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# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Origin  
SS  
Info

ACTION: AmEmbassy LONDON PRIORITY 4285

INFO: CINCLANT, CINCPAC, CINCSTRIKE for POLADS

LIMDIS

STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

Indian Ocean Island Facilities

Embtel 2982

BUNDY-SMITH  
GATOR  
BELK  
BOWMAN  
CHASE  
JAN 13 12 42 PM '65  
KESSUP  
JOHNSON  
KEENEY  
KLEIN  
KUMER  
MOODY  
REEDY  
BRANDERS  
SAYRE  
THOMSON

041

Embassy requested inform Fonoff soonest that areas in Indian Ocean having most potential for US military requirements are:

a. Diego Garcia - As Embassy aware this site required for establishment of communications station and supporting facilities, to include air strip and improvement of offloading capability. Additionally consider that detachment proceedings should include entire Chagos Archipelago, primarily in interest security but also to have available other sites in Archipelago and supporting facilities for future contingencies. With respect communications station we would expect initiate architect-engineer and design work

as quickly

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 05-30

By isb NARA, Date 12-1-05

G/PM:CAFreshman:ss 1/13/65

Clearances:

BNA - Mr. Judd (subst)

AFI - Mr. Oulashin (subst)

UNP - Miss Brown (subst)

DOD/ISA - Mr. Bronez

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as quickly as site available for detailed topographical surveys. We would expect break ground late calendar 1966 for permanent facilities, and have station operational late calendar 1968. In the interim, should circumstances demand, austere communications could be established on van-mounted, concrete-pad-supported basis within period of 3 to 5 months assuming satisfactory arrangements can be made for support of 40-50 operating personnel. FYI. Funds previously programmed for station were deleted by Senate Committee due non-availability of site. Now programmed in Navy FY 1967 construction budget. Possibility of reprogramming in FY 1966 budget presents serious difficulties and would produce at most only 4 or 5 months difference in construction target date, since Navy prepared fund now the architecture-engineer and design work which would be required in any case. END FYI.

b. Aldabra - While nothing specific planned and no funding requests scheduled by US at this time, obvious potential usefulness of Aldabra as a staging area for air operations impels strong recommendation that this island be included in any detachment package, in US/UK interest over long term. FYI We note from UK survey

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survey report that detachment Aldabra would not involve financial outlay; that population problem minimal; and that UK now has repossession rights under its lease arrangement with Seychelles lessee. End FYI.

c. Coetivy, Agalega, Farquahar, Ile des Roches and Cosmoledos -

Since UK intends quote single-bite unquote detachment proceedings (Deptel 3636), strongly urge Fonoff favorably consider stockpiling all or in order their listing some of these islands. They too have military potential and, again over long term, we consider our mutual security interests in Indian Ocean justify UK detach them on precautionary planning basis, particularly if resulting political and financial burden not disproportionate to indicated long-range advantages their availability.

State and Defense consider that with Fonoff having thus been informed of US requirements in Indian Ocean, US and UK will have taken first positive step in admittedly protracted and difficult undertaking. We prepared be responsive fully and promptly as practicable to any questions British may have in order facilitate necessary British decisions. More specifically, we prepared to

meet

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meet in London with UK officials on relatively same representational level and basis as last February meetings if British consider this would be helpful in keeping matters moving.

British Embassy also being informed.

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END

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