

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : Op-002

FROM : Op-61

SUBJECT: Item on Indian Ocean base in Washington Whispers Column of 10 March 1969 issue of U. S. News and World Report (U)

Ref: (a) Op-002 verbal request that we check out truth of subject item  
(b) Op-06 penciled note: "Have 61 prepare status memo"

1. (C) In compliance with references (a) and (b), efforts have been made to establish the credibility of the subject item.

2. (C) State J/PM was queried to see what might be learned from within State or, (through State) from the White House staff. J/PM offered the following comments: Through congressional liaison, it is known that the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee will not consider MilCon portions of the DOD Budget until the entire DOD Budget has been considered. Further, the DOD Budget will not be considered until after the SecDef posture statement has been received and this has not yet been forthcoming. From the foregoing it can be seen that consideration of the Diego-Garcia project will be delayed. It is estimated that a delay of 4-6 weeks might occur. There is some feeling within J/PM that these factors may have led some reporters to the conclusion that the White House was against the project. It was also noted that renewal of support for this project would be consistent with one portion of the President's news conference Tuesday night. State declined to probe within the White House as being too risky.

3. (C) A second probe was made, through personal friendship, to the Naval Aide to the President. From this approach it was stated that the White House was not the source for the item and that so far as was known, it should not be given credence.

4. (C) Knowing of the previous interest which U. S. News and World Report has had in the Indian Ocean and Diego-Garcia, it is considered quite possible that this is simply a trial balloon on the part of some editors in an effort to see whose heads rise. We will keep our ears open, but we do not plan to pursue this item further.

DOWNGRADING AT 12-YEAR INTERVALS

NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR 5200.10



Copy to:  
Op-60  
Op-06A  
Op-09A

C-2001

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

GP-00 FILES:

0941C

CONFIDENTIAL

11000

Op-61/wm  
Ser M01736P61

DATE: 7 MAR 1969

OP-00  
OP-002  
OP-003  
OP-004  
OP-005  
OP-006  
OP-007  
OP-008  
OP-009

J. P. WEINEL  
Director, Politico-Military Policy Division

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL