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P64.

Bruce W Nichols 07/22/2004 08:46:15 AM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable Text:

SECRET  
TELEGRAM

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(A), 1.4(B), 1.4(D), 1.4(G)  
June 23, 2004

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE

Action: PM

From: AMEMBASSY LONDON (LONDON 4726 - IMMEDIATE)

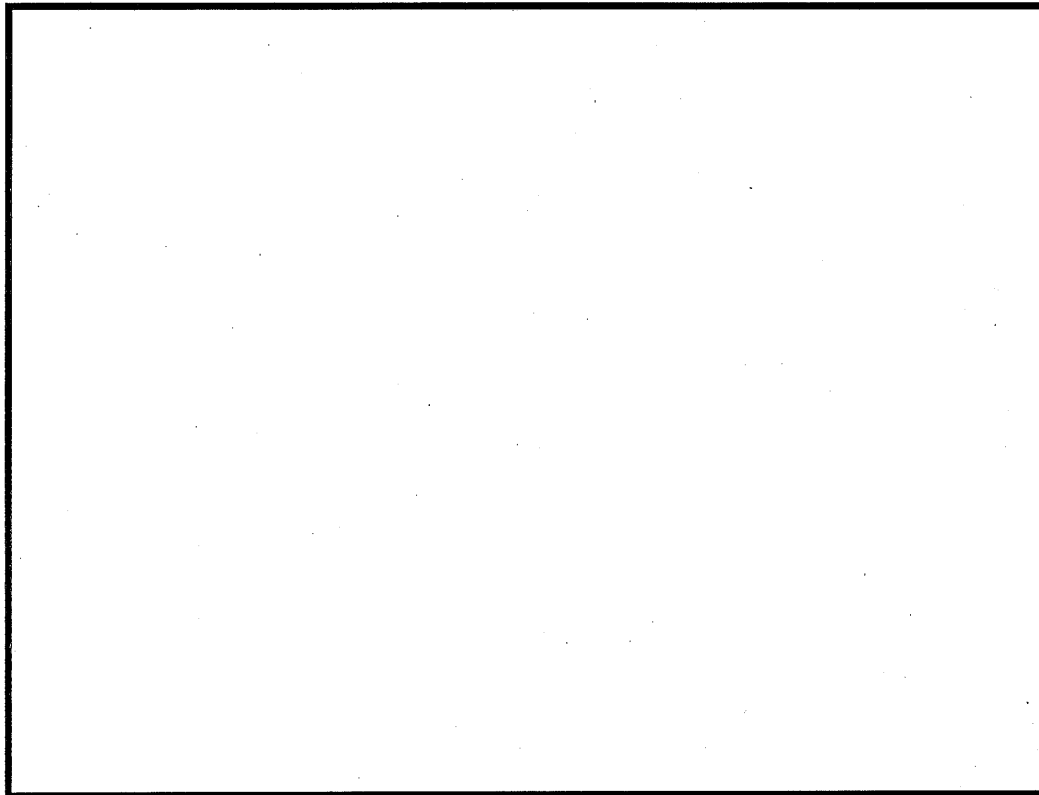
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PREL, UK

Captions: None

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

Ref: None

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



B1

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Delegation participants  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK H PEREZ  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(A), 1.4(B), 1.4(D), 1.4(G)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 JUN 2014  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 DEC 2006 200503422

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## 2. (U) participants included:

### UK delegation:

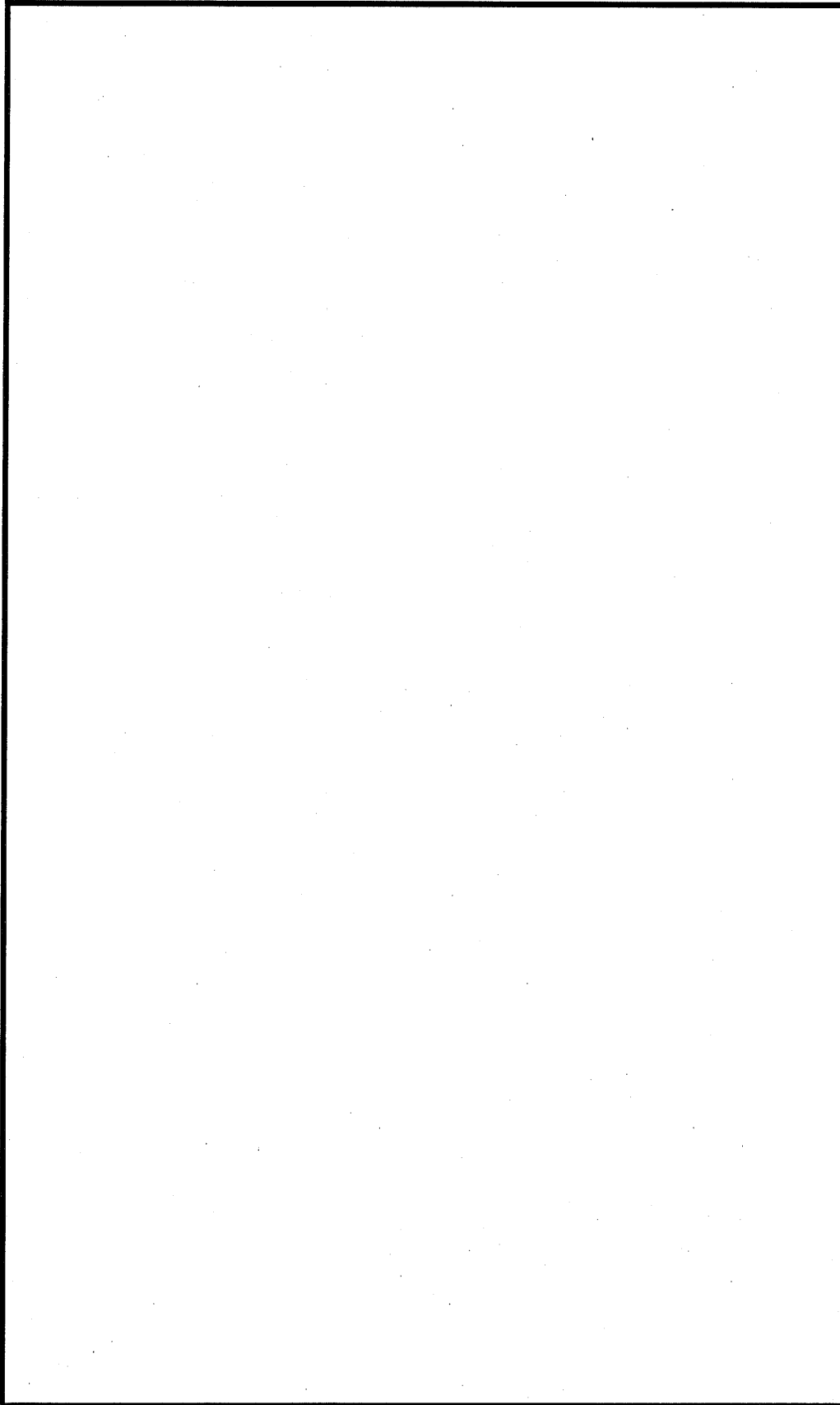
Tony Crombie - head of delegation and FCO BIOT Commissioner  
Sarah Booker - FCO Deputy BIOT Commissioner  
Charles Hamilton - BIOT Administrator  
Karen Maddocks - BIOT desk officer  
Henry Steel - BIOT principal legal advisor  
Jennifer Anderson - deputy head, FCO Security Policy Dept.  
David Ballantyne - 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  
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

