI-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	G-00	SAS-00

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-----33D9DA 231400Z /38

O 231355Z JUN 04
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2926
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY
CNO WASHDC//N3/N53/POLAD// PRIORITY
HQ USAF WASHDC//XO/XP/POLAD// PRIORITY
USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL//TCJ3/TCJ5/POLAD// PRIORITY
HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J3/J5/POLAD// PRIORITY
USEUCOM AIDES VAHINGEN GE//POLAD// PRIORITY
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//J3/J5/POLAD// PRIORITY
COMSC WASHDC//N3/N5// PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N00J/N42/N51// PRIORITY
COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA//00/03/00J// PRIORITY
HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//OPS/LG/POLAD// PRIORITY
NAVSUPFAC DIEGO GARCIA//N00// PRIORITY
HQ ACC LANGLEY AFB VA//CC/XO/XP/POLAD// PRIORITY
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//ACJCS/J3/J5// PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP PRIORITY
13AF ANDERSEN AFB GU// PRIORITY

S E C R E T LONDON 004726

DEPT FOR PM/ISO, EUR/UBI, AF, AND NEA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/21/2014

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PREL, UK

SUBJECT: ANNUAL U.S.-UK POL-MIL TALKS

Classified By: PolCouns Charles Skinner. Reasons 1.4 (a) (b) (d)

B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/ISS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(A), 1.4(G)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 22 JUN 2014
DATE/CASE ID: 01 AUG 2006 200503422

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Delegation participants

2. (U) participants included:

UK delegation:

Tony Crombie - head of delegation and FCO BIOT Commissioner
Sarah Booker - FCO Deputy BIOT Commissioner
Charles Hamilton - BIOT Administrator
Karen Maddocks - BIOT desk officer
Henry Steel - BIOT principal legal advisor
Jennifer Anderson - deputy head, FCO Security Policy Dept.
David Ballantyne - FCO legal advisor
LTC Nick Slinger - Ministry of Defense
CDR Chris Davies - British Representative to DGAR
LTC Nigel Rowe - Permanent Joint Headquarters, J5 plans
LTC Nick Boyd - Permanent Joint Headquarters
Dr. Charles Sheppard - conservation advisor to BIOT

U.S. delegation:

Col. Charles Wilson - head of delegation and director,
Office of International Security Operations
Capt. Bruce Nichols - Naval Advisor, Office of
International Security Operations
Capt. Larry m. Gillis, Assistant Chief of Staff for
Operations, Commander Naval Forces Japan
CDR Theresa Mitchell - State Department, Office of the
Asst. Legal Adviser for pol-mil
CDR Ben Clancy Staff Judge Advocate, Naval Forces Japan
LTC Joseph Minicucci - Joint Staff, J5

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Damian Leader U.S. Embassy London

