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Authority NND 959000
By VAN NARA Date 11-17

Subj - N on '67-66, 59/250/6/23/2-4

DEF 15 IND-US

XR DEF 15 IND-US 9687

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ACTION: Amembassy LONDON PRIORITY 8291 JUN 15 7 24 PM '64

LIMDIS

I. Greenfield and Kitchen met today with Alfred Friendly, quite detailed
Managing Editor Washington Post, concerning Indian Ocean bases
story which Post reporter Estabrook had filed. Story was marked
for use only in Friendly's discretion.

off the record

Friendly given full background/by Kitchen on rationale for
and extent US/UK involvement to date in Indian Ocean area, in-
cluding possible eventual development certain of the islands
(identifying same) for joint use by US/UK, assuming site surveys
and other factors are favorable. Emphasis was placed on diffi-
culties publication would raise for British consultation with
Mauritius and Seychelles authorities if latter learned of
proposals prior to British approach and/or conversations conduct-
ed in glare communist and neutralist propaganda. Friendly also
briefed on present status of matters in UN directly bearing on
US/UK planning for Indian Ocean area.

As

Drafted by: G/PM:CAFreshman/
JCKitchen:cc 6/15/64

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

G/PM - Jeffrey Kitchen

DOD/ISA - Mr. Sloan (in draft)
P - Mr. Greenfield
BNA - Mr. Judd

AFI - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Oulashin
NEA/SOA - Mr. Cameron
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As consequence this exposition, Friendly agreed that Washington Post would not now run Estabrook story. He requested and Department officials agreed that Post be given prior notice before release of story by US or UK. We are concerned that developments in negotiations with colonial authorities might precipitate press leak. Embassy should impress on UK authorities requirement you be kept fully informed each development so that we can be as aware as possible this contingency.

II. Notwithstanding foregoing, if story breaks on Indian Ocean bases, Department and DOD ~~should~~ recommend statement from London and Washington along following lines, adjusted as appropriate to actual newspaper account:

1. (If story linked to rumors of Aden withdrawal):

"There is no foundation whatever to reports that the US and UK are currently planning or have agreed to establish a base in the Red Sea area as an alternative to the British base at Aden. The U.S. is not informed that HMG is envisaging leaving its Aden base in the foreseeable future; rather, the U.S. Government is of the opposite impression."

2. (If story clearly relates to Indian Ocean bases):

"The United States has been holding discussions

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with the United Kingdom concerning the possible establishment of a US radio communications relay station in the Indian Ocean area. Communications studies by the U.S. have shown that a relay station in the Indian Ocean area would provide required circuitry between the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the Far East which is not presently being provided by existing facilities.

"Further discussions between the two Governments will await the outcome of a survey within the next several months of possible island sites in the Indian Ocean."

3. If further exposition imperative, you may add:

"We have been considering the possibility over the long-term of our need for some other facilities in the area. No final decisions have been reached, however." British Embassy informed of above contingency statements and will advise FonOff.

GP-3. END.

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