



SECRET
EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
London, England

Mr. SYKES

Mr. JOHNSTONE

Encls

Copies sent to

(i) P.I.O.D.

(ii) U.N. (POL)

(iii) F.P.A.D.

(iv) S.A.D.

November 22, 1968

(v) E.A.D.

(vi) M.O.D. 5511

Robin Johnstone, Esquire
Defense (Policy) Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Whitehall
London S.W. 1

Dear Robin:

When I spoke to you yesterday concerning the question of resettlement of workers in the Chagos Archipelago, you asked me to provide you the United States position in writing. The points I have been instructed to convey to you are as follows:

1. The United States would interpose no objection to the use of Peros Banhos and Salomon Islands for the resettlement of copra workers and their families now on Diego Garcia, with the understanding that any similar persons elsewhere in the Chagos Archipelago can also be transferred to Peros Banhos and Salomon Islands should our plans call for such action.
2. The United States has no current plans for the use of those two islands.
3. Currently our planning is limited to a most austere facility on Diego Garcia, and therefore no plans exist now to make any type of installation on any other islands in the archipelago.
4. We wish to emphasize, however, that the absence of current plans on our part does not preclude consideration of utilizing other islands in the archipelago for such purposes as siting either manned or unmanned remotely operated communications installations (e.g. antenna

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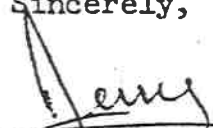
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farms, space surveillance, tracking sensors, meteorological, seismic and other equipment), should that become desirable at a later date.

I am asked to request that particular care be taken to observe the classification of this information, dealing as it does with sensitive forward defense planning.

Please let me know if there are any additional points which might require clarification.

Sincerely,


Gerald G. Oplinger
Politico-Military Affairs

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