



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

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OP-611C/tlp
Ser 00657P61

7 DEC 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Via: (1) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans and Policy) 7
(2) Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Diego Garcia Negotiations (U)

Ref: (a) CNO Comment Sheet 3392-71 of 24 November 1971
(b) CNO Comment Sheet 3271-71 of 10 November 1971

Encl: (1) Copy of draft message to US Embassy, London
(2) Diego Garcia Map

OP-00 _____
OP-09 _____
OP-09C _____
OP-002/003 _____
OP-005/006 _____
OP-00C _____
OP-00D _____
OP-00F _____
OP-00G _____
OP-00H _____
OP-00K _____

1. On reference (a) you requested to be advised on the resolution of the negotiations on Diego Garcia in the light of your acceptance of the British position as discussed by Sir Peter Hill-Norton.

2. On 3 December 1971 a new draft package (enclosure (1)) was cabled to the US Embassy, London covering the range of the Diego Garcia negotiations which should be addressed at a diplomatic level. The major concession to the British is the reference to a map which will delimit the area in which permanent structures comprising the facility may be built. There is no concession that "half of the island is ours and half theirs" but rather recognition of a boundary beyond which there is access but in which construction of an immovable nature cannot take place without prior agreement between the two governments. Also included in the draft is a paragraph recognizing that the British may construct whatever defense facility they desire within the area limited to our permanent construction provided both governments agree, and provided their facility is compatible with ours. The same would apply to construction by either government in the area restricted from our permanent construction. The demarkation line will be drawn just east of the transmitter sight as shown on the enclosed map (subject to UK concurrence).

3. British adherence to the map requirement has been primarily based on two requirements: first, to keep open their option for construction of their own facilities on the island at some future date, and second, to insure retention of political control over the island. The limitation of the area on which permanent construction can take place should

00 Note Pg 2

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OP-6110/11p
Ser 00657P61

7 DEC 1971

satisfy these two requirements. However, we have no assurance that the British will in fact accept the map limitations as we conceive them. Nonetheless, we believe we have acceded to their position without jeopardizing our own requirements. The new draft is scheduled to be presented to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during the week of 6 December.

4. In reference (b) you asked "Have I written to the First Sea Lord on this?", referring to the Diego Garcia negotiations and the proposed new tack of working informally with CINCUSNAVEUR to resolve the deadlock. A letter to the First Sea Lord was prepared for your signature reiterating the USN position and requesting whatever assistance he might be able to provide in reaching an early solution to the problem. However, in the light of Sir Peter Hill-Norton's letter and your comments contained in reference (a), the draft letter has been retained in OP-61. It now appears that any correspondence to the First Sea Lord, at least until the outcome of the present negotiations is known, is premature, and I recommend against it at this time.

5. (U) I shall continue to keep you apprised of the progress of the current negotiations.

To: 06

CNO ACTION

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

NOTED

Walter L. Small

WALTER L. SMALL

Director, Politico-Military Policy Division

cc: 09

at looks OK to me.

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