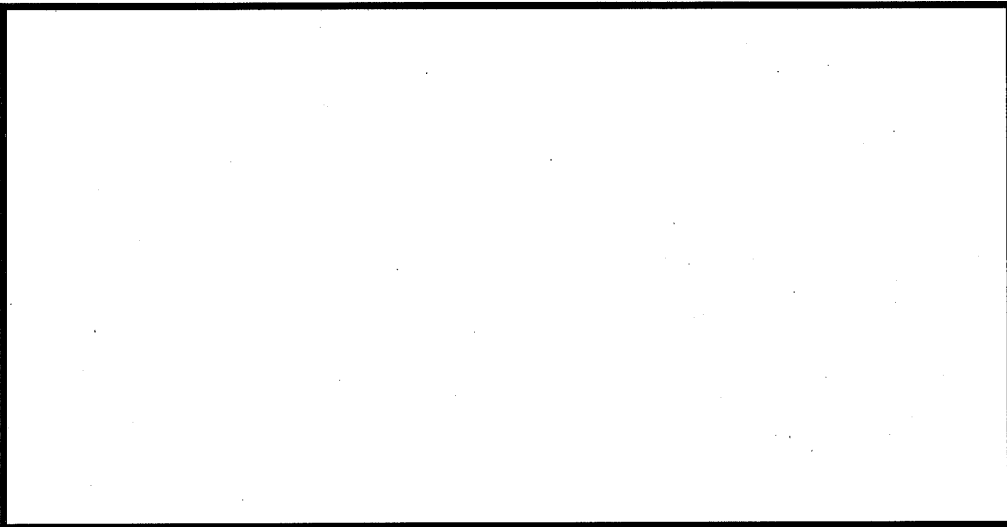
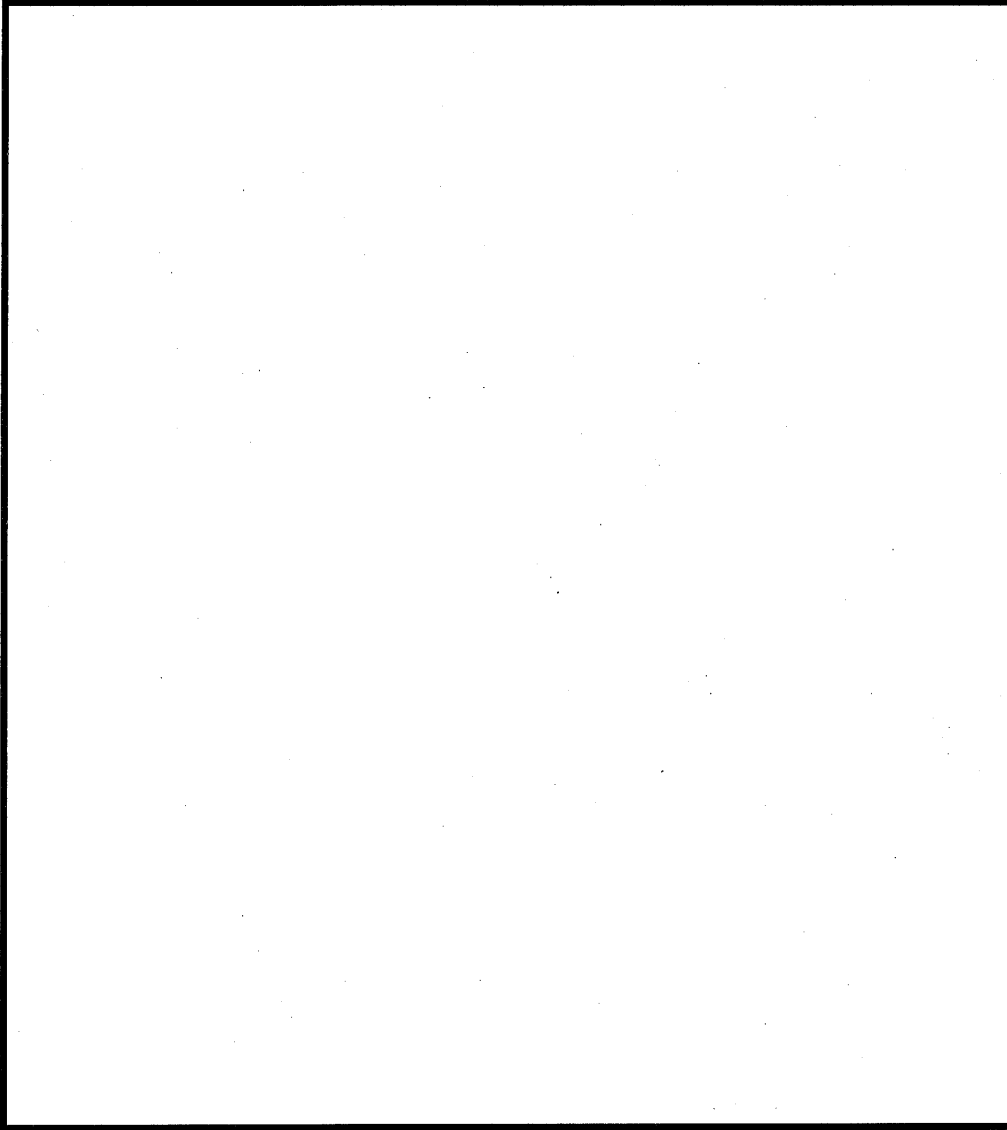
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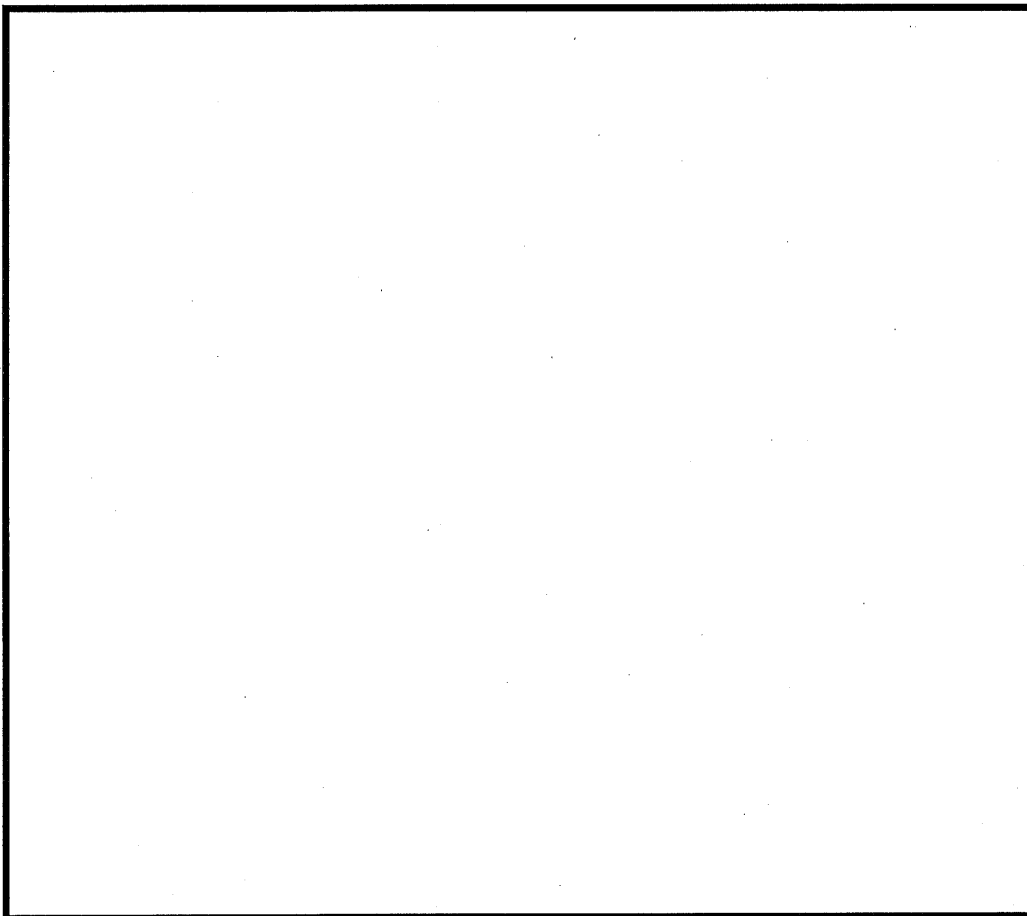
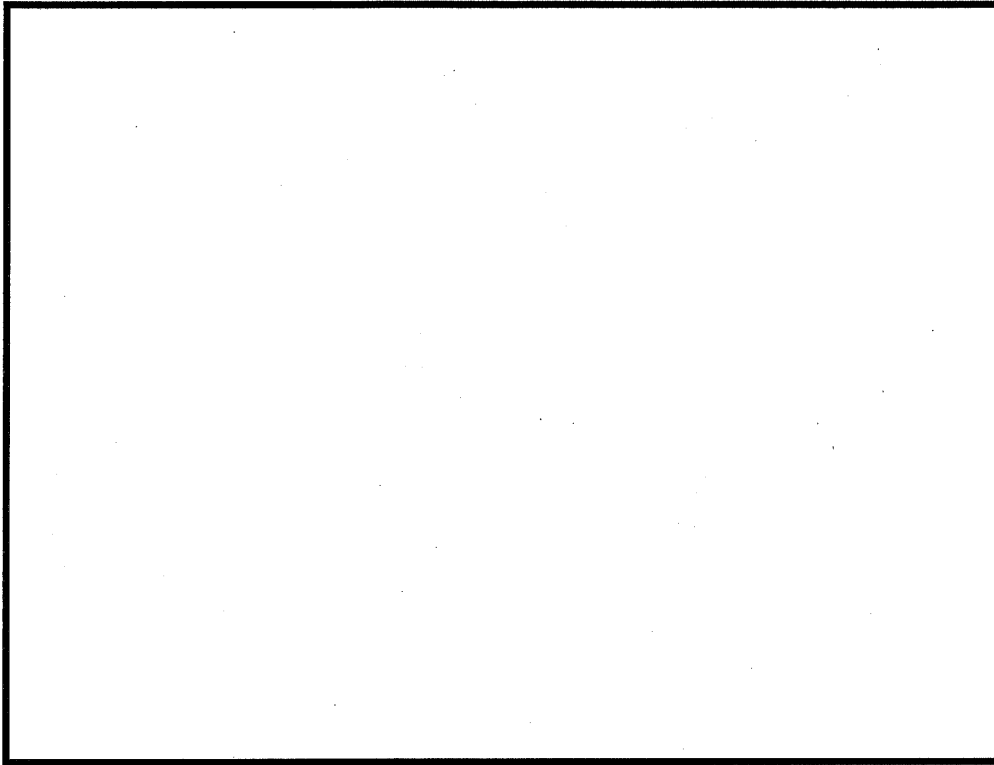
