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ACTION: AmEmbassy LONDON 2254
RPTD: AmEmbassy CANBERRA 325
RE: Indian Ocean Islands (London's 1814; Canberra's 334) 083

Department had sometime ago advised Australian Embassy that U.S. was examining means by which to help U.K. defray some of costs for retention Indian Ocean Islands under U.K. sovereignty and administration, as part total effort to assure future access to the islands. Discussion was in very general terms, and neither the amount of any possible contribution nor the technique for funding it were disclosed. We also noted that any future facilities built by one party to meet its own requirements would be available for use by the other party within the capacity of the facilities. We did not mention the possibility of jointly-financed facilities.

We do not think it advisable to explain to Australia or others details of arrangements by which U.S. is helping defray costs of assuring that islands are retained under U.K. administration. We are prepared however to explain to GOA other

Drafted by: OSD/ISA:Mr. Bronez:G/PM:	Tel. Ext. 8161	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: G/PM -Jeffrey C.Kitchen
Clearances: Mr. Meyers:ml BNA: Mr. Judd SPA - Mr. Underhill		

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BY NARA, Date 10-26-05

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aspects of the arrangements: UKG to obtain land titles and resettle small populations; each party to construct to meet its own needs as they may arise, sharing use within capacity; and possibility of joint funding if requirements for joint use develop.

We will await British reaction to above before requesting Embassy Canberra take action or conveying above views to Australian Embassy Washington.

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