

~~SECRET~~

POSSIBLE UK PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTION OF COMMITMENTS

DRAFT

East Africa/
Middle East/
Indian Ocean
AREA

ALTERNATIVES UK MAY PROPOSE

Aden; Bahrain & other minor commitments in Persian Gulf, East Africa and Indian Ocean

Major reduction of forces committed to the area.

Complete withdrawal from Aden. (Possible savings £ 50 million.)

Area responsibilities to be met by increasing air mobility of UK based ready reserves.

Redeploy some forces from Aden to Persian Gulf area for local UK presence in Arab world.

An offer for US. to share in the cost of development of bases in the Indian Ocean area: (Bases and Total Construction Costs: Aldabra (Seychelles) - \$40m, Diego Garcia (Chagos archipelago) - \$119m, Masirah (Indian Ocean side of the Persian gulf) - \$40.)

US POSITION

Complete withdrawal of UK military capability and British influence from the area is unacceptable, although we can expect that British deployments to Aden and East African States will be decreased or withdrawn for political reasons. "UK basing" of commitments for itinerate deployments will leave a void that could be exploited by the Chinese and Soviets unless some military presence and a "quick reaction" capability is maintained in the area.

If maintaining British military capability in the area depends on US financial contribution, we should agree to consider favorably, provided joint use of the facilities is assured on a long term basis and UK will agree to operate the bases and maintain suitable combatant forces in the area to meet their responsibilities. Discussions should begin toward reaching mutual understanding on US/UK interdependent

(cont'd on next page)

ALTERNATIVES US MAY PROPOSE

US and UK "official level" talks should be proposed for a early date to arrive at a "declared" role for UK toward greater allied interdependence in the 70's.

Denial of Middle East and North Africa overflight would have to be offset by routes around Africa and/or through US - Joint use of aerial refueling and transport facilities and joint development and production of a long range transport plane should be exploited for economy through interdependence.

Should UK forces be withdrawn from Aden, consideration should be given to an increased presence in Bahrain to maintain the British position in the lower Persian Gulf, and a reserve force located on Masirah Island to extend this presence into the Indian Ocean side of the gulf.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: DOD Directive 5200.30
By ju, NARA, Date 3-31-99

~~SECRET~~

COPY LIBRARY

~~SECRET~~

DRAFT

POSSIBLE UK PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTION OF COMMITMENTS

East Africa/
Middle East/
Indian Ocean

AREA

ALTERNATIVES UK MAY PROPOSE

US POSITION

ALTERNATIVES US MAY PROPOSE

Aden; Bahrain & other minor commitments in Persian Gulf, E. Africa & Indian Ocean
(cont'd)

(cont'd) Operation from large aircraft carriers on an "itinerant" basis may be proposed in lieu of land-based F-111's. (Possible savings \$880 M capital cost of F111)

(cont'd) security roles of Suez in the 1970's. UK should withhold decisions on withdrawals and cancellations of major weapons systems until US and UK have agreed on costs, concept and roles.

(cont'd) Reaffirm US interest in having the UK develop close ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia as regional countries capable of shoring up and perpetuating the British position in the Gulf and in Oman and Muscat. Emphasize that our recent offer to assist the British with their aircraft sales in the Middle East, particularly in Saudi Arabia, was motivated by our desire to keep the British in the area. In this regard we believe that an intimate British association with Saudi Arabia and, to a lesser extent, Iran serves our mutual interests in maintaining a long term British military commitment in the Gulf area; a commitment which seems essential to British commercial interests in Kuwait and in the expanding oil areas along the Gulf's littoral.

Future UK permanent deployment in area to be restricted to that required to maintain minimum support facilities. (Possible savings £40 Million)

Eventual and gradual withdrawal of limited presence in East Africa. (Possible savings £1 Million)

Reduction in aid and commonwealth interest in India & Pakistan. (Possible savings £5 million)

~~SECRET~~

COPY LIBRARY