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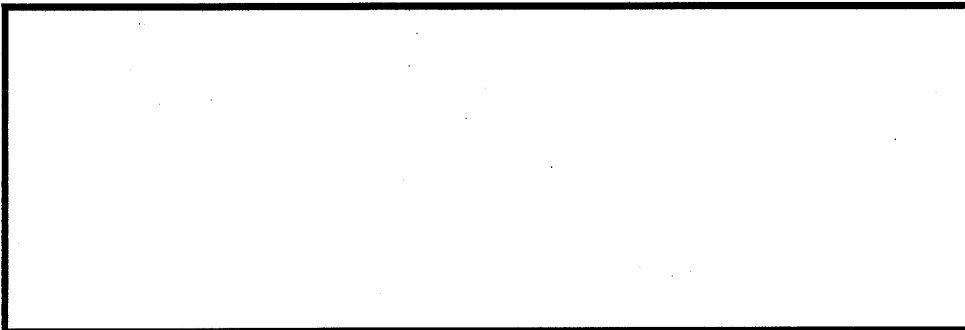
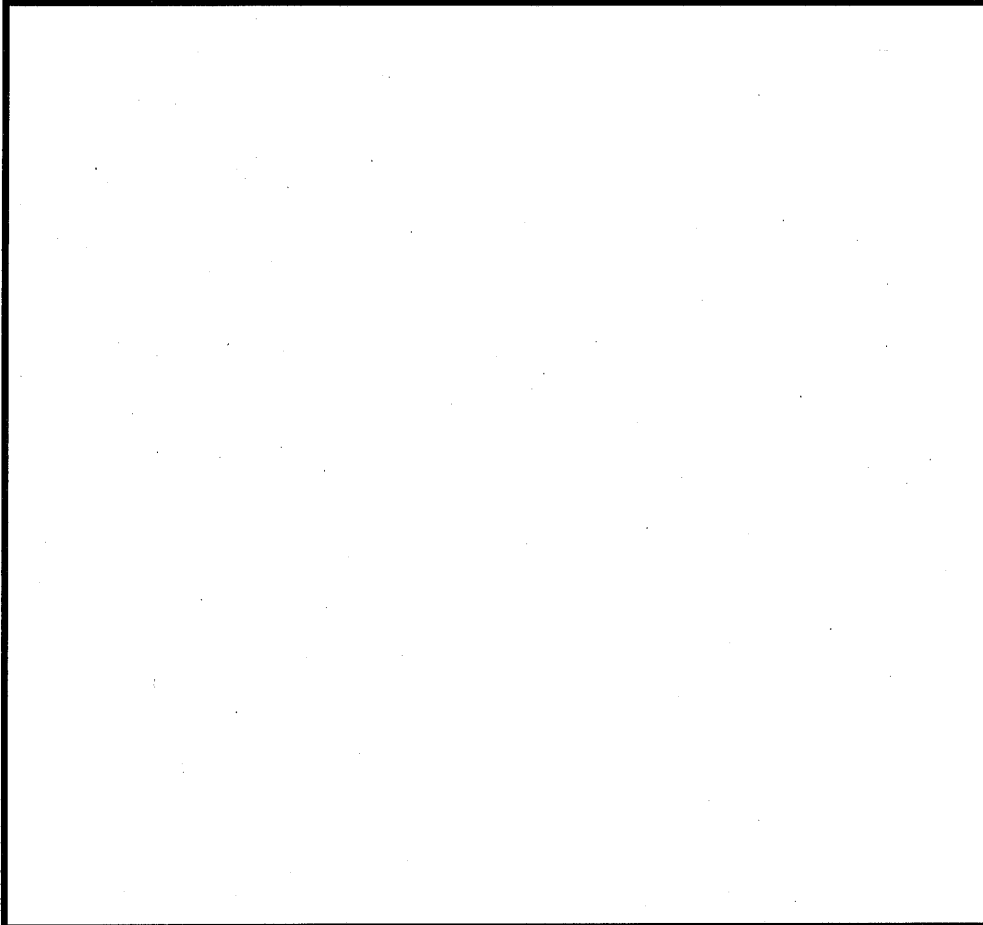
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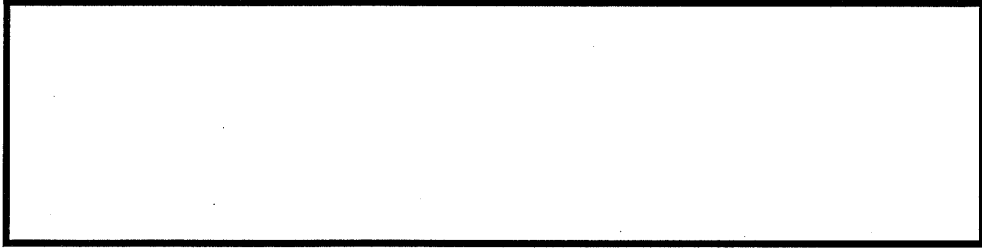