Capt. Gary Cooper - Commanding Officer, NSF DGAR

William Storz - Assistant General Counsel, Military
Sealift Command

Ross Camardella Military Sealift Command

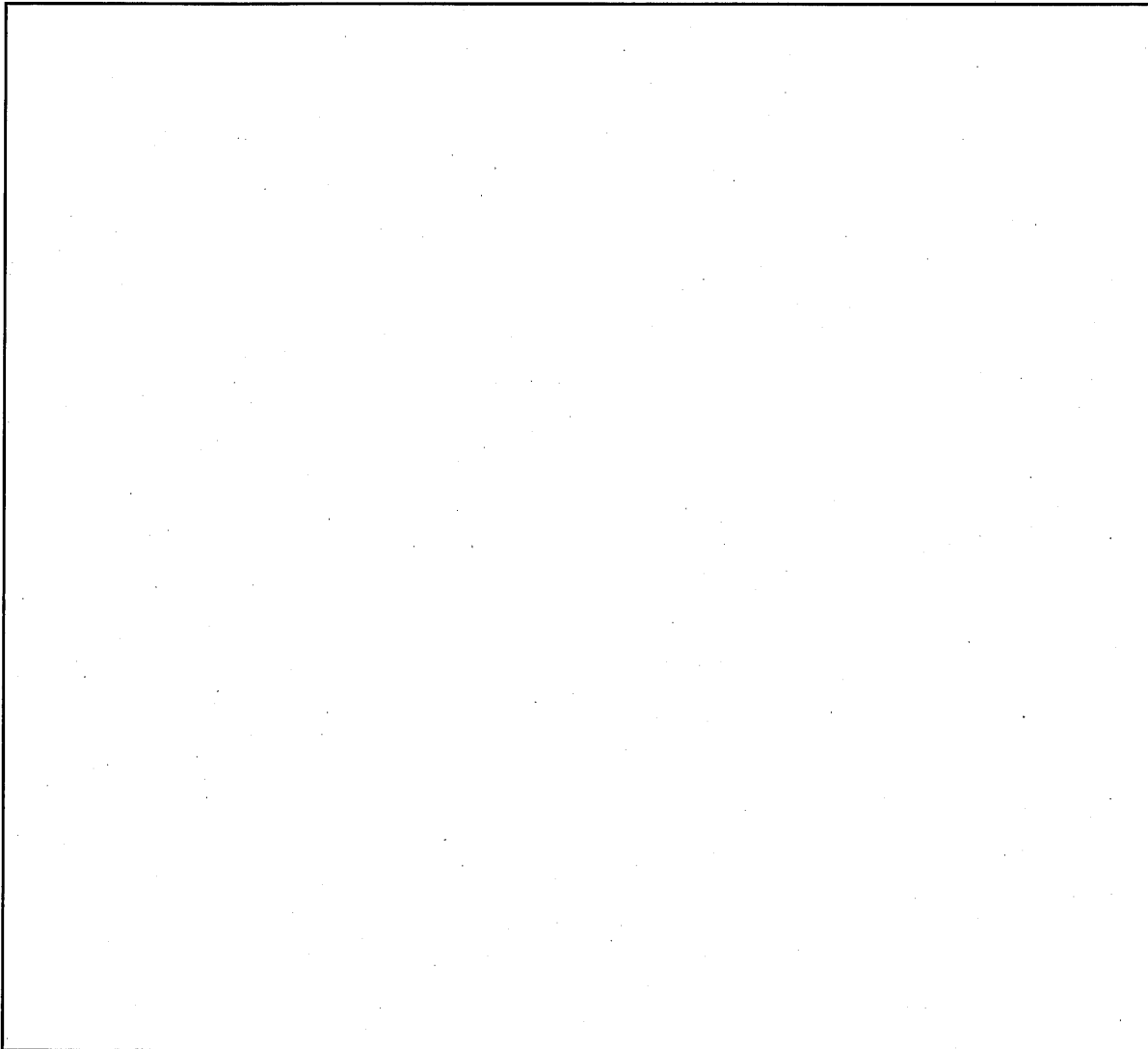
CDR Mary Helinski - NSF DGAR

Lt. Anthony Capeche - NSF DGAR

Lt. Megan K. Smith - NSF DGAR

UK Political Overview and Relations with Mauritius

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Update on UK Legal Proceedings

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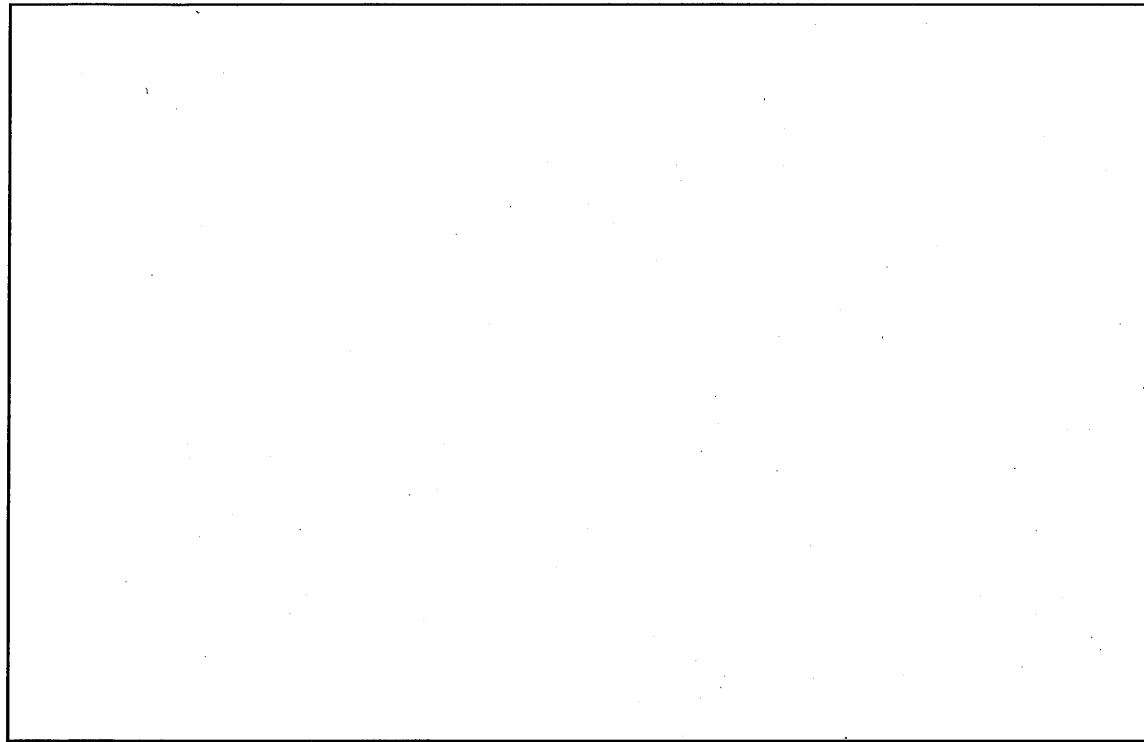
Future visit to Chagos archipelago by Former Islanders

