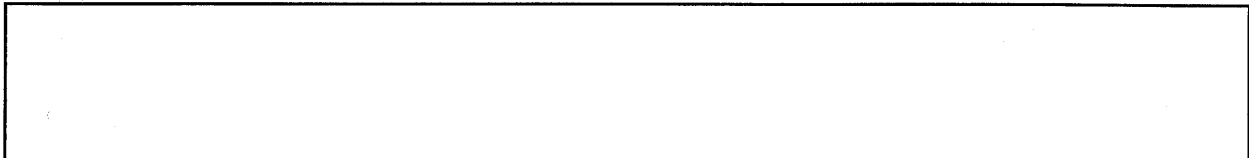
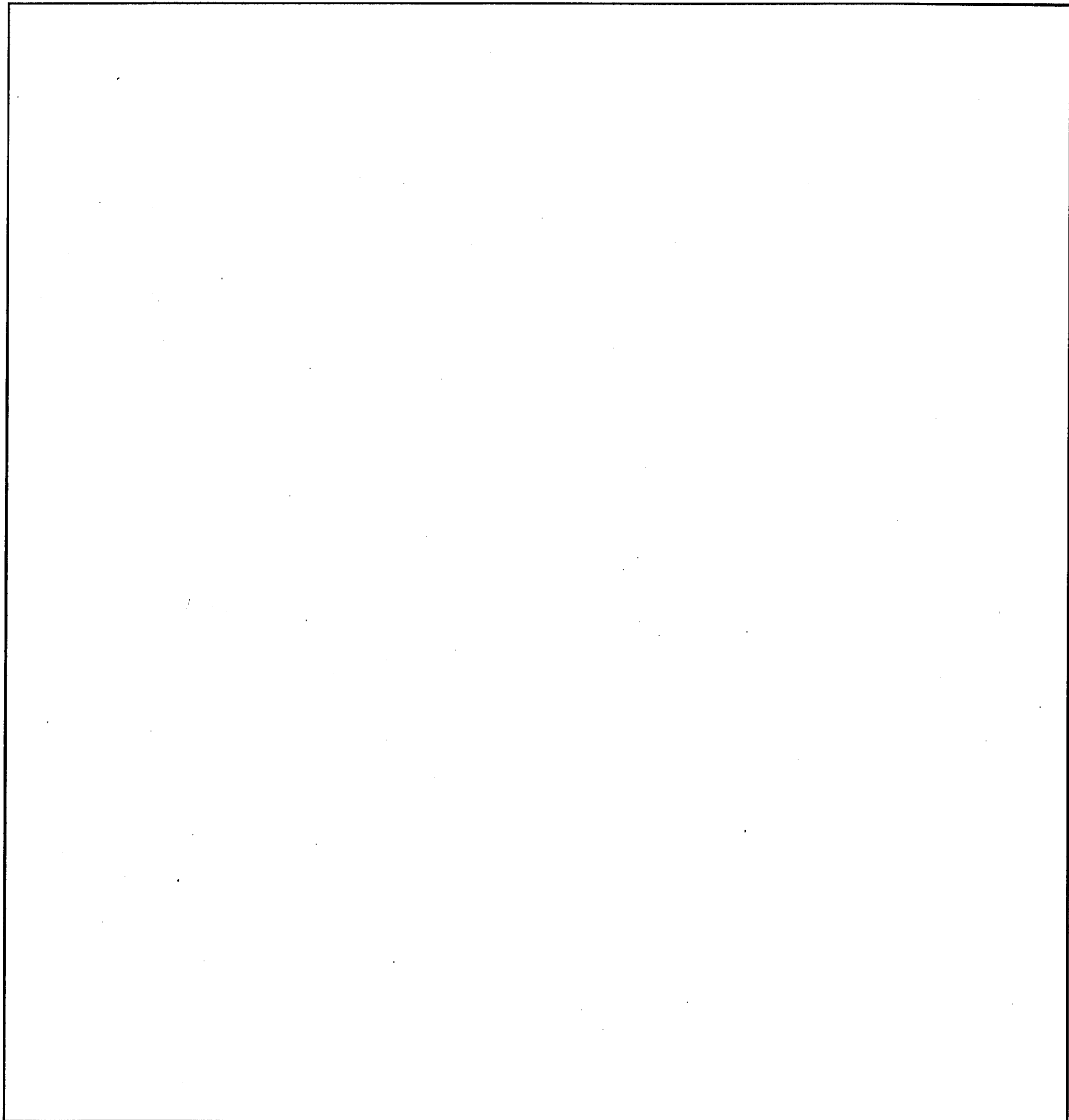


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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
US/UK DIEGO GARCIA POL-MIL BACKGROUND/TALKING POINTS