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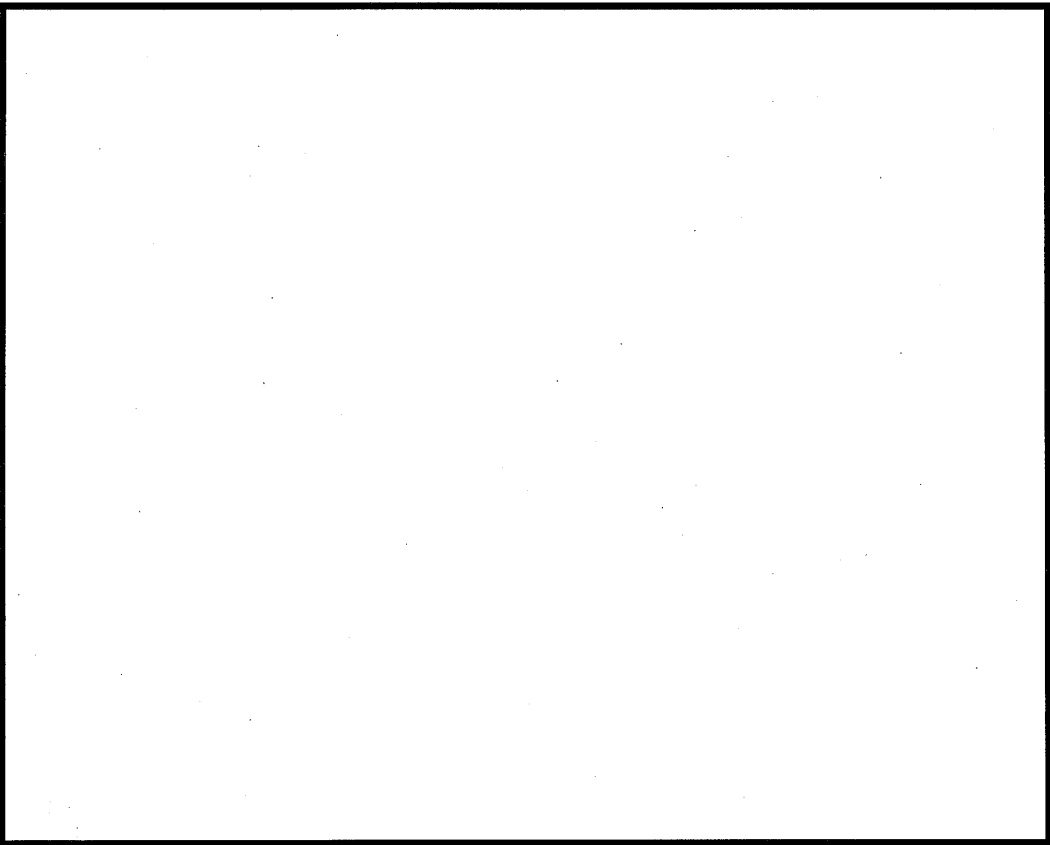
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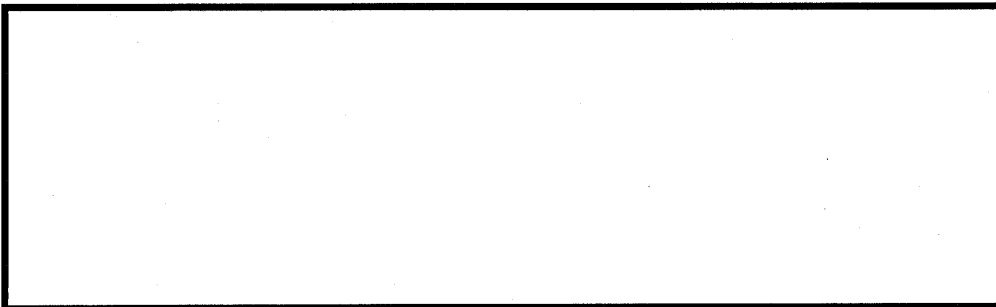
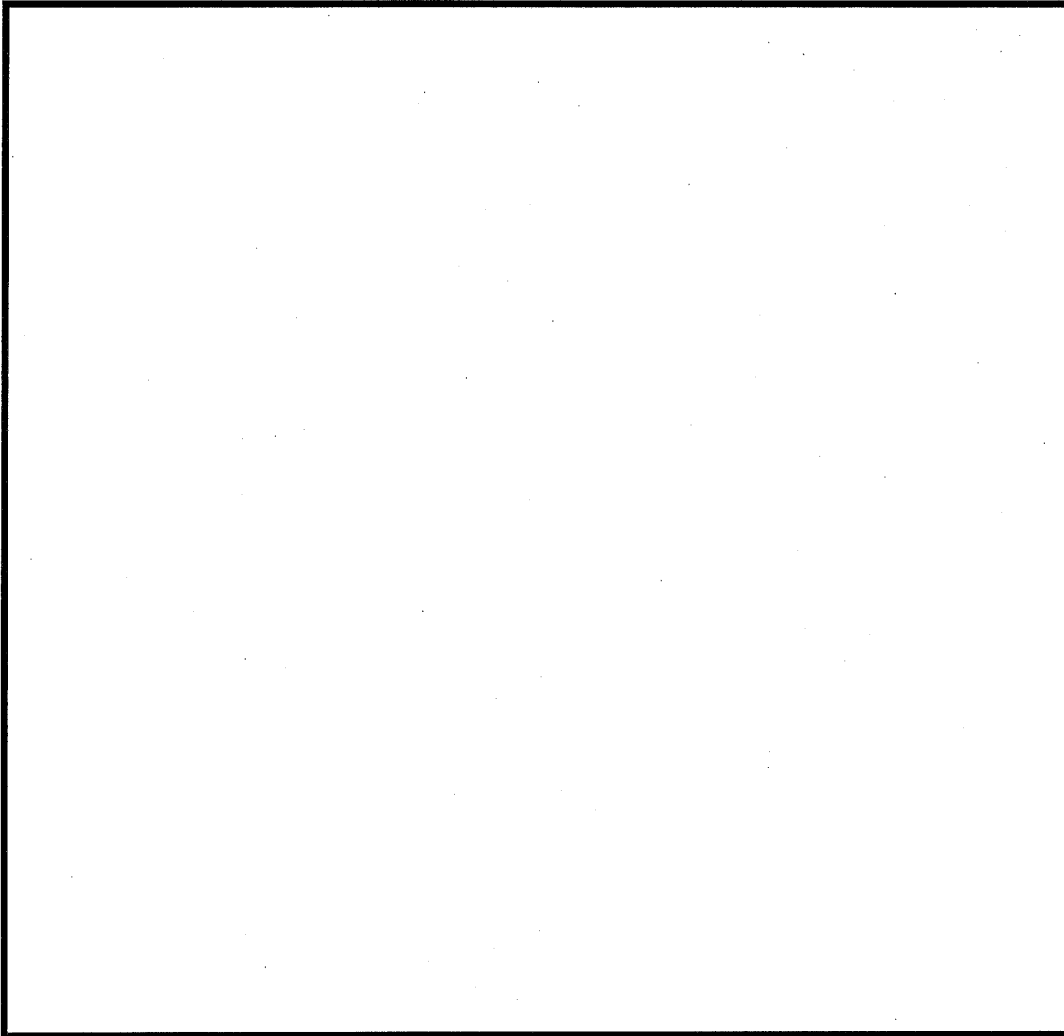
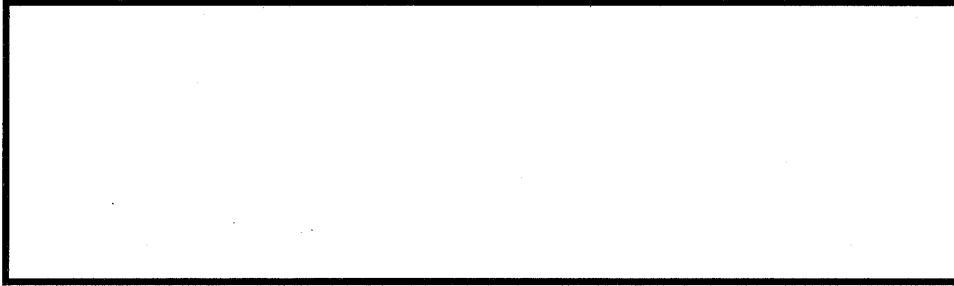
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Status of U.S. Court Case  
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11. (U) CDR Mitchell stated that the U.S. District Court had, on March 26, 2004, stayed the case of Bancoult v. the USG and others, pending the U.S. Supreme Court's decision 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.