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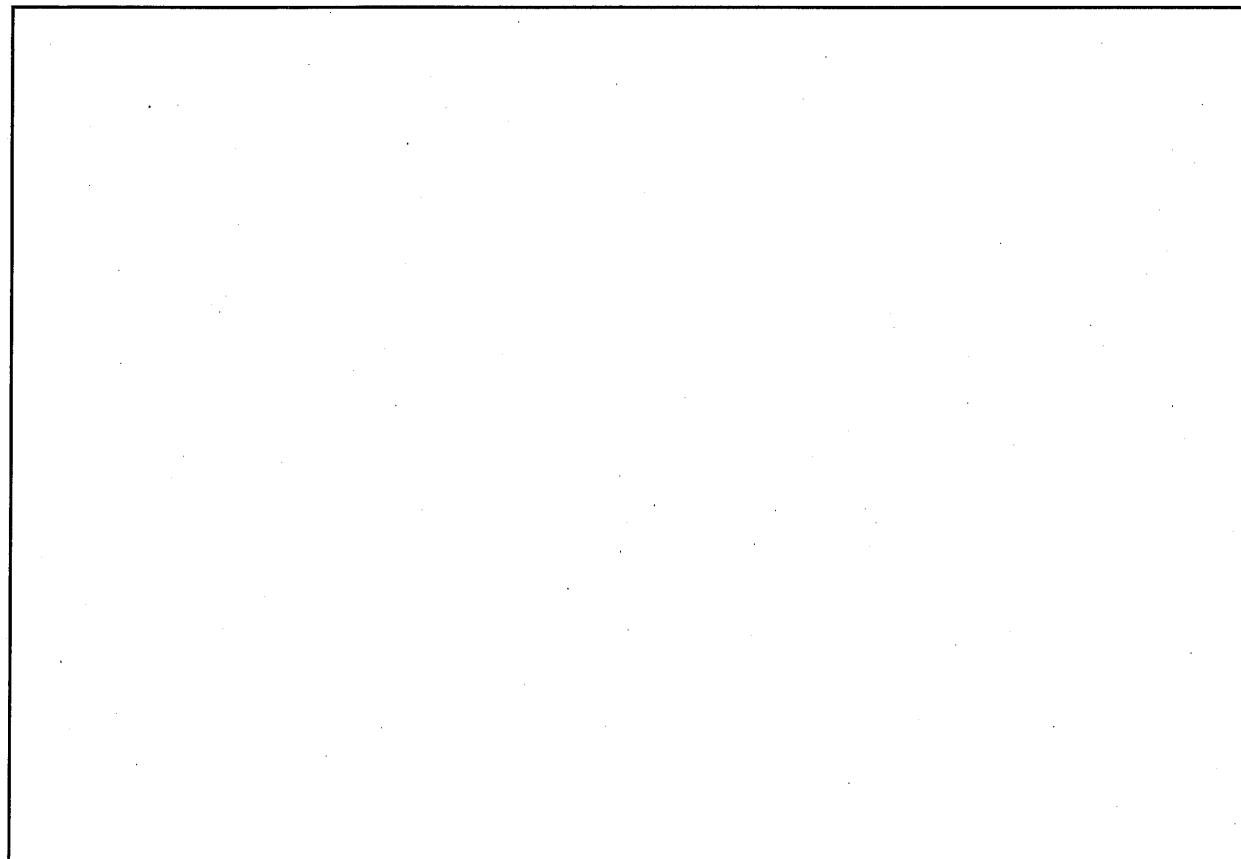
Possible Implications of BIOT Expenditure Review