P101

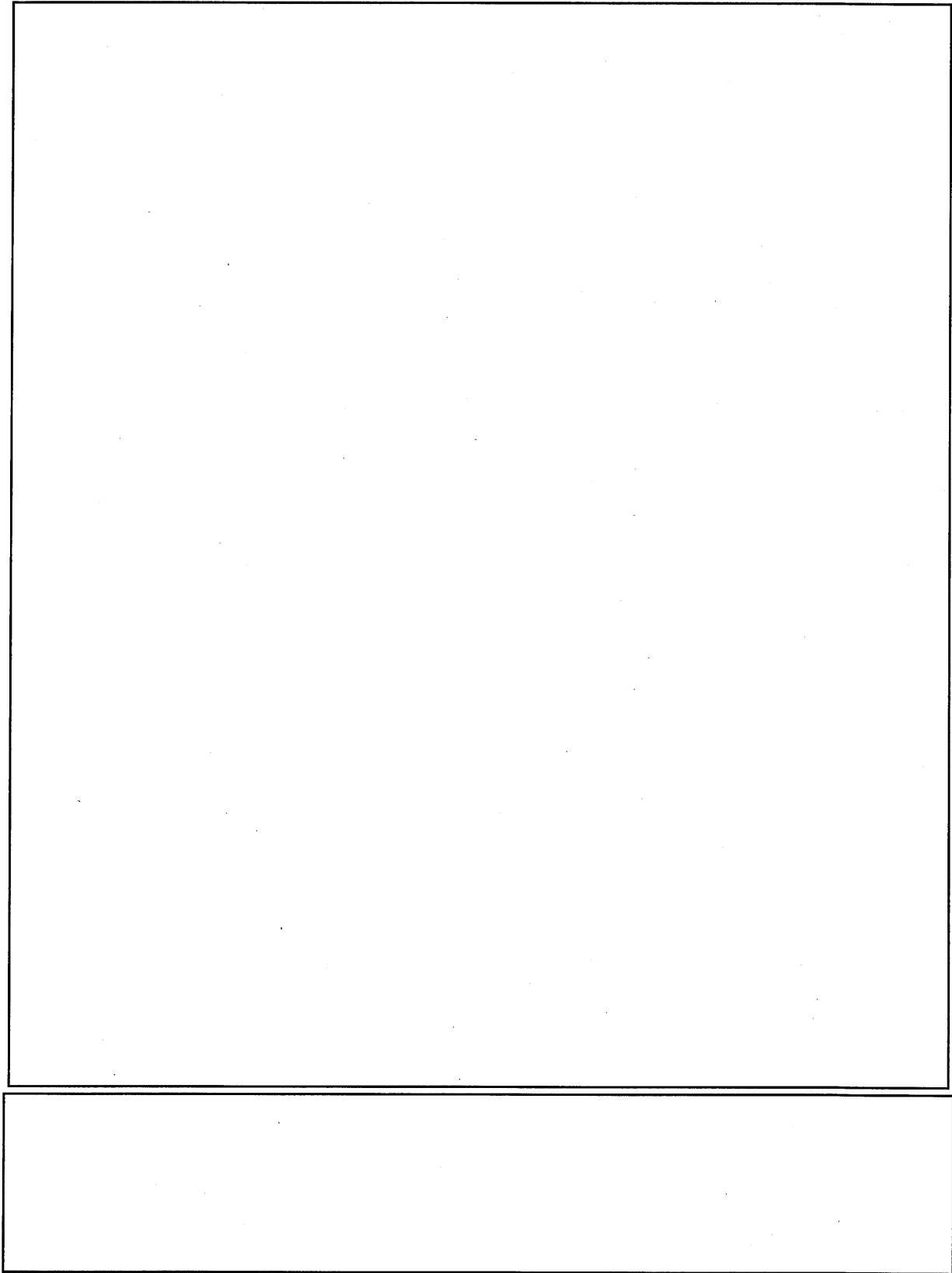
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK H PEREZ
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D) SECRET
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 MAY 2027
DATE/CASE ID: 04 DEC 2006 200503422