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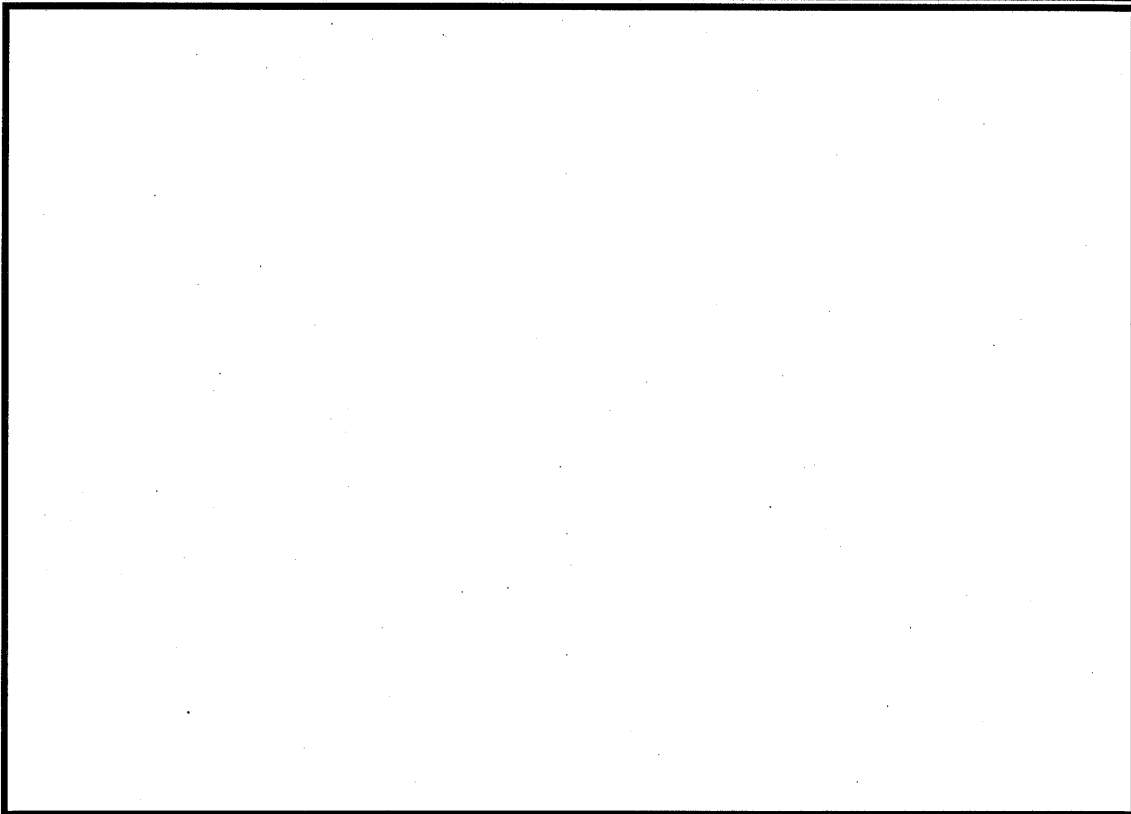
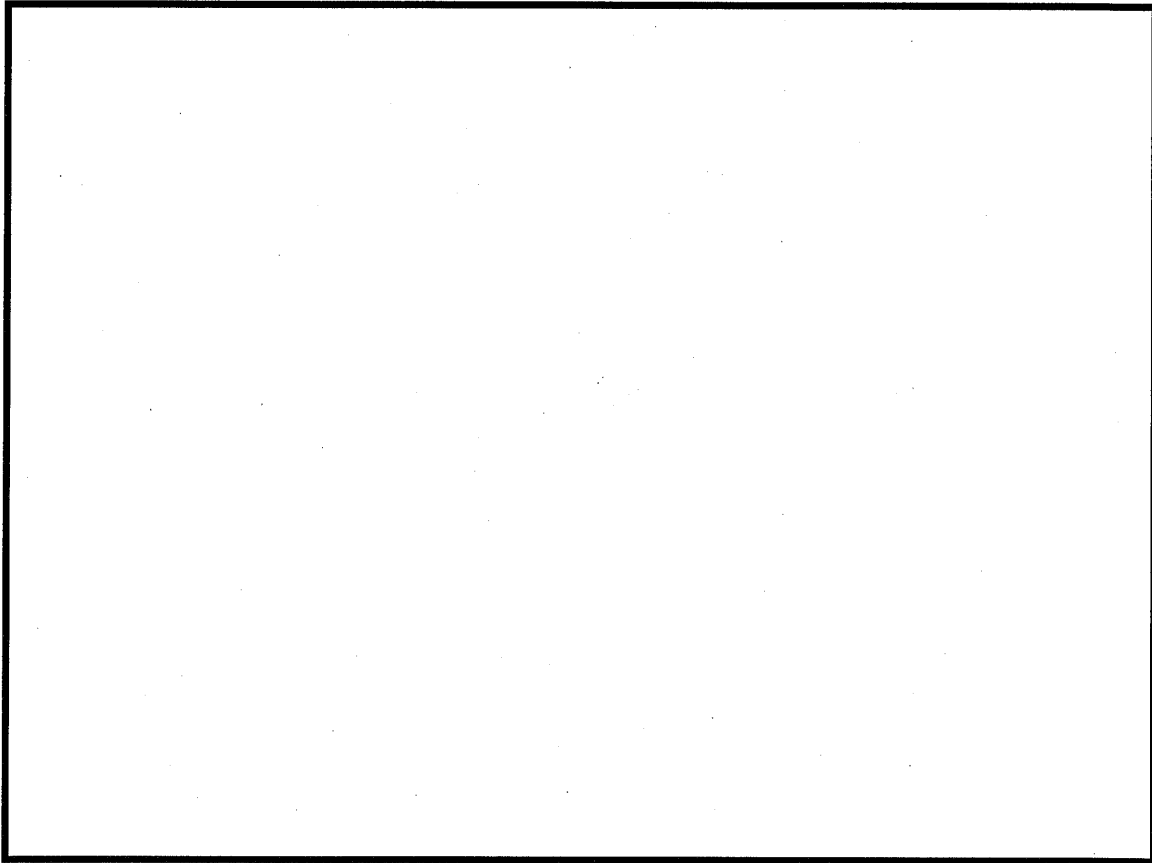