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Third Party and Media Access to DGAR



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Employment of Mauritians

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U.S. Overview: long term strategic value

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Status of U.S. Court Case

11. (U) CDR Mitchell stated that the U.S. District Court had, on March 26, 2004, stayed the case of Bancoult v. the USG and others, pending the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in a separate case, Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain. The Alvarez-Machain case dealt with the issue of whether the United States Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA) creates a private cause of action or simply confers jurisdiction. The case is relevant to Bancoult v. the USG and others as the Bancoult plaintiffs have premised both subject matter jurisdiction and their cause of action on the ATCA. As a result, the Supreme Court's decision in Alvarez-Machain will likely have a direct bearing on the plaintiffs' claims in Bancoult. The arguments in Alvarez-Machain were held on March 30, 2004 and the court's decision is pending. David Ballantyne indicated that he was familiar with the Alvarez-Machain case as HMG had filed a brief in the case, as had the EU.

Chagossian Proposals to Resettle

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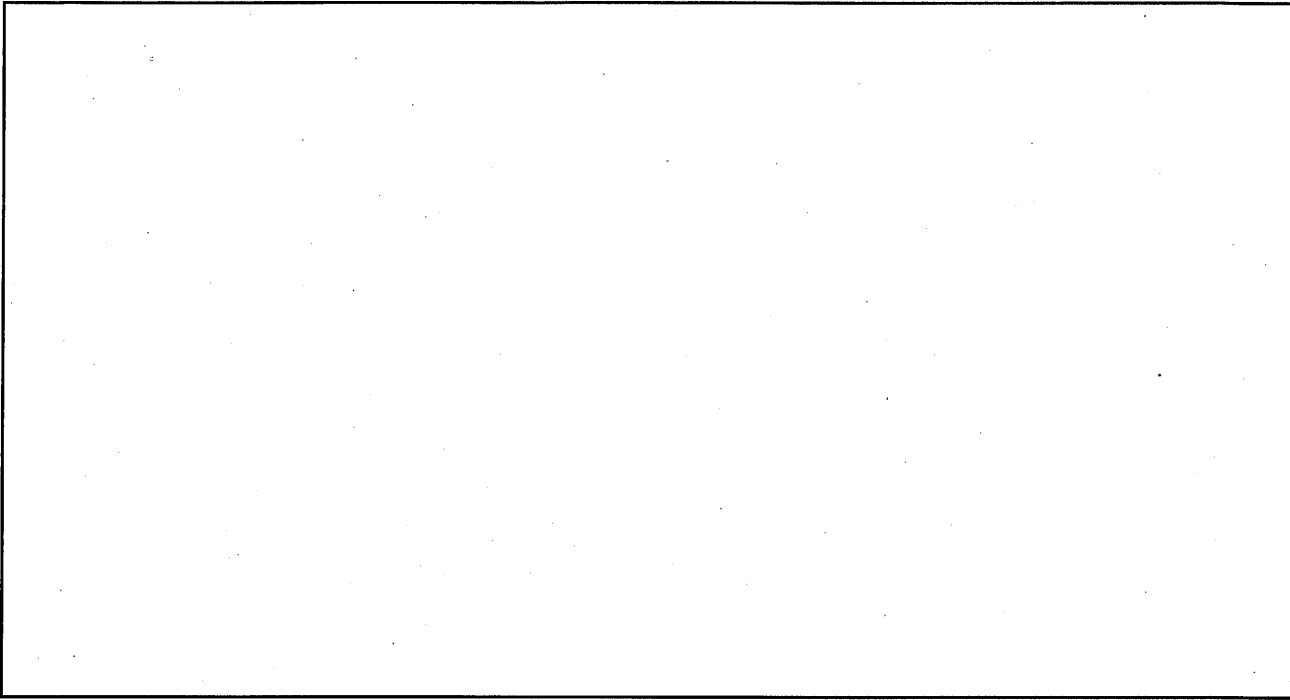
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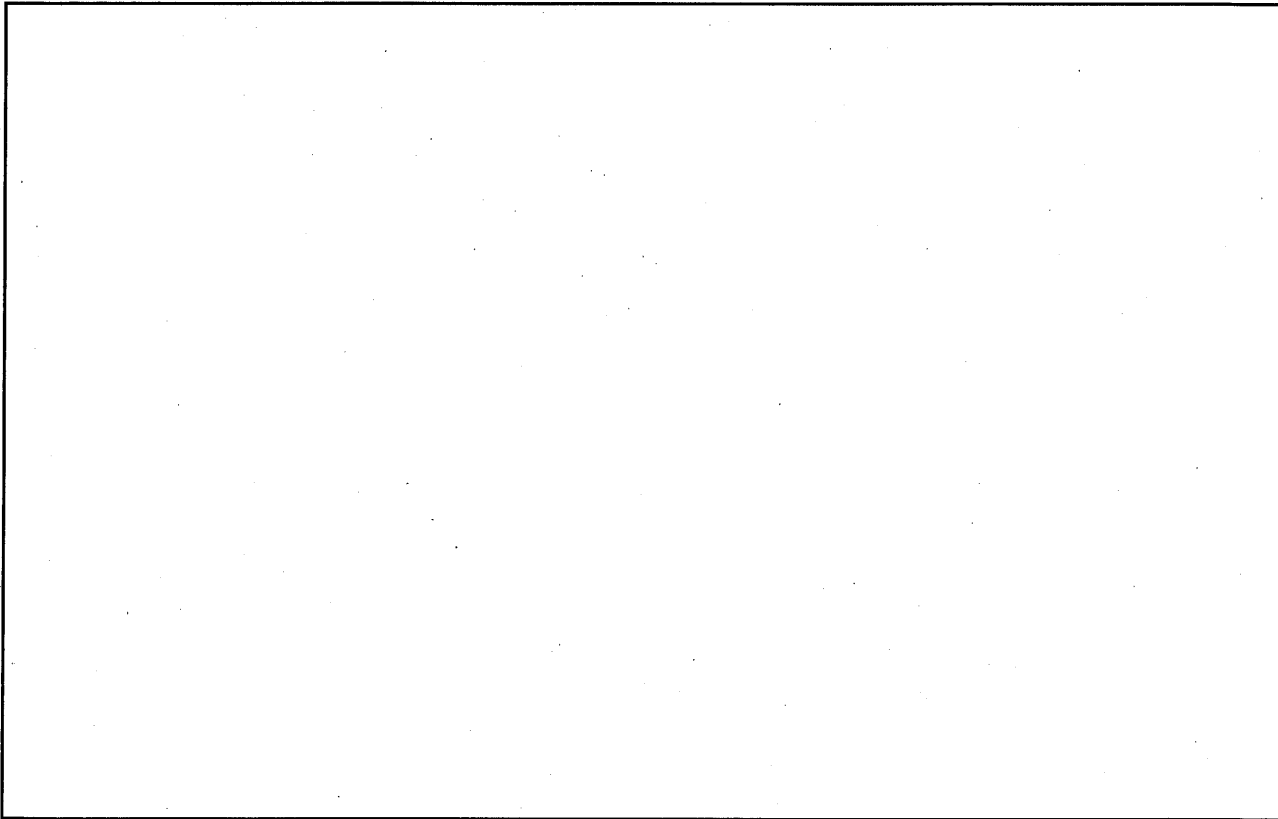
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Island Perspective on Brief and Accompanied Tours