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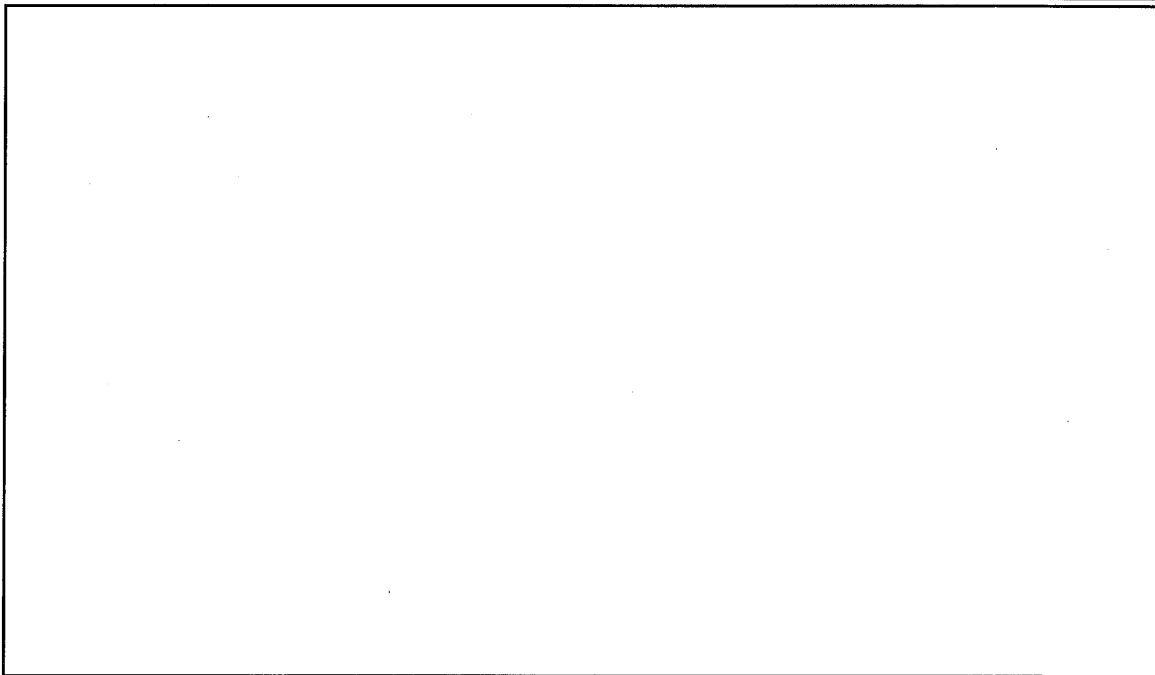
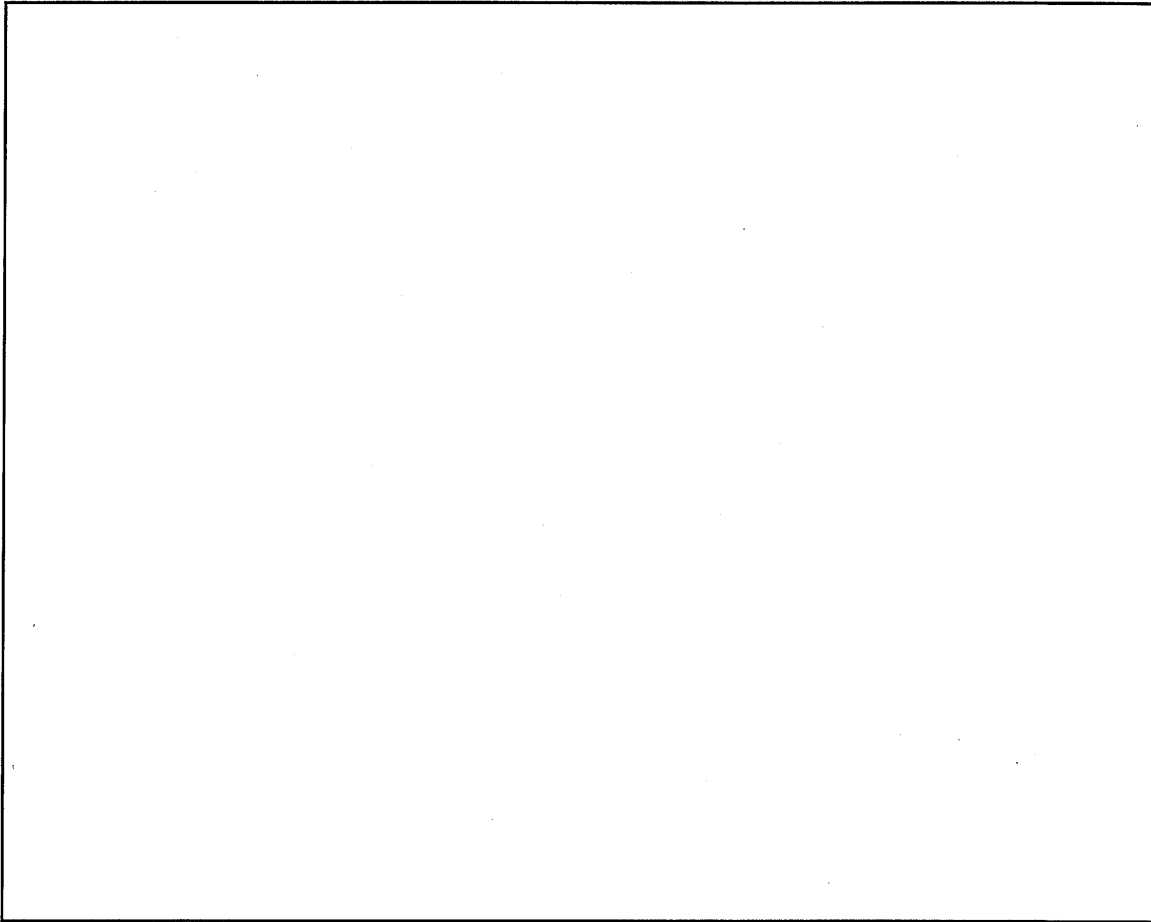
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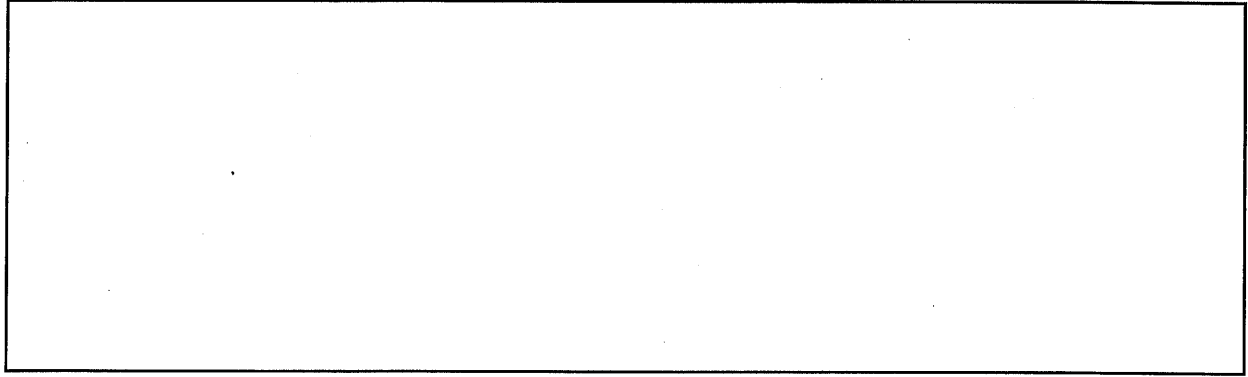