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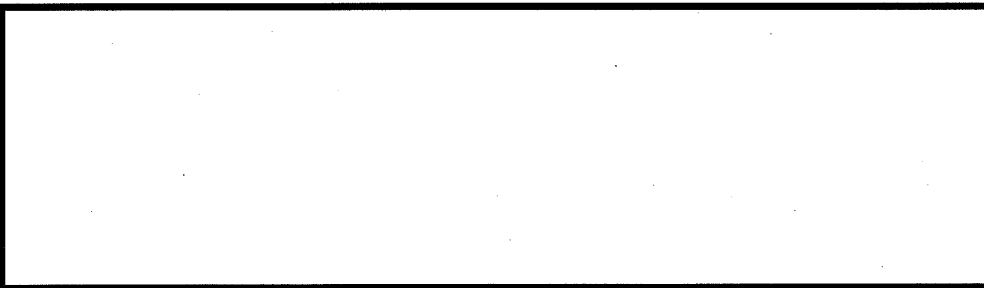
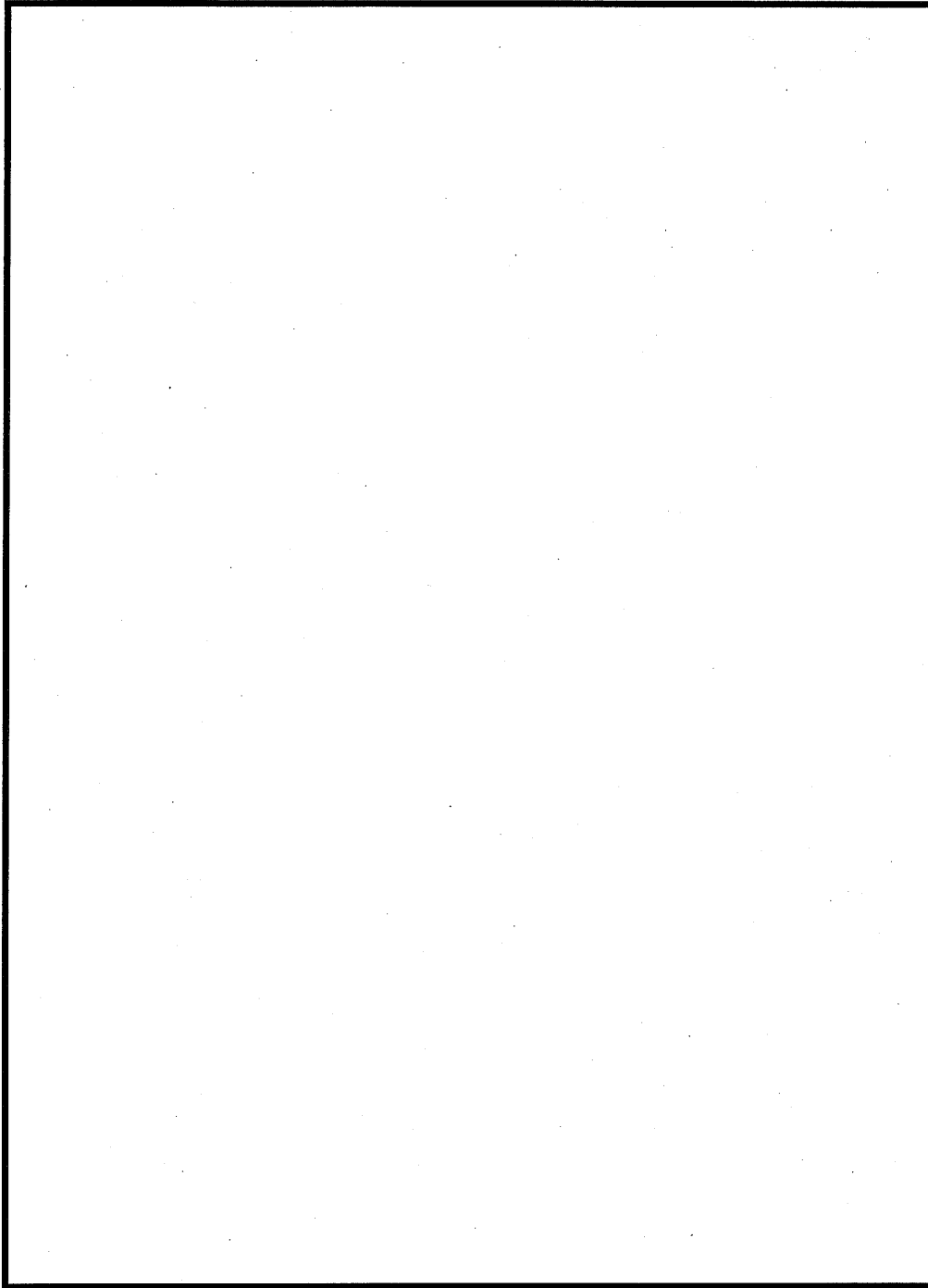