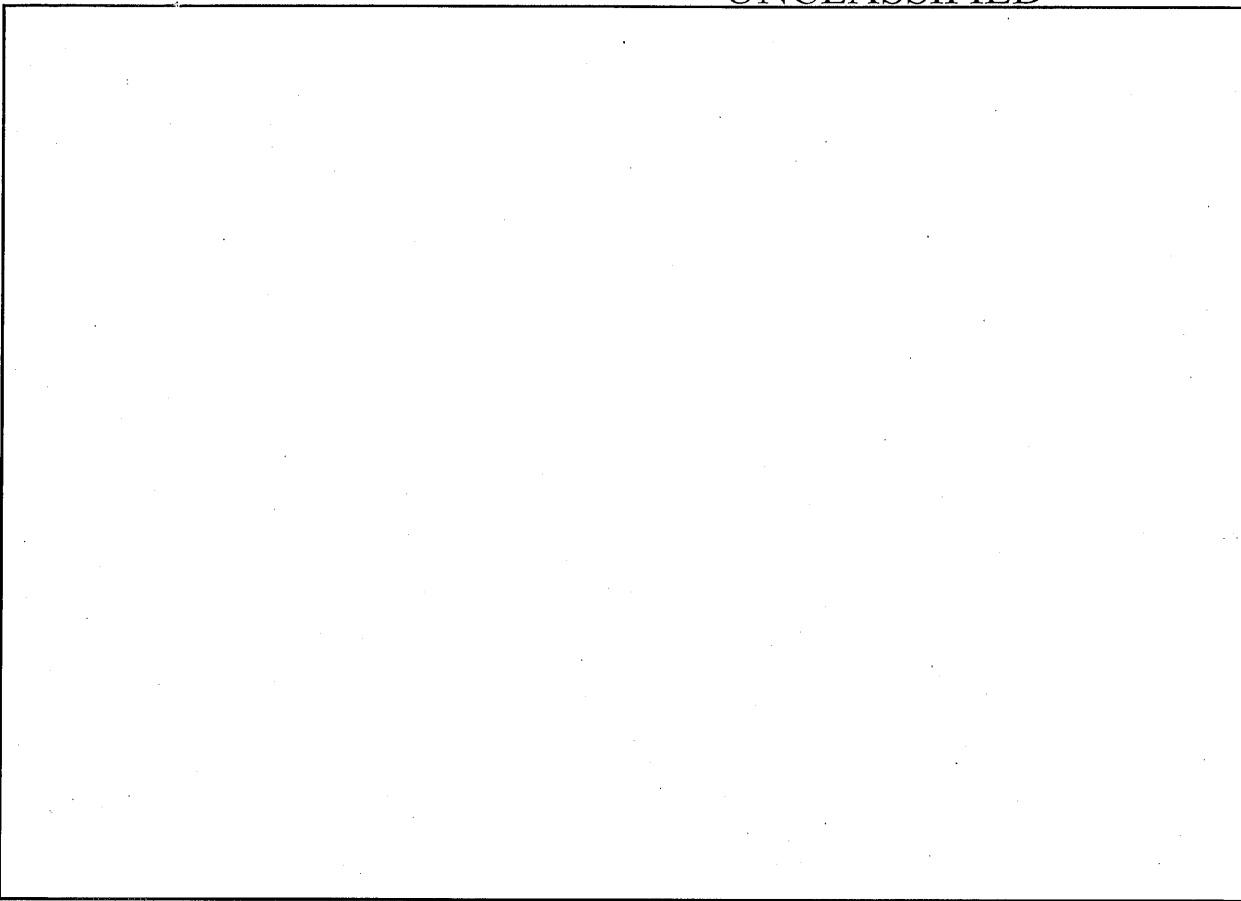
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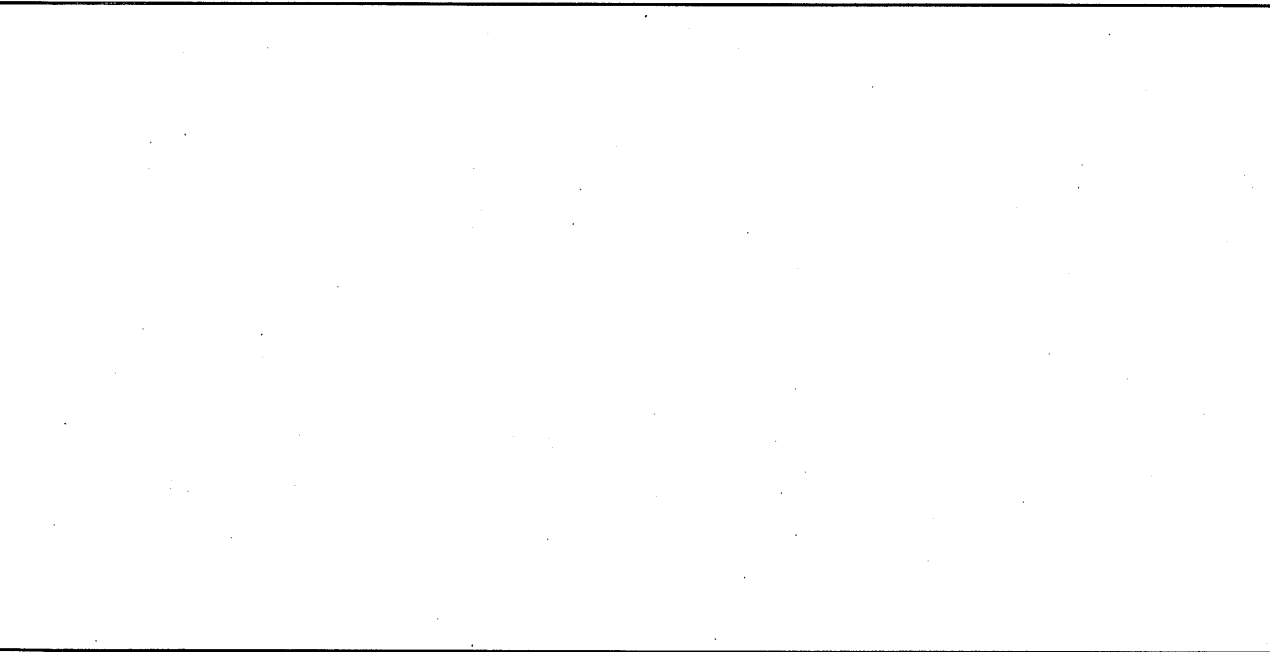
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Environmental Issues

