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

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IN REPLY REFER TO
OP-611C/tms
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NOV 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

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

Subj: Diego Garcia - Status Report on International Aspects (U)

Ref: (a) CNO Comment Sheet 1007-71 of 22 March 1971 *W*

OP-00 *2*
OP-09
OP-09C
OP-002/003
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1. (U) In accordance with reference (a), the following is the status report on the international aspects of Diego Garcia for the period ending 31 October 1971.

2. (C) All remaining plantation workers and the plantation manager departed Diego Garcia aboard ISLE OF FARQUHAR on 14 October. In order to provide for UK representation on the island the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has nominated a Royal Navy LCDR to the post who should arrive sometime in late November or early December. As an interim measure, the Island Commander is being instructed on procedures to follow regarding provisioning of visiting yachts, civil disturbance and other such occurrences which would normally be the responsibility of the British liaison officer.

3. (S) STATE has received the latest FCO position on Diego Garcia. The FCO remains adamant on the idea that we limit our construction activity on the island to narrowly defined sites in order to preclude foreclosure of UK options for future defense use of the island. Further, the UK insists it must retain an essential minimum of political control over activities of US forces on British territory. It would appear that once the subject of the restrictive site limitations are resolved in a satisfactory manner, the major impediment to reaching an agreement will be removed. In order to accelerate the pace of the negotiations, we are taking a new tack by working informally through CINCUSNAVEUR to determine future UK defense plans for the island.

4. (C) The monthly C-130 flights to Mauritius were to have commenced some time during the week of 25 October. However, confirmation that the flight actually took place has not yet been received.

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Deputy Director, Politico-Military Policy Division

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