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Environmental Issues  
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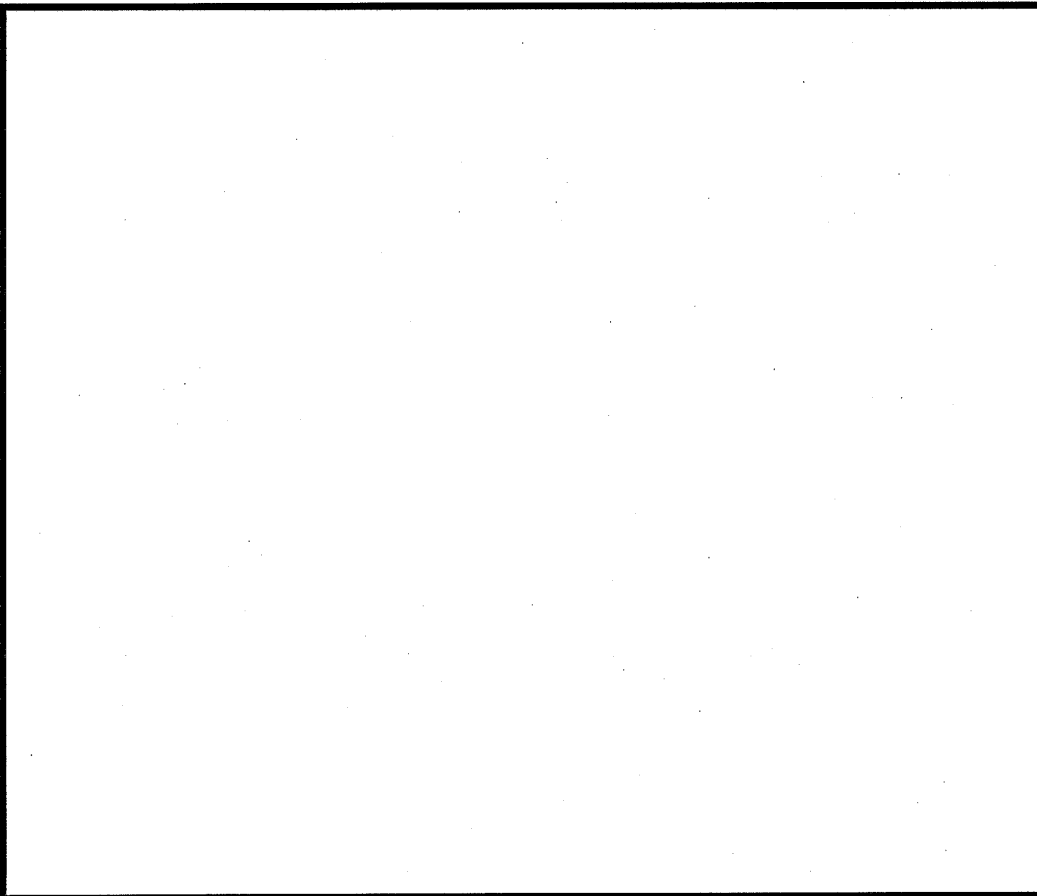
16. (U) Dr. Sheppard, BIOT conservation advisor, briefed the delegations on the environmental issues facing DGAR and recommended courses of action. CDR Helinski, public works officer for NSF, provided an overview of the NSFQs active conservation programs and future environmental proposals. Sheppard assessed 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

