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P31



RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(A), 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

# United States/ United Kingdom Political Military Talks 2005

September 07-08, 2005  
Washington D.C.

SECRET/REL UK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK H PEREZ  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(A), 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 6 SEP 2030  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 DEC 2006 200503422



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# Schedule of Events

## 7 Sep 2005



- **Administrative, Political, Legal, Military Operations (U.S./UK)**

**0830: Plenary: Registration/Greeting – Pastries/coffee**

**0900: Commence Talks**

- Welcoming Remarks and Introductions:
- Colonel Stutzriem (Director PM/ISO)
- Mr. Crombie (BIOT Commissioner)
- Admin/Logistics/Agenda review - Captain Ponds
- Review 2004 Talks - Captain Ponds (PM/ISO Senior Naval Advisor)

**UK comments: Mr. Crombie**

– **Island Overview:**

- **State of Affairs UK perspective - CDR Chris Davies, BIOT British Rep**
- **State of Affairs: U.S. perspective - Capt Gil Birklund, CO NSDF  
DGAR**

**1030: Break**

**1045: Reconvene**

**1150: Lunch - \*Hosted – AMB Likins – 8th Floor Dining Room**

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# Schedule of Events

## 7 Sep 2005



- **Administrative, Political, Legal, Military Operations (U.S./UK) (con't)**

**1300: Political/Legal Issues  
(U.S.)**

- Relations with Mauritius- CDR Theresa Mitchell (PM, Legal Advisor)

**(UK)**

- Update of court cases-
- Relations with Mauritius (update on sovereignty claim) – Mr Crombie
- Relations with the Chagossians (update on proposed visits) – Mr Crombie
- Legal case update - Ms Helen Mulvein (FCO Legal Advisor)

**1430: Break**

**1445: Security Issues**

**Mr Crombie - UK**

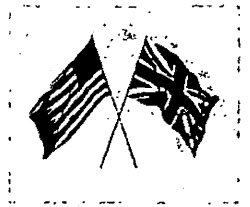
- Presentation of two incursions (Issue, response, prevention)
- Intelligence sharing
- Third Party access review

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## Schedule of Events 7 Sep 2005



- **Administrative, Political, Legal, Military Operations (U.S./UK) (con't)**

**1630: Break (PM Conference Room 5817)**

**- Diego Garcia Strategic Importance Brief –  
LCDR Richard Davis,  
JCS-J5 (SEA)**

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# Schedule of Events

## 8 Sep 2005



- **Infrastructure (MILCON), Environmental, MSC Operations (U.S./UK)**

0830: Pastries/coffee

0900: Operational Issues

- DG-21 2006 Contract tender/ renewal – CDR Williams (NSF, ROIC/PWO)
- Mauritian Employment
- Contract bidding / hiring issues
- Infrastructure/MILCON
  - Base Projects
  - SSGN / Deep Draft Wharf Improvement

1030: Break

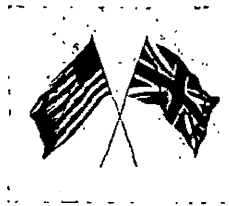
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# Schedule of Events

## 8 Sep 2005



- Infrastructure (MILCON), Environmental, MSC Operations (U.S./UK) (con't)

**1045: Reconvene – Irregularity of military flights (AMC) – Capt Birklund**  
**Security Issues (con't)**

- Patrol vessel update
- Intelligence Sharing
- Third party access
- Presentation of two incursions
- *Illegal fisheries and camps on outer islands*
- OPLAN Bevington

**US comments – Capt Birklund /Capt Bough**

**1230 - 1400: Lunch**

**1330: Compensation (Selected Audience)**

**1400: MSC Operations - Mr William Storz (MSC)**

**Environmental issues**

**- Report on US Natural Resource Management Plan – Ms Vanessa Pepi**  
**(NAVFACPAC)**

**- Ocean Thermal Energy Conservation (OTEC) - Mr Spencer Yim**  
**(NAVFACPAC)**

**- Tsunami impact - Dr Charles Sheppard (BIOT Conservation Advisor)**

**- Avian flu – Mr Crombie**

**- Six week conservation visit (2006) – Dr Sheppard**

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## Schedule of Events 8 Sep 2005