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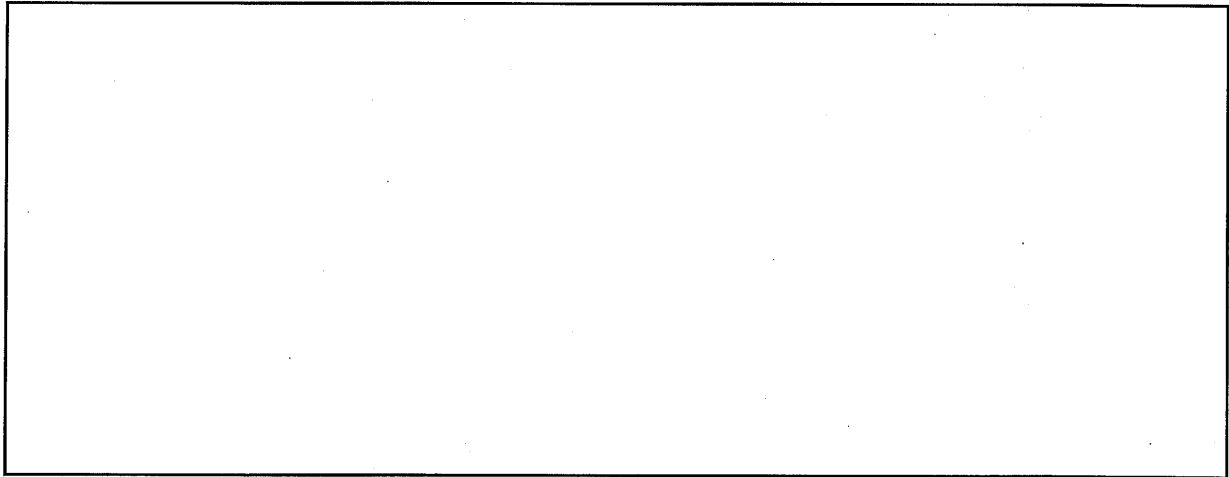
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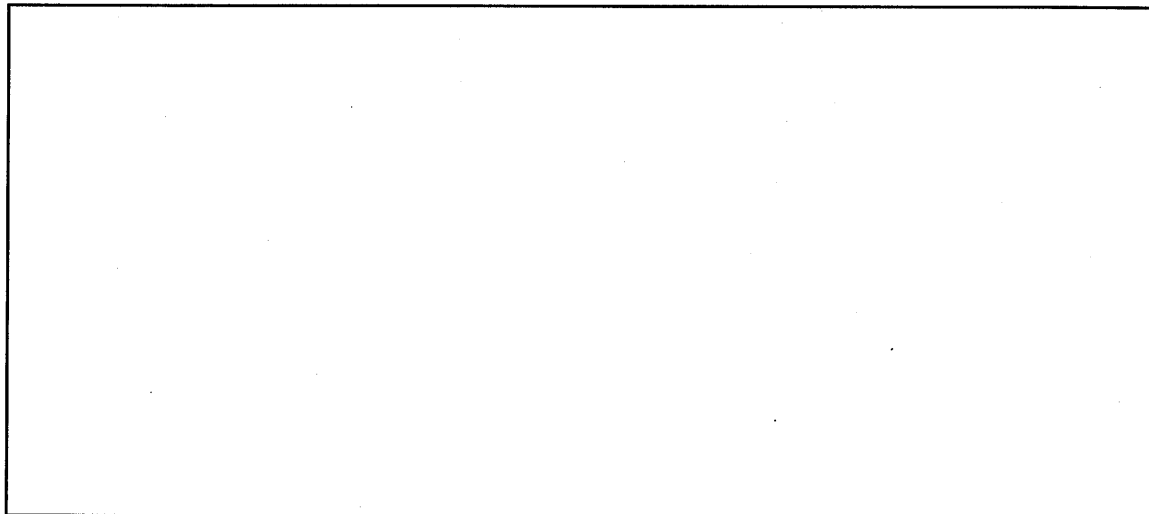


