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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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11 DEC 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Subj: Reindeer Station (U)

1. (S/NF) Late yesterday OPNAV was notified by STATE that the British had received our Airgram of 7 December notifying them of Congressional approval of Reindeer Station. Additionally, the Airgram forwarded several joint action items for UK consideration, and the British had comments concerning certain of these items.
2. (S/NF) The most significant British comment was a request that Reindeer Station be made public before 17 December, so that Parliament may consider the issue prior to their adjournment on that date. If this is to be accomplished, a decision to go public on a compressed schedule will have to be made no later than tomorrow. This will be necessary to allow notification of the littoral countries no later than 15 December. Early declassification is probably wise in light of the proliferation of speculative news articles, but ISA informs us that the decision will have to be made at the Secretarial level in OSD and STATE. ISA has this for action.
3. (S/NF) Additional problems addressed by the British were the difficulty in their removal of the Copra workers prior to construction, arrangements for landing an eight man recon party in January, and the need for an early briefing for the administrator of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). These problems are undergoing study now by all concerned in State, ISA and OPNAV. Inter alia, we will continue to pursue the early removal of the copra workers.

Walter L. Small

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