

OAS, NHC, 88, 71, 88, 1970.

C/S 2398-71411

OP-60 FILES

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09/08/79



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
Ser 0533P61

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3 AUG 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Via: Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Diego Garcia - Status Report on International Aspects

Ref: (a) CNO Comment Sheet 1007-71 of 22 March 1971
(b) Op-61 Memo Ser 02170P61 of 9 July 1971

- OP-00 _____
- OP-09 _____
- OP-03C _____
- OP-002/003 _____
- OP-005/006 _____
- OP-006 (U) _____
- OP-00D _____
- OP-00F _____
- OP-00G _____
- OP-00H _____
- OP-00K _____

1. (C) In accordance with reference (a), the following is the status report on the international aspects of Diego Garcia for the period ending 31 July 1971.

a. The UK has finally responded to our draft agreement on Diego Garcia presented to the UK foreign office on 31 March. The major point of difference is the UK's insistence that the geographic scope of the US site be restricted to a part of the island, rather than permit free access to the entire island. The purpose for such a restriction is that at some future date the UK might wish to establish a separate installation on the island and thus desires to retain a portion of the island for such an eventuality. This point will be addressed when a revised counter-draft is submitted to the UK.

b. On the plus side, the draft states that the Agreement shall continue for as long as the BIOT Agreement continues in force (50 years) instead of the original UK proposal of 25 years. Reference to British permission to allow fishing and mineral exploitation of the island and surrounding territorial waters has been deleted because of possible breach of the BIOT Agreement.

c. Details of a counter-draft are currently being worked out by representatives of OPNAV, ISA and STATE.

2. (U) The 3,500 foot interim runway has been completed, and the first C-130 flight from Utapao, Thailand, landed on 19 July. Weekly flights are well established.

3. (C) The Island Commander reported that the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) ship NORDVAER arrived at the end of July and is currently in the process of loading the remaining copra workers and dependents for transfer off of Diego Garcia. However, six Mauritians who maintain the meteorological station will not leave with the copra workers. The British have not yet

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

3038

5330

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completed negotiations on removal of the group or disposition of the meteorological equipment. Further, the British have asked that the US not commence phasing in meteorological activities until Mauritian activity can be phased out. In connection with this, the US Ambassador in Port Louis has asked that Navy provide food for the six, since present source of supply will be removed once the copra workers depart. Payment would be made to the US Ambassador, Port Louis, then transferred to Navy. The Island Commander envisions no problem with this arrangement. However, all efforts should be exerted to conclude negotiations on removing the Mauritians before their presence takes on an air of permanency. HVB

4. (C) On 19 July the British Foreign Commonwealth Office was presented with the blanket request for use of Gan in emergency conditions for the C-130 flights. The request is under consideration, but early reply is not anticipated. Should any emergency arise prior to receipt of blanket clearance, on-the-spot clearance will be requested.

D. B. Shelton

D. B. SHELTON
Acting Director, Police-Military Policy Division

Copy to:

Op-03
Op-04
Op-06
Op-094
Op-941
Op-942
Op-44
Op-60
Op-602
Op-605

*I think we should
continue to press hard
for all the island.*

WMC

1/1 Coman

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*2/00 gain in person for 656
to sign to Police Unit*

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