Update on Legal Proceedings in the UK

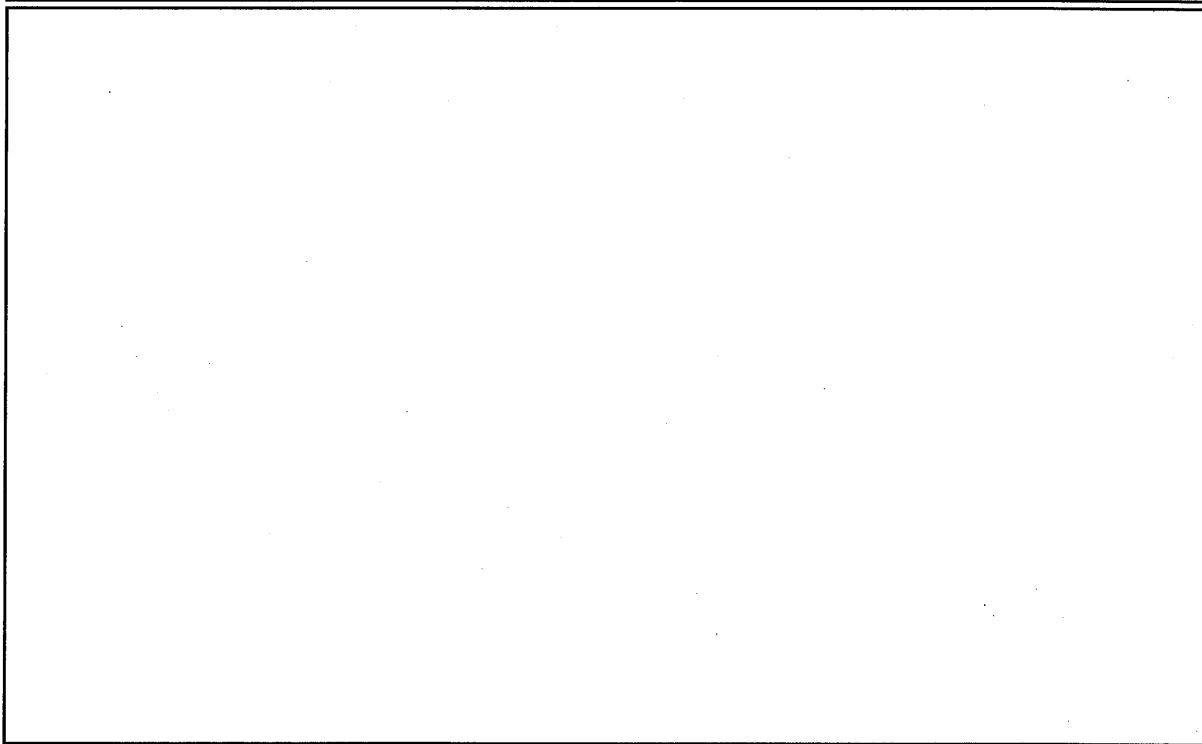
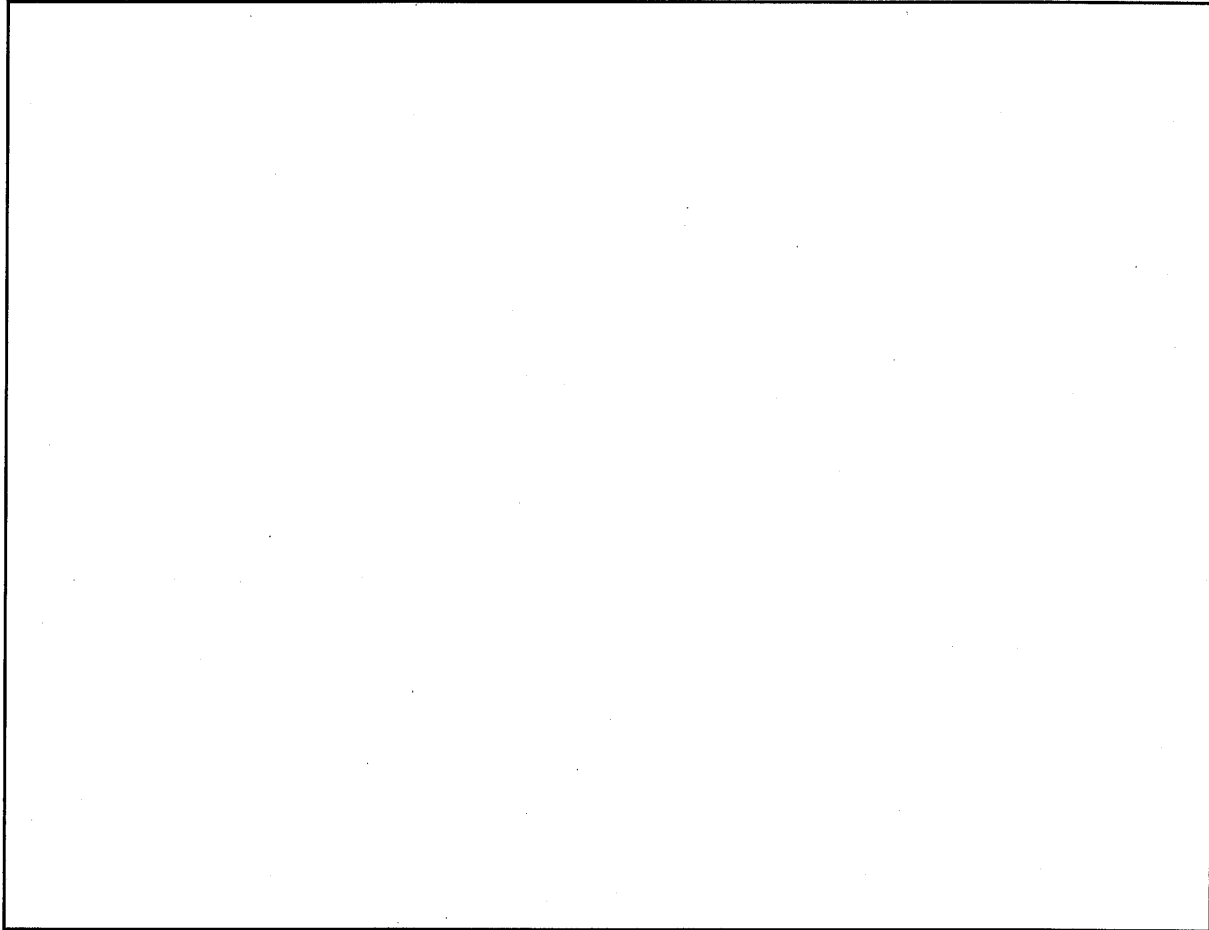
- (U) HMG lost a suit filed in the British courts by the former residents of the Chagos Archipelago. The court ruled that the UK's original order to depopulate the islands was unlawful.



- (U) FCO has notice of a second lawsuit that asks HMG to admit that the continued exile of the Ilois from Diego Garcia is unlawful.