16. (U) Dr. Sheppard, BIOT conservation advisor, briefed the delegations on the environmental issues facing DGAR and recommended courses of action. CDR Helinski, public works officer for NSF, provided an overview of the NSFQs active conservation programs and future environmental proposals. Sheppard assessed that the atoll is in remarkable environmental condition as a result of ongoing preservation by the UK and the U.S. The fact that DGAR is the "least impacted" island in the Indian Ocean is especially noteworthy given its highly concentrated population. Sewage (the main killer of coral reefs) levels in the enclosed lagoon are very low. The double-burning system used to dispose of solid waste appears to be effective, though samples should be taken to monitor heavy metals in the soil. Further research is necessary to clarify previous asbestos disposal, yet existing sites have been well documented and show no trace of leakage. Though controllable, several invasive species present ongoing challenges to DGARQs relatively fragile ecosystem. The remaining population of cats is unlikely to respond to conventional control efforts, and it may be necessary to increase bounties for their capture. An anti-rat strategy should aim for either suppression or total elimination. The former may be the most attractive option as the latter is likely to be prohibitively expensive. Sheppard posed the alternative of using GPS points rather than installing permanent mooring points to control anchor damage to coral reefs. By repeatedly anchoring in the exact same spot, damage could be reduced by up to 50% percent without expensive construction efforts. In conclusion, Sheppard recommended the two sides continue their environmental conservation efforts with heavy emphasis on shoreline erosion in view of challenges posed by global warming, accelerating sea level rise, and the loss of coral reef due to elevated ocean temperatures. The mining of the seaward reef flat adjacent to the island's runway is of particular concern as it has stifled coral growth which protects the

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island from erosion. Sheppard proposed an experimental system that rebuilds reefs using low-voltage current as a possible solution. Ongoing scientific surveys will be key in keeping tabs on the environmental health of the atoll.

17. (U) CDR Helinski's presentation outlined NSF's extensive array of environmental efforts including: conservation awareness, haz-mat disposal, foreign species eradication, solid-waste disposal and fuel-spill cleanup. She also addressed conceptual plans to consider employing ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) on DGAR, a system that utilizes thermal differences in water layers to create electricity and provide cold water for cooling systems. Hamilton inquired what the system's likely construction timeline. CDR Helinski responded that, if there were a decision to proceed with OTEC, it would likely be addressed at next year's pol-mil talks with possible completion in two years following installation vetting and approval.

Closing Remarks/Agreed Items

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