1650: Break

1715: Reconvene

- Review agreed upon issues/action items
- Way ahead, plan of action and milestone (POAM)
- Finalize mechanism for tracking action items and exchange of information

Closing remarks

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## SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS



- Focused on political and military issues related to Diego Garcia (DGAR) and addressed developments on DGAR that occurred during the past year.
- Underscored excellent level of cooperation between U.S. and UK
- Emphasized the island's continued strategic importance to our mutual defense interests.
- Noted that OIF placed increased demands on the DGAR facilities, but without undue complications.
- U.S. environmental stewardship was praised.
- Few areas of disagreement with U.S. practices
- Concern over the increased Chagossian resettlement efforts ....
  - pressure by the Government of Mauritius (GOM) for sovereignty.
- - support Chagossian resettlement
  - desires to "confront the U.S and UK on DGAR."

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## SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS

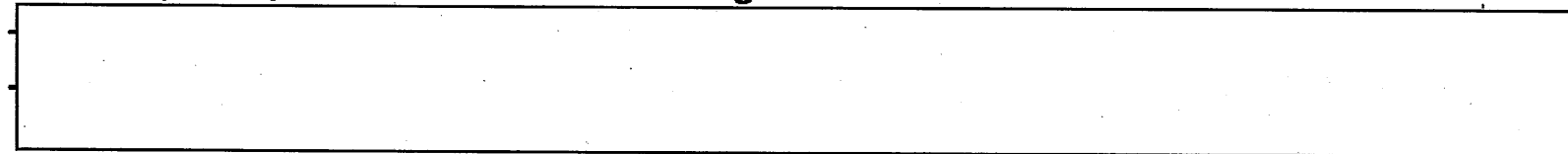


### Relations with Mauritius: UK

- Bi-lateral relations are largely positive, DAGR remains a point of concern.
- Mauritius Prime Minister, Paul Berenger, voiced his views on Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago as bad for the UK.
- GOM could request that the UN General Assembly seek an advisory opinion from the ICJ regarding the creation of the BIOT as illegal under international law.

### Chagossians – UK Litigation & DGAR visits:

- Potential return of former inhabitants to the Chagos archipelago;
- Chagossians to win a litigated settlement and the sympathetic press coverage...politically sensitive issue.
- The majority of Chagossian gravesites are on DGAR
  - The principal destination the Chagossians want to visit.



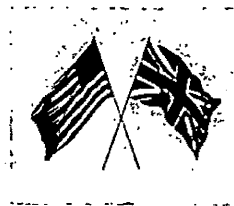
- UK indicated that the UK would need U.S. consent before proceeding.

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# SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS



## Possible Implications of BIOT Expenditure Review

- Reserves to continue operations in BIOT... projections funds will be depleted in 2006-2007.
  - Effect fisheries protection vessel (FPV) operations... eliminate the UK's ability to patrol the outer islands and the waters in the immediate vicinity of DGAR.
- Creates a concern from a security standpoint if the FPV were no longer able to patrol the archipelago, and would address this issue with the appropriate offices within DOD.

## Third Party and Media Access to DGAR

- There had been no significant problems over third-party access.
- HMG's deny all requests for media access to DGAR
- Coordinate between commanding officer NSF, BritRep, and our governments to ensure there are no problems over third party access.

## Detainees on Diego Garcia

- British media reports alleging the USG had used DGAR to incarcerate or transit detainees
- U.S. certified to HMG that at no time have there been any detainees, prisoners of war or any other persons of the sort on DGAR, or who have transited through the territorial seas or airspace surrounding DGAR.

## Employment of Mauritians:

- US noted that we have made and will continue to make a concerted effort to improve the numbers of Mauritians employed on island.