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US Perspective and Overview

US

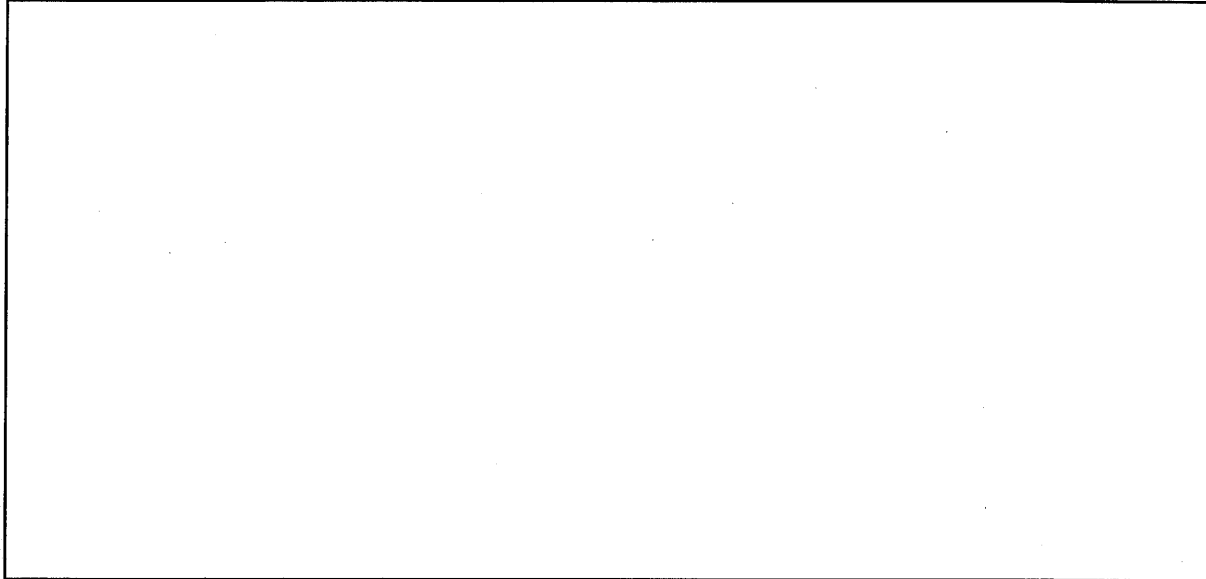
- (U) Maintaining the unpopulated state of the outer Chagos Islands is fundamental to force protection efforts because we do not have to expend personnel or resources to ensure the safety and integrity of main island military operations.
- (U) US plans for future military uses of the outer Chagos Islands cannot be ruled out because of the dynamic nature of political, military and technological change that we cannot foresee.
- (U) Current plans estimate that the tempo of operations of the US air facilities on Diego Garcia could increase in future years.
- (U) Currently, the USAF's Air Expeditionary Force's (AEF) Bomber Forward Operating Location (FOL) concept designates Diego Garcia as one of several critical forward strategic bomber locations worldwide.
- (U) US plans to expand specific infrastructure upgrades to accommodate the USAF's AEF capability have been presented to HMG for approval.
- (U) These upgrades will allow us to stage and operate potent military forces in a key location to cover critical contingencies in East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.
- (U) Having military forces and capabilities at key locations (like Diego Garcia) allow us to ensure our national security interests are protected and (if need be) successfully defended without undue hindrance of any kind.
- (U) Repopulation of the outer islands is contrary to the terms of the agreements between our governments regarding Diego Garcia and creates the risk of seriously compromising military operations due to the potential for the introduction of surveillance/monitoring/electronic jamming facilities - even on islands a considerable distance from Diego Garcia.

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- (U) US-UK agreements require the UK to consult with the US before making any decisions affecting the sovereignty of the BIOT.
- (U) The USG does not wish to encourage HMG to pursue the idea of conveying sovereignty over part or all of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. We do not want to open the Chagos to any activities that could degrade the strategic importance of Diego Garcia, especially as we execute Operation Enduring Freedom.



Update on Legal Proceedings in US

- (U) Displaced Chagossians filed a class action suit on December 20, 2001 in U.S. District court against the USG and certain named individuals.
- (U) They seek immediate return to Chagos Archipelago, limited commercial access of DGAR airstrip, equal access and employment opportunities on DGAR, and damages in excess of \$2 million for each of approximately 4466 Chagossians (includes descendents of those displaced).
- (U) Motions to dismiss were filed on behalf of the USG and the individual defendants on March 21, 2001.
- (U) The court's decision regarding the Motion to Dismiss is not anticipated until early fall.
- (U) The plaintiffs also filed a motion for preliminary injunction on February 14, 2002 to prevent the USG from excluding them from the Chagos Islands and from discriminating against them in hiring civilian employees for Diego Garcia.

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- (U) The USG filed its opposition to the motion for injunctive relief on February 25, primarily contending that control of the Chagos Islands is in the hands of HMG and denying employment discrimination.

Strategic Value & Future Plans for Diego Garcia

US

- (U) DGAR has and continues to meet the Strategic Objectives of the UK and US. Examples include Operations: EARNEST WILL, DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, DESERT STRIKE, DESERT THUNDER, DESERT FOX and ENDURING FREEDOM.
- (U) DGAR's strategic value is enhanced by its strategic location, strategic denial, low force protection requirements, protected harbor and limited over flight and sea restrictions.
- (U) DGAR's operational significance is due to its use as an Air Force Forward Operating Location (FOL), a MSC afloat pre-positioning harbor, a key tanker base, a P-3 support site, a Coalition support site and for the availability of an SSN pier in theater.
- (U) The future plans for DGAR include continued use as a supply/logistics preposition site, continued support for the Maritime patrol operations of CENTCOM/PACOM and future use for contingency surge operations to support the GWOT and other potential operations.

