

OMB, NY 9, 00, '66, Bx-37 11000/1

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-1 J3-8 J5-2 SACSA-3 NMCC-1

7 3 1 5 4

SAMAA-1 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-5 ASD/PA-3 DIA-15 CSA-1 CNO-5

CSAF-1 CMC-2 FILE-1 (65) RL/RM

002 h/s 10/21

CALL 53337
FOR NMCC/MC
SERVICE

ACTION: Ambassador LONDON

INFO: Ambassador NAIROBI
USUN

0 13 22 39Z

OCT 13 11 40 AM '66

STATE 6 7857

LEADS

SUBJECT: Diego Garcia Survey

REF: Hablets 2519, 3107

STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

Handwritten notes and stamps:

- Stamp: 01 613 618 611 6118 6120 612 6127 6120 613 6133 6130 614 6148 6140 6140 615 6157 616 6165 616
- Handwritten: "Huge Garcia file" with an arrow pointing to the stamp.
- Handwritten: "00/09" inside a circle with an arrow pointing to it.
- Handwritten: "T" with an arrow pointing to it.

1. Although planning is well under way, it now appears that details of requirements, transportation, and support arrangements will take somewhat longer than at first anticipated. Consequently, we unable give UK precise dates for survey at this time, and believe it unlikely that forty-five day advance notice can be given until late in year. Major element in delay is military construction bill passed by this session of Congress which requires thirty days advance notification be given chairmen of appropriate congressional committees before planning of type contemplated can be undertaken. This has delayed survey

(over)

Classified by: 8/21/2000	10/17/85	Tel. Ext.	Telegraphic transmission and
Declassify on: 8/21/2000		0141	classification approved by: 8/21 - Jeffrey G. Mitchell
Classified by:			
Declassify on:			

Classified by: 8/21/2000
Declassify on: 8/21/2000

Classified by: 8/21/2000
Declassify on: 8/21/2000

Classified by: 8/21/2000
Declassify on: 8/21/2000

Handwritten signature/initials

SECRET

Page 2 of telegram to Amembassy LONDON INFO Amembassy NAIROBI & USUN

SECRET

preparation and will mean latter part of November at earliest before final planning can be completed. As we understand situation, this delay at least has utility permitting UK authorities pursue land acquisition with Moulinie without feeling early obligation to surface survey plan. It may also prove advantageous in the UN.

2. It would be helpful if British would authorize service level discussions on survey requirements, as suggested paragraph 4 of Deptel 53232. Availability, for example, of suitable British private charter vessels would be helpful in Navy planning. Discussions could take place through US Navy representatives in London or preferably here between Navy and appropriate UK Navy staff representatives. Would appreciate early UK consideration of this request.

3. FYI. In note presented on 27 September, UK Embassy indicated that Diego survey in advance of land acquisitions might cause sharp rise in land cost. Embassy should whenever opportune urge all feasible steps to keep total costs down. We want particularly to discourage any UK expectation that our contribution to those costs, which is derived from limited source by complex formula, could be increased. Both the UK Embassy note and reftels indicate that authorizing legislation for purchase of land is expected shortly. Would appreciate Embassy estimate as soon as possible on length of time required

SECRET

(One)

Page 3 of telegram to Amembassy LONDON INFO Nairobi and USUN

SECRET

for final British enactment of required legislation and acquisition of private land titles. While matter is strictly UK affair, question has arisen here as to whether some form of land purchase option would be appropriate if complete transaction likely to be lengthy. In view of time needed to prepare for survey, we would be prepared to delay survey even to spring of 1967 if land question could be finally settled within that time frame. We would be reluctant to postpone survey beyond that point in view of effect this could have on construction schedule if project approved. END FYI.

END

GP-3

RUSK

Op-61 comment

1. This Telegram is an attempt to wrap up all the problems in one package.
2. One of the main hopes is that the Navy-to-Navy talks requested -- para 2 will be approved. This will definitely speed us up.
3. Obtaining of a suitable survey ship remains a fairly urgent problem.