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# SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS



## U.S. Overview: long term strategic value:

- Critical long-term strategic importance of DGAR.
- [REDACTED]
- During GWOT, U.S. /UK forces operating together achieved significant accomplishments.

## Status of U.S. Court Case:

- Bancoult v. the USG and others, pending the U.S. Supreme Court/ Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain

## Chagossians – Resettlement & Contingency Plans:

- Some Chagossians have declared their intent to resettle the Chagos archipelago
- GOM was not openly supporting the Chagossians in their resettlement efforts, it was not discouraging them either.

- [REDACTED]
- USG does not support opening the Chagos to any activities that could degrade the strategic importance of DGAR.
- [REDACTED]

## 1976 Exchange of Notes:

- CONSF/BRITREP stated that the primary challenge they faced on the island was the lack of clarity in the 1976 exchange of notes...the definition of the facility was ambiguous.

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## SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS



### AMC:

- The UK had recently expressed concern over untimely AMC flights into and out of DGAR.
  - had a negative impact on the AMC flights into DGAR.

### Environmental Issues:

- The atoll is in remarkable environmental condition.
- The double-burning system used to dispose of solid waste appears to be effective.
- Though controllable, several invasive species present ongoing challenges to DGAR's relatively fragile ecosystem.
- Population of cats is unlikely to respond to conventional control.
- Ongoing scientific surveys will be key to maintaining the environmental conditions.
- Plans to consider employing ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC).

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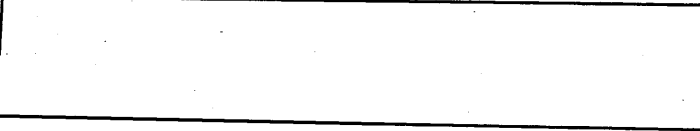


## SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS

Agreed upon - no action; and action items:



Agreed upon - action:

- **Court cases** - both sides to keep the other informed of developments in their respective legal cases. **(DOS)**
- **UK relations with Mauritian government** - U.S. to make known its lack of support for UK ceding sovereignty, and to make efforts to discourage Mauritius from pursuing a the UN General Assembly request for an ICJ advisory opinion on the matter of Chagos archipelago sovereignty. **(DOS)**
- **Possible reinstatement of Chagossian visit** - UK to consult with U.S. concerning any possible reinstatement of a Chagossian visit to DGAR. 
- **BIOT expenditure review** - UK to keep U.S. informed of any decisions with implications for the continued availability of the BIOT fisheries protection vessel.

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## SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS

Agreed upon - no action; and action items:



Agreed upon - action:

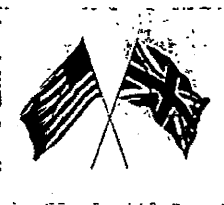
- **Employment of Mauritians** - UK requested U.S. consider the possibility of increasing the Mauritians employed by DG 21 from the new level of 60 to 80 or 90. U.S. indicated its intent to continue to make a concerted effort to hire Mauritians in accordance with the exchange of notes and U.S. laws and regulations and will raise with the Department of Defense COMNAVFORJAPAN) the possibility of pursuing additional hiring. (DoD/CNFJ)

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## SUMMARY OF 2004 TALKS



Agreed upon - no action; and action items:

Agreed upon - action:

- **Review of Agreements** - Both sides to look at the need for clarification of the 1976 exchange of notes. (**CONSF/BritRep/DOS/FCO**)
- **Additional tracking station antennae request** - U.S. to ascertain whether formal approval in principle was given for the existing tracking station. Both sides to then consider how to record such approval and proposed expansion. (**Dod/CJS/CONSF**)
- **Environmental issues** - U.S. and UK environmental specialists to continue to work together and coordinate on environmental issues.