Special Projects Update

US

Revised infrastructure; new construction and other needs

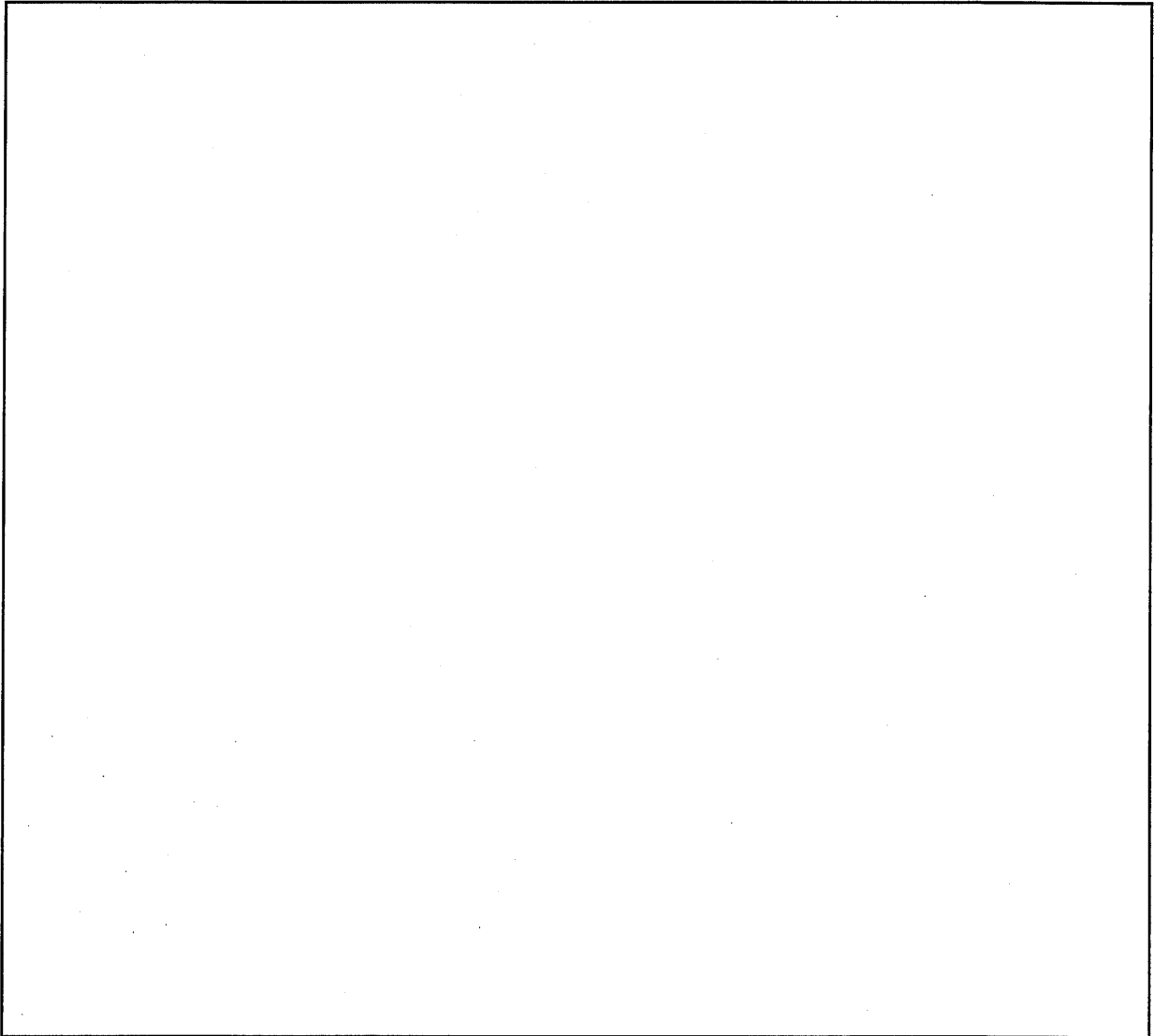
- (U) Major projects that are in progress or proposed for approval are:
 - New telephone communications remote switch facility
 - New (permanent) ammo handling pad
 - New AMC Squadron Operations Facility
 - AEF FOL Cantonment Area QOL Improvements
 - Four B-2 Bomber Shelters
 - Air defense radar
 - Waterfront Operations Support Facility
 - Cold storage facility
 - Construct 300-person dormitory and supporting facilities in "downtown" area of base
- (U) The more transparently and fully we justify our requests, and the more directly we draw connections to

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the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), the more smoothly and quickly we will achieve our objectives.



Environmental Issues

UK then US

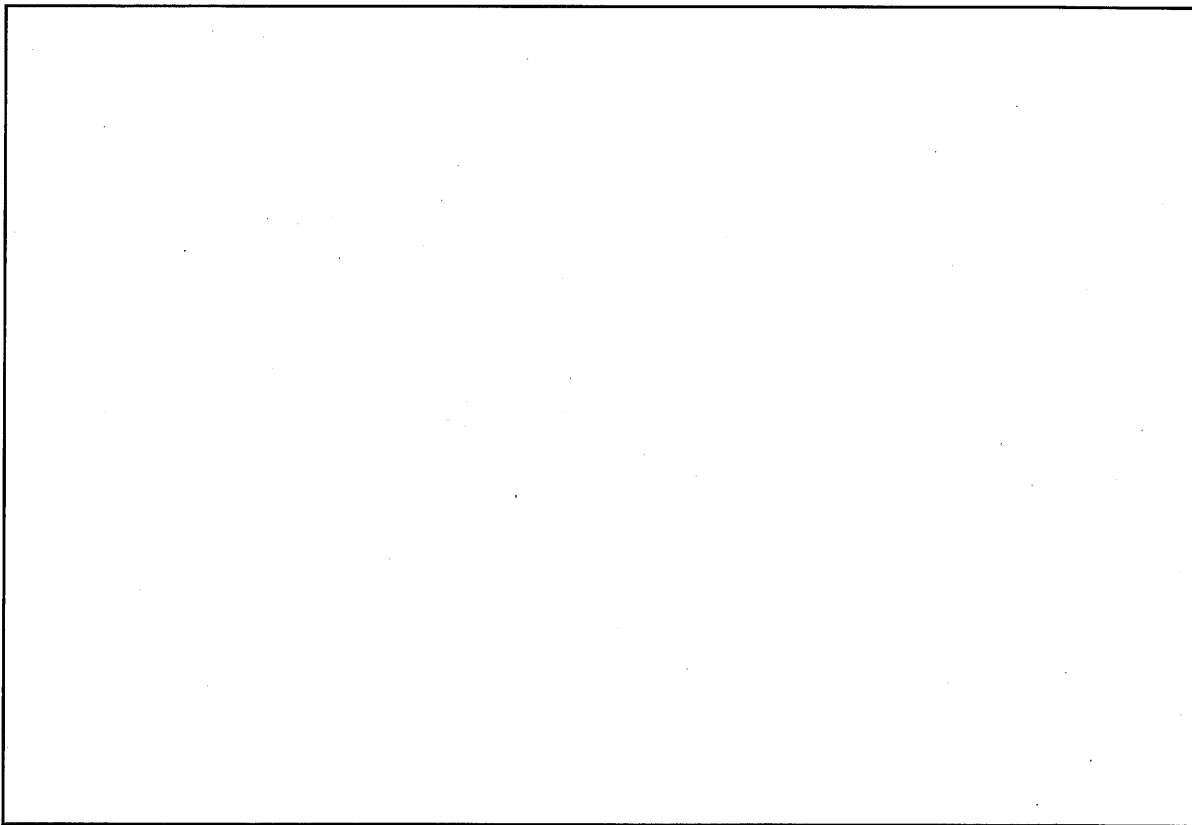
- (U) HMG is concerned about:
 - (U) The hold up on installation on the solid waste incinerator
 - (U) Solid Waste Incinerator Failed (1983 vintage), second incinerator installed in Jan 2002 to handle additional load.
 - (U) Oil Spill recovery Process progress and the plan for its future completion.
 - (U) Progress on South Ramp cleanup largely stalled since bio-slurpers removed for OEF operations

