



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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London, W. 1.
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ARCH-11 No 32 January 14, 1965
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Dear Geoffrey:

I am writing to advise you of the results of the United States review of the joint U.S./U.K. survey of certain Indian Ocean Islands for military purposes.

After considering the report of the survey group, we have concluded that the areas having the most potential for U.S. military requirements are:

A. Diego Garcia. As you are aware, this site is required for establishment of a communications station and supporting facilities, to include an air strip and improvement of off-loading capability. We consider that detachment proceedings should include the entire Chagos archipelago, primarily in the interest of security, but also to have other sites in this archipelago available for future contingencies.

With respect to the communications station and supporting facilities, we would expect to initiate architectural, engineer and design work as quickly as the site was available for detailed topographical surveys. We anticipate that we will break ground late in calendar year 1966 for the permanent facilities, and have the station operational late in calendar year 1968. In the interim, should circumstances demand, we would wish to establish austere communications on a van-mounted, concrete-pad-supported basis within a period of three to five months, assuming satisfactory arrangements can be made for the support of 40 to 50 operating personnel.

B. Aldabra. Although nothing specific has been planned and no funding requests are scheduled by the U.S. at this time, the obvious potential usefulness of Aldabra as a staging area for air operations impels a strong recommendation, that in joint long-term U.S./U.K. interest, this island be included in any detachment package.

G. G. Arthur, Esquire,
Head, Permanent Under-Secretary's Department,
Foreign Office.

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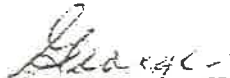
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C. Coetivy, Agalega, Farquahar, Ile des Roches, and Cosmoledos. Since we appreciate your desire to undertake all detachment proceedings at the same time, we strongly urge that your Government consider favorably the inclusion of all, or some of these islands, in the order listed. They too have military potential, and again over the long-term, we consider that our mutual security interests in the Indian Ocean justify detachment on a precautionary planning basis, particularly if the resulting political and financial burden is not disproportionate to the indicated long-range advantages of assuring the availability of these islands.

X We recognize the difficulties that Her Majesty's Government will face in undertaking the necessary steps to detach these islands. Accordingly, we will respond as fully and promptly as possible to any questions which you may have in order to facilitate the necessary decisions on your part. More specifically, we are prepared to meet with United Kingdom representatives on relatively the same representational level and basis as the meetings of last February, should your Government consider that this would be helpful in furthering our joint interest in moving this project forward rapidly.

Sincerely,


George S. Newman

Counselor for Politico-Military Affairs