That is a diam April 13, 1971 reported to the base of provide countries. goods were perchasting.

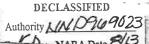
Now for accress and success vesters and sire at Honorable John A. Blackik the open Boas of the Toding House of Representatives long to construct a factility on Washington, D.C. 20515 mend numerous governments in the legion ways consulted and their plays taken lote Dear Congressmen Blatnik: of India were one of those

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Abshire of April 6 concerning the construction of a communications facility at Diego Carcia in the Indian Ocean. We have on previous occasions received inquiries concerning points raised by Mr. Tam Dalvell, Member of Parliament. facility may preimately dust special

In response to question s) in Mr. Dalyell's letter to you, the matter of constructing an sustere communications facility in the Indian Ocean to service American and British ships and aircraft has been under consideration since 1963. The facility is designed to close a gap in our worldwide communications system. It is not in any sense a base in the conventional meaning of that word and will be manned by only a limited complement of 250 American and British personnel. We do not feel this activity would be incompatible with the Nixon Doctrine, nor can it be considered increasing "the engagement" of the U.S. abroad "at a time of disengagement". In a press release on December 15, 1970, a copy of which is attached, a full explanation concerning the construction of the Diego facility was provided to the public.

Concerning question b), we were aware that sentiment had been expressed by some states in the Indian Ocean area about precluding the region from being turned into an area for the military rivalry of great powers. It is

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> April 9, 1971 Ext M/ ISO: DSI FOR SULL : OSI /WA NEA - (Mr. Schiff "PORK/BMI - Mr. Burne, Burne, Burne, Burne, Bo Barringer AF/I - LtCol Crits

Relations Secretary for Congressional Acting Cames Assistant Harrison M. Symmes

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Strcerely,

this matter, please do not healtake to contact us. facility. If we can be of any further assistance on reasons for proceeding to construct the biego Careia I hope these responses have helped to clarify our

plans for the Diego Garcia facility. climate conditions in developing the construction facility may ultimately cost approximately \$19 101 million. Our milliery planners have made full and and adequate allowance for the local geologic and and adequate allowance for the local geologic and Construction Program and the total cost of the initial funding for the project in the FY 71 Military do not consider it to be valid. Congress provided regarding the cost of the Diego Garcia facility and On question c), we have noted Mr. Dalyell's comment

account, The Government of India was one of those the region were consulted and their views taken into Diego Garcia was announced numerous governments in Ocean. Before the decision to construct a facility on assist them in translting the open seas of the Indian ices for American and British vessels and aircraft to certainly not the United States, desire to enter into such competition. What is in question here is simply responding to the need to provide communications server