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- (U) Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP)
 - (U) Good momentum on 5-year plan
 - (U) Review and update of the NRMP programmed for fiscal year 2002. Scientific surveys will again be conducted by professionals from Hawaii with an estimated completion date of December 2003
- (U) Ongoing NRMP survey of dredged reef area
- (U) Pollution Inventory of Lagoon and discharge inventory
- (U) Cats/Rats/Flowers/Fauna
- DGAR recognized for excellence by USN - Winner of the CNO Environmental Awards Competition for FY 2001 in the "Natural Resources Conservation Small Installation Award." Recognized for exceptional environmental stewardship and excellent team efforts.



Miscellaneous Issues

Telecommunications Issues

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- (U) Current BRITREP, his predecessors, and the UK have been adamant in defense of the exclusive license granted to C & W for all telecommunications on and off Diego Garcia.
- (U) State Department agreed to this arrangement in 1982 (consenting to the grant of the license in force through 2011) and it has been consistently accepted it as the USG position.
- This topic will be discussed in the joint island perspective brief to be presented by CO NSF and BRITREP and will discuss the success and innovation under the longstanding agreement.
- In the past year, we've seen rate reduction from over \$1.00/minute to 40 - 80 cents/minute, depending upon time called.
- An MWR agreement, contracting for Internet hookups at a cyber cafe and other island locations (free for all to use) also resulted in C & W dropping monthly subscriber fees, reducing post-9/11 rates and providing free holiday calls home to all on island.
- USAF troops are issued C&W phone cards to call home at no expense to the troops **(TBC with COL King, 13th AF)**.
- USAF is satisfied with the way these cards are funded (now that they have been able to work through the initial funding difficulties) and does not want to push for personal DSN use troops **(TBC with COL King, 13th AF)**.
- USAF does not want to raise the C&W contract at the talks or allow it to affect UK approval of the remote comm switch project troops **(TBC with COL King, 13th AF)**.
- The new comm remote switch updates can/will allow control of DSN for personal use and there is no intention of using the new switch updates as a way to allow Morale calls outside of the C&W contract. **(TBC with COL King, 13th AF)**.

BOS Contract and Contractor Living Conditions

- (U) BOS contractor workers are generally housed in sea huts that were the original housing for US Navy SEABEES during construction of DGAR in the 1970's.
- (U) Renovation is underway in many sea huts producing a "super sea hut" with increased square footage, new walls, rooms (including washrooms and kitchens).

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- (U) MILCON that contains provisions for new super sea huts that can remain for local employees are received favorably by the UK.
- (U) Replacement of AMC Squadron Operations Facility - \$4.5M - includes a super sea hut built for construction workers that will remain for local employees to provide more improved housing.

Conclusions and Agreed Action Points

UK/US

Possible Sidebar Issues:

Ascension Island: Wideawake Airfield

- (U) Negotiations are ongoing with HMG for opening Wideawake Airfield on Ascension Island to civilian charter flights.
- (U) Final issue to iron out is the cost for commercial use of the airfield.
- (U) HMG agreed that a USG proposed landing fee would be the best way forward since it is the least subjective option and easiest to administer.
- (U) HMG is ready to discuss the amount of landing fees that they would be willing to agree to.
- (U) Dates for a US/UK meeting to complete final details have not yet been set.

Bermuda: Closure of Leased Bases

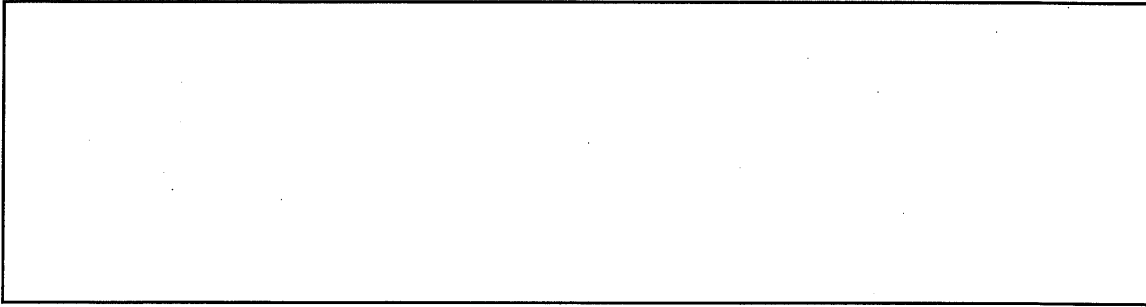
- (U) Negotiation of an Executive Agreement with the UK that would provide for the termination of the 1941 Leased Bases Agreement and for an \$11 million payment to the UK in consideration for the termination of all US obligations relating to the maintenance and repair of the Longbird Bridge commenced last May.
- (U) DoD is providing \$11 million dollars from FY02 funds and wants to complete payment by June 30, 2002 at the latest.

-
- (U) HMG would like to conclude this agreement soon and will not be happy with further delays.

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- (U) Once the C-175 process is completed, we intend to schedule a ceremony in Washington to conclude the agreement with an exchange of notes.

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