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# Progress Situation Report (SITREP)



- **Format for follow-up reporting**
  - Formal
    - SITREP – Serialized (CABLE, Email)
  - Informal
    - Updates - email
- **Contents**
  - Issue
  - Action
  - Status
  - Last Update
  - Anticipated Plan of Action and Milestone (POAM)
- **Periodicity**
  - Quarterly – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
- **Responsibility** – U.S.- PM/ISO consolidated report
  - UK input to Embassy London for consolidation
  - U.S. input to PM/ISO
- **Action Addees**
- **Info Addees**

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# SITREP FORMAT



**From: State**

**To: ALCON**

**Subject: SITREP – 001/January 06**

- 1. The following is an update of Agreed Upon Action Items from the 2005 U.S./UK POL-MIL Talks.**
- 2. Issue**
  - A. Action Item – XXXX – U.K.**
  - B. Status**
  - C. Last Update**
  - D. Anticipated Plan of Action and Milestone (POAM)**
- 3. Comments:**

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# LUNCHEON ATTENDEES



TABLE 1

(U.S.)

1. Amb Rose Likins, (PM) Acting Assistant Secretary
2. Colonel Lawrence Stutzriem – PM/ISO Director/Lead Delegate
3. CAPT Irv Bough (P) – Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations, Commander Naval Forces Japan
4. CAPT Gil Birklund – Commanding officer, Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia
5. Mr. Stephen Schwartz – Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Mauritius

(UK)

6. Mr. Tony Crombie – Lead Delegate, British Indian Ocean Territory Commissioner, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
7. Mr. Jon Wilks – Deputy Head, Security Policy, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
8. CDR Chris Davies – Commander, British Forces/British Representative British Indian Ocean Territory

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# LUNCHEON ATTENDEES



TABLE 2

(U.S.)

1. Mr. Timothy Ryan – PM/ISO Deputy Director
2. LCDR Richard Davis – USN, Joint Staff J5-Pol/Mil Planner
3. Jane Bocklage – PM/RSAT-Europe
4. Mr. William Storz – Asst Gen Counsel, Military Sealift Command

(UK)

5. Ms. Helen Mulvein – Legal Advisor, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
6. Mr. Keith Wiggs – British Indian Ocean Territory Legal Advisor
7. Mr. Neil Hamilton – Assistant Director, Asia-Pacific, Ministry of Defence

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# LUNCHEON ATTENDEES

TABLE 3



(U.S.)

1. CAPT Frank Ponds – Senior Naval Advisor, PM/ISO
2. Colonel Ronald Stephens – EUR/RPM
3. Ms. Mara Karlin – ISA/NE/SA OSD
4. Mr. Douglas Kim – Commander Navy Installations, Commander Pacific Fleet
5. LCDR Jack Fletcher – Country Director for Southwest Indian Ocean, USPACOM/J5
6. Mr. William Tayler – Director department Navy Shore Energy Office, NAVFACPAC

(UK)

7. Mr. Tony Humphries – British Indian Ocean Territory Administrator, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
8. LCDR Andy Ewen – Diego Garcia Policy Officer, Permanent Joint Headquarters, Ministry of Defence

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# LUNCHEON ATTENDEES



TABLE 4

(U.S.)

1. LCDR Barney Williams – Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia, Public Works Officer
2. LCDR Justin B. Clancy – Judge Advocate General's Corps, Commander, Naval Forces Japan
3. Ms. Pamela Tremont – First Secretary, Political Affairs, Embassy London
4. Mr. Brian Cable – Project Manager Ocean Engineer, NAVFACPAC

(UK)

5. LtCol Nick Slinger – Diego Garcia Policy Desk Officer, Asia-Pacific 1, Ministry of Defence
6. Ms. Jo Brown – Diego Garcia Policy and Finance Officer, Permanent Joint Headquarters, Ministry of Defence
7. Dr. Charles Sheppard – Conservation Advisor to British Indian Ocean Territory