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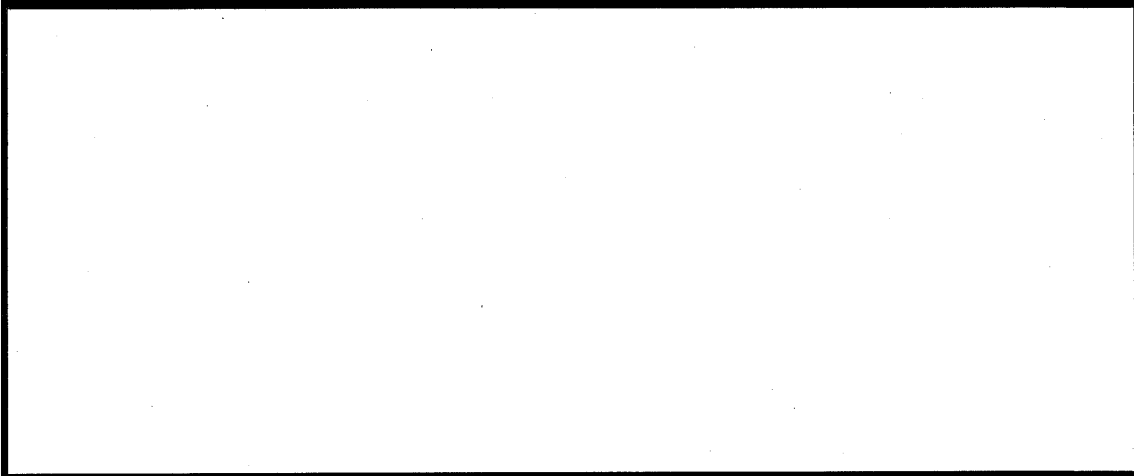
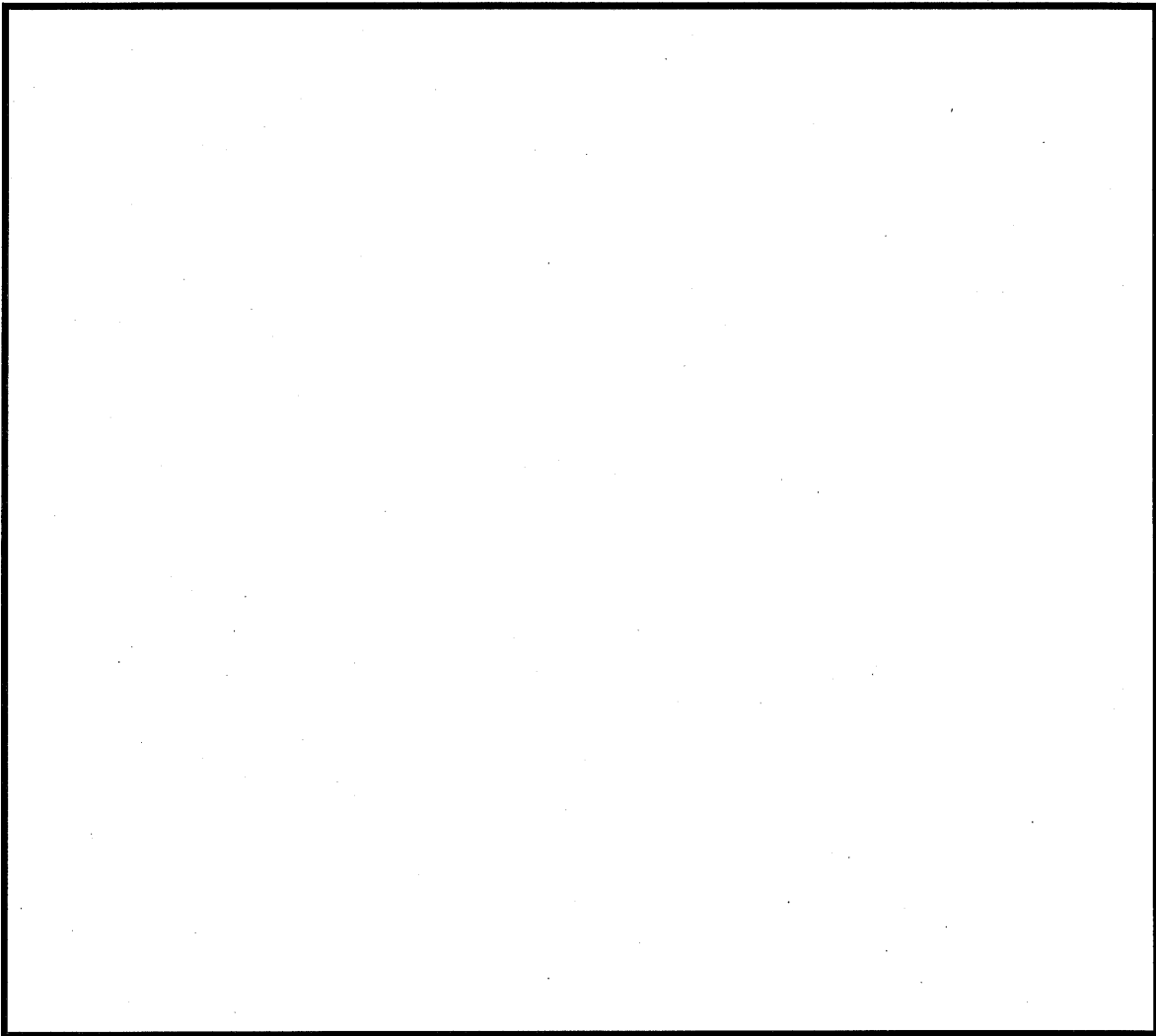
recommended the two sides continue their environmental conservation efforts with heavy emphasis on shoreline erosion in view of challenges posed by global warming, accelerating sea level rise, and the loss of coral reef due to elevated ocean temperatures. The mining of the seaward reef flat adjacent to the island's runway is of particular concern as it has stifled coral growth which protects the 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.



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Johnson

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## Additional Addressees:

None

## cc:

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CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N00J/N42/N51//  
CNO WASHDC//N3/N53/POLAD//  
COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA//00/03/00J//  
COMSC WASHDC//N3/N5//  
HQ ACC LANGLEY AFB VA//CC/XO/XP/POLAD//  
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//J3/J5/POLAD//  
USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL//TCJ3/TCJ5/POLAD//  
USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE//POLAD//  
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP  
HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//OPS/LG/POLAD//  
HQ USAF WASHDC//XO/XP/POLAD//  
HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J3/J5/POLAD//  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//ACJCS/J3/J5//  
NAVSUPPFAC DIEGO GARCIA//N00//

## Distribution:

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	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	NEA-00
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