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By DA NAPA Date 11/14/05Subj - Am 67-69 59/250/64-65
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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
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Origin

ACTION: AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO: AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

Info:

SUBJECT: Diego Garcia

REFERENCE: London 11424

[JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE]

1. U.S. would desire removal of migrant laborers from Diego Garcia after due notice in accord with Minutes to BIOT Agreement. No plans have been approved within USG for any facilities in archipelago other than Diego Garcia proposal which you have communicated to HMG pursuant to State 195858. However, we would hope to preclude even remote possibility of moving migrant laborers a second time in the event their presence conflicts with future requirements for facilities in archipelago.

2. Accordingly, we would welcome HMG efforts to arrange resettlement of laborers outside BIOT. As British will appreciate, a second relocation would be almost certain to attract attention of Indian Ocean littoral countries and of UN Committee of Twenty-four. British should therefore be advised that we would not like to become engaged in series of small intermediate steps, but rather to take initially those which are foreseeably necessary during entire life of Agreement.

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3. We note that British have been using term "inhabitants" as means of referring to persons on Diego Garcia. Although this term does appear in 1966 BIOT Agreement and Agreed Minute thereunder, according to 1964 Survey Report and all other information available here, status of 284 persons on Diego Garcia, including the 1000 women and children, is that of migrant laborers. We suggest, therefore, that the term "migrant laborers" be used in any conversations with HMG as withdrawal of "inhabitants" obviously would be more difficult to justify to littoral countries and Committee of Twenty-four.

4. FYI: We realize return of ~~ex-militaries~~ laborers and families will probably be to Mauritius and Seychelles which already have difficult unemployment problems. We see few prospects employing many of them on Diego Garcia itself for security reasons and lack of skills. Consequently, while we wish British to take responsibility, we would like to get sense of timing and indication methods of resettlement so we could anticipate any political or public relations problems that may arise for us in Mauritius, Seychelles, or UN contexts. END FYI.

Group 4

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