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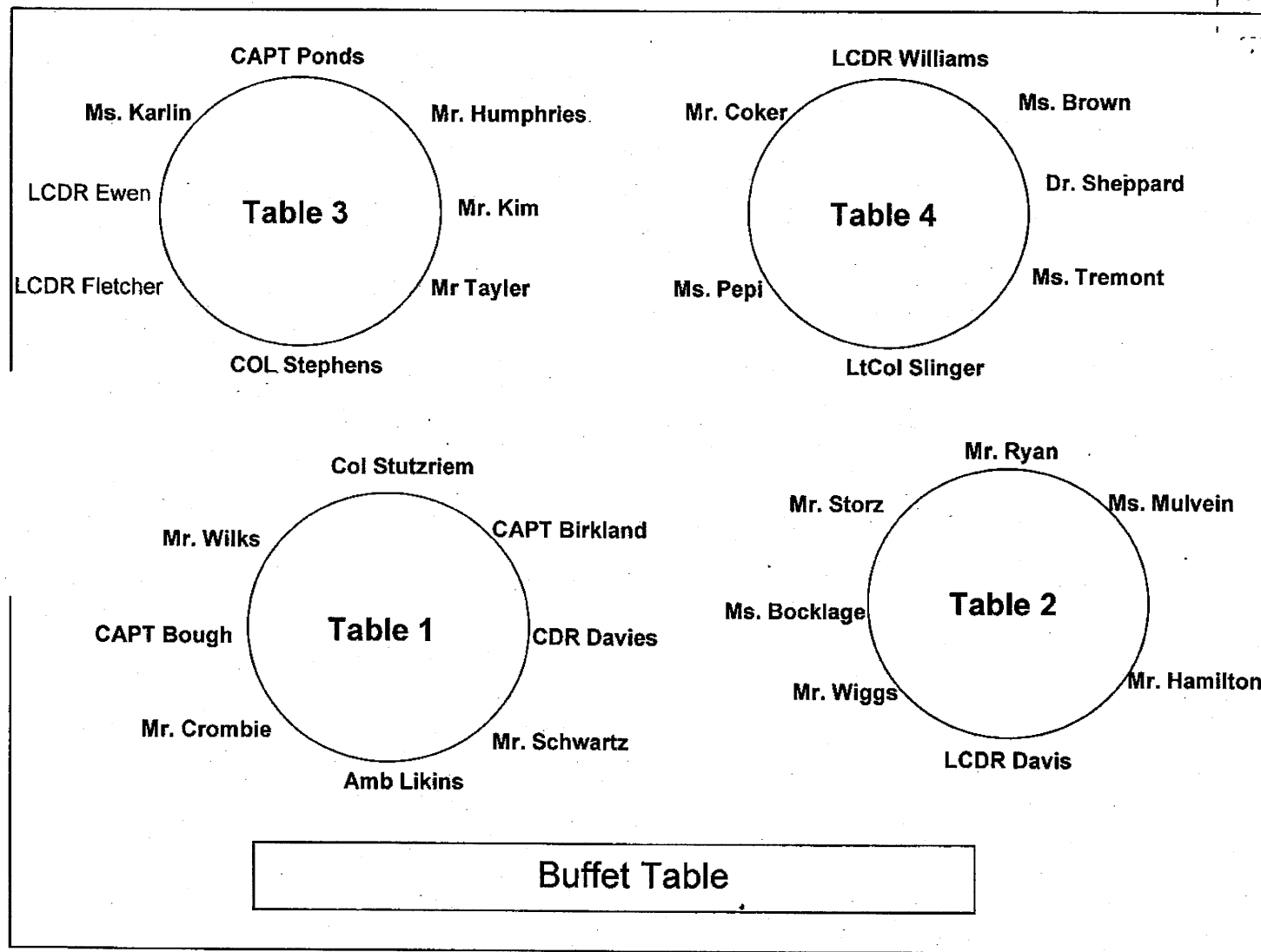
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## U.S.-UK POL-MIL LUNCHEON



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MAIN DINING ROOM



# MISCELLANEOUS

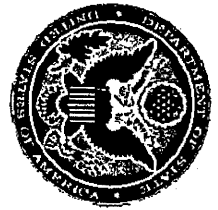


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- Tomorrow's lunch
- Security – Binders
- Departure – Leave Badges
- Speak Up
- Side-Bar Discussion
- Introductions
- Maintain a Collegiate Environment

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# QUESTIONS?



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