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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
LONDON

August 28, 2001

Mr. Alan Huckle  
Head of Overseas Territory Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London

Dear Mr. Huckle:

I have the honor to refer to discussions which have taken place between our two governments concerning infrastructure upgrades to the existing United States Navy Support Facility on Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory and its designation as a "Bomber Forward Operating Location" ("FOL").

It is the understanding of the Government of the United States of America that use of the term "support facility of the United States Navy" in the Diego Garcia Agreement 1976 was not intended to restrict the use of the facility as an air staging base or air support facility. In particular, it is the understanding of the government of the United States of America that the infrastructure upgrades it plans to undertake in the annex to this note are consistent with the scope and purpose of the facility pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of the Diego Garcia Agreement 1976, as well as with paragraph 4(b) and (6) of that agreement, which concern use of the anchorage and airfield and the right to install, operate, and maintain such navigational and communication aids as may be necessary for the safe transit of ships and aircraft into and out of Diego Garcia.

I have the further honor to propose that the U.S. Navy Support Facility at Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, be designated as a "Bomber Forward Operating Location" ("FOL"), such designation being consistent with the scope and purpose of the facility pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of the Diego Garcia Agreement 1976. The FOL concept is an initiative intended to improve responsiveness and flexibility in responding to global crises, thus maximizing the effectiveness of the U.S. bomber force by establishing quickly a "bomber forward presence". FOL's will allow the pre-positioning of equipment needed in the event of a crisis or contingency to support the in-theater deployment of bombers, to reduce flight times and to thereby increase sortie rates. This designation will produce no overall increase in the level of planned activity at Diego Garcia and no increase in the annual number of exercises. The FOL concept is merely designed to enhance the base's capability to support current operational activity. It will not change its current status nor will there be any new aircraft permanently stationed at the site. The concept does not represent any change in U.S. strategic doctrine or policy, nor will it change existing prior notification or approval processes or existing agreements for the approval of facility upgrades or other activities, including operations.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK H PEREZ  
DATE/CASE ID: 11 AUG 2006 200503422

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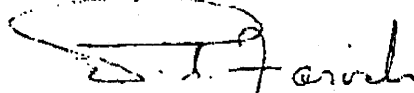
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If the arrangements and understandings set out above are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom, I have the honor to suggest that this Note with its Annex and Your Excellency's reply to that effect will place on record the understanding of our two governments in this matter, which will come into operation on the date of your reply.

Sincerely,



William S. Farrish  
Ambassador

Enclosures: as stated