

April 6, 19 71

Respectfully referred to

Captain Day
P.M./I.S.Q.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1971 APR 8 PM 12 52

RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

Very respectfully,

John A. Blatnik
John A. Blatnik, M.C.
M.C., 8th District.
Minnesota

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1

17/2/70

a delightful Christmas card
to you.

is business letter sent
the Christmas season -
to you because the matter
you may be in a way
something about it.

HEAVENS WHAT HAVE THE
WCO YOURSELVES TO BE
TRYING FOR AN AND AMERICAN
GO GIRL IN THE INDIAN
to start in March.

of Disengagement, why
engagement?

5 If there is to be US/UK station
military presence in the Indian Ocean, is
it wise to do it without consultation,
against the known wishes of India/China?
5 Building facilities in Indian Ocean atolls for ships
and aircraft in an area notorious for its
cyclones and of coral (limestone rock) hard in the sun
but soft underneath, is one half of a COIN base

By *MA* NARA Date 8/13
Authority *AND 969023*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority IND 909023

By KD NARA Date 8/13

but set underneath, is our part of a 1952 business
cycles, out of control (and in the surface
and aircraft in an area notorious for it

2 Building facilities, on Indian Ocean calls, for ships
against the known waters of Indian Ocean.
it was to do it, without consultation?

3 if there is to be US/UK strike
in some the equipment?
At a time of disagreement, why

4 Why, in the case of the
THREE AT DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN? How is to start in 1970.
THREE AT DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN? How is to start in 1970.

John, this is a business letter, not
of keeping with the Christmas season -
but I wish to you because he wants
is urgent and you may be a key
position to do something about it.

That was a delightful Christmas card
which arrived from you.
Dear John

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1

17/2/70

Authority LNIP909023
By KD NARA Date 8/13

Mr. McNamara: On a point of order, I am sorry to raise a second point of order. My Speaker, though I do not apologize for the substance of what I said, I regard these issues as fairly important to the House.

Yesterday you made a Ruling, which appears in column 1199 of the Official Report, on the Hare Coursing (Abolition) Bill. That Ruling took my two friends

HARE COURSING (ABOLITION)
BILL (JELLERS)

The hon. Gentleman asks leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter that he thinks should have urgent consideration, namely "the decision of the British Government, announced in a Written Parliamentary Answer yesterday, agreeing to the contribution by the United States Government of naval communications facilities at Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago to the Indian Ocean which Britain will assist in manning."

On 17th January, Finally, if the British and Americans have resources available for major construction works in Asia I suggest that those resources ought to be concentrated on building dams and harbour walls in the islands in the mouth of the Ganges and not for messing around with very doubtful projects, filling at windmills in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Dwyer: As to the urgency of the matter, Mr. Speaker, construction is said to be starting in March and plans will be in motion before the House returns.

Fourthly, on the decision itself the House focuses and needs some clarification. I would suggest that a "limited" facility involving the building as a "dead end" and "at least harbours" and "one or coral limitations" for ships and creating artificial facilities—possibly through this is not clear, for limited artificial areas motions for its expansion, and storms is not "limited", and certainly not limited in any financial sense. As to the Mr. Speaker: Order, The hon. Gentleman is drifting into metrics.

for the first time.

Secondly, the decision is likely to provoke a major Commonwealth controversy since it is directly opposed to the stated wishes of the Government of Ceylon, the nearest country to Diego Garcia, and to the express public views of the Indian Government and not least of Mrs. Indira Gandhi with whom I understand on impeccable authority, no consultation has taken place. As such, it is a dangerous, and I believe counter-productive, game for Western white men to start playing.

Thirdly, the decision, judging from my personal knowledge of Mauritius last year, is likely to create great difficulty in relations with Mauritius. It is no use the Parliamentary Under-Secretary smiling. He will recollect that the Pacific Magistrate on the issue of Western bases in the British Indian Ocean territories

Mr. Lamb Dwyer: I beg to ask leave to move the Adjournment of the House, under Standing Order No. 9, for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter that should have urgent consideration, namely,

"the decision of the British Government, announced in a Written Parliamentary Answer yesterday, agreeing to the construction by the United States Government of naval communications facilities in the Indian Ocean which Britain will assist in manning."

I feel that this is a specific matter can hardly be questioned.

As to its importance, I would put four crisp reasons to the House.

First, the decision represents a new turn in British defence policy by facilitating and introducing a static United States military presence in the Indian Ocean.

16 DECE (7) - 1950 GARCIA (BASES)

Authority **ND 969023**
By **KD** NARA Date **8/13**

THE PRIME MINISTER: None. But am now able to state that in accordance with the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on 11th July 1970, the United Kingdom Government is in the process of negotiating a joint British-United States staging post/cruiser base in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

Q22 Mr. Dabell asked the Prime Minister: What discussions he had with the Secretary of State for the Foreign Office, Mr. Dabell, on the issue of a joint British-United States staging post/cruiser base in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

THE PRIME MINISTER: It is the responsibility of all Ministers to ensure that replies to Members' letters are sent at the earliest possible moment.

MEMBERS' LETTERS (REPLIES)

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Prime Minister: In view of the fact that since 7th July 1970 the Lord President of the Council's Office have been replying to hon. Members' letters by general practice throughout his administration.

THE PRIME MINISTER: As a first stage in an interdepartmental group under the leadership of the Home Office is making a comprehensive survey of the categories of personal information held of likely to be held in the computer systems of Government Departments, and the rules governing its storage and use. Reports from Departments will be received by the end of the year. In the light of the results of the survey the Government will consider what further action is appropriate and will take account of the recommendations of the Younger Committee for the private sector.

Q24 Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Prime Minister: If the public speech made by the Secretary of State for the Foreign Office, Mr. Dabell, on 11th July 1970, in London concerning the need for a positive drive against slums represents the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes.

Q23 Mr. George Thomas asked the Prime Minister: What instructions he has given to Ministers who have to exercise quasi-judicial responsibilities in planning matters.

THE PRIME MINISTER: None. The Ministers concerned are fully aware of these responsibilities.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SPEECH)

Q26 Mrs. Joyce Butler asked the Prime Minister: Who has been appointed to carry out the Government's investigation of the establishment and use of computerised data banks by Government Departments and local authorities; what are the terms of reference of the investigation; what form the report of the investigation will take; and when the expects the investigation to be completed.

THE PRIME MINISTER: As a first stage in an interdepartmental group under the leadership of the Home Office is making a comprehensive survey of the categories of personal information held of likely to be held in the computer systems of Government Departments, and the rules governing its storage and use. Reports from Departments will be received by the end of the year. In the light of the results of the survey the Government will consider what further action is appropriate and will take account of the recommendations of the Younger Committee for the private sector.

COMPUTERISED DATA BANKS

Q25 Mr. Peard asked the Prime Minister: If the public speech made by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in London on 7th December 1970, relating to the retention of the profitable parts of the nationalised industries represents the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY (SPEECH)

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