

OAG, MSG 00, '64, BX 20, 11000710

P-00  
INCOMING  
MESSAGE

## THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SECRET

PRECEDENCE (ACTION)	PRECEDENCE (INFO)
PRIORITY	ROUTINE

P R 251451Z ZEA

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEPDA/DEFENSE DEPT

RUCKHC/CINCLANT

RUCQKKB/CINSTRIKE

RUCQHKB/CINCMIAFSA

STATE GRNC

S E C R E T ACTION PRIORITY DEPT 6438 INFO  
 DEFENSE DEPT UNN CANBERRA 199 CINCLANT 65 CINSTRIKE 51  
 CINCMIAFSA 67 FROM LONDON JUNE 25, 4 PM

LIMDIS

REF: DERTEL 8479

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND FACILITIES

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFDEPTEL ENBOFF HAD COMPLETE RECDL WITH ROSE (PERM-UNDERSEC DEPT) - TONOFF) ON WHERE WE STOOD ON INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND FACILITIES. ROSE WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM LEAVE HAD RECEIVED REPORT FROM BRIT EMBASSY DEPT'S REACTION TO UK PROPOSAL. UK EMB REPORTING TELEGRAM SUBSTANTIALLY SAME AS REFDEPTEL.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS COVERED BY ENBOFF WITH ROSE:

A. BRIT INTENTIONS REGARDING ISLAND FACILITIES: ROSE STATED THERE NO CHANGE IN BRIT POSITION SET FORTH FEB

COG.....OSD-15.....JCS / J5-1

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JSSC-2	CSA-2	CSAF-2	CNO-2	CMC-2	FILE-1	(42)

NCC : 47637/0615/3. 51(1-2) COG  
 TOR : 3332 23 JUN 64 9401SF (3-7) FLAGPLT(8)  
 9401SF FILE(3) CO(4,5) CO(6) 06(7)

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED  
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TALKS AND AS APPROVED BY CABINET MAY 6 DECISION. ONLY PROBLEM ONE OF TACTICS ON HOW ACHIEVE GOAL WHICH US AND UK DESIRE. (COMMENT: EMBOFF ARRANGING MEET WITH PECK AND ROSE FURTHER DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. BELIEVE THAT FONOFF AND MOD FIRMLY DETERMINED MOVE AHEAD IN EFFECTING DETACHMENT OF ISLANDS DESIRED FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES AND THERE NO INDICATION THAT THERE ANY OPPOSITION TO THIS IN COLOFF OR UK/UN. WHILE BRIT BUREAUCRACY DETERMINED MOVE AHEAD ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, EMBOFF GAINED IMPRESSION THAT, IN THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, CIVIL SERVANTS UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW CABINET MINISTERS MIGHT REACT IN EVENT OF STRONG OBJECTION FROM LOCAL MAURITIAN AND SEYCHELLOIS AUTHORITIES; PARTICULARLY IF COMPOUNDED BY FIRST CLASS RUCKUS IN UN. DOUBT WHETHER DISCUSSION WITH PECK AND ROSE WILL TAKE US MUCH BEYOND THIS TYPE ASSURANCE AND NOT LIKELY CACCIA WOULD GO FURTHER.)

B. TACTICS: ROSE RECALLED UNDER EARLIER PLAN ON TACTICS BRITS HAD CONSIDERED, AS US ARE, APPROACHING BOTH MAURITIAN AND SEYCHELLOIS AUTHORITIES AT SAME TIME AND SOONEST THEREAFTER UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE SURVEYS. ON BASIS RECOMMENDATION GOV MAURITIUS AND COLOFF, PLAN CHANGED PROVIDE FOR INITIAL APPROACH TO RAMGOOLAN BEFORE TALKING OTHER MAURITIUS OFFICIALS AND SEYCHELLES AUTHORITIES. FONOFF AND COLOFF STAFF FIRMLY CONVINCED UNWISE ALTER THIS PATTERN. TO INITIATE SURVEYS IMMEDIATELY AFTER TALKING TO RAMGOOLAN AND BEFORE DISCUSSING WITH OTHER MAURITIUS AUTHORITIES, WOULD, IN OPINION OF BRITS, PLACE RAMGOOLAN IN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT POSITION. KNOWLEDGE OF SURVEYS WOULD BECOME KNOWN AND UNDOUBTEDLY RAMGOOLAN WOULD BE QUERIED BY THE OTHER MAURITIUS MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS IF HE AWARE SURVEY. COLOFF STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT RAMGOOLAN WOULD REJECT PROPOSITION THAT HE BE INFORMED BUT THAT HE NOT ABLE ADVISE OTHER MAURITIUS MINISTERS BEFORE SURVEY.

FURTHER POINTED OUT BY ROSE THAT CONCESSION HOLDER FOR COPRA PLANTATION ON DIEGO GARCIA AREA WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN SURVEYS, IS A SEYCHELLOIS AND MEMBER OF SEYCHELLES EXEC COUNCIL. IT NECESSARY INFORM HIM PROPOSED SURVEY IN ORDER GAIN COOPERATION HIS AGENTS IN DIEGO GARCIA. IF HE ADVISED SURVEY ON DIEGO GARCIA AND NOT INFORMED PROPOSED SURVEY ISLANDS UNDER SEYCHELLES CONTROL AT SAME

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TIME, BRITS FEEL IT WOULD RESULT IN TROUBLE WITH SEYCHELLES EXEC COUNCIL WHEN THEY BECOME AWARE ISLANDS UNDER THEIR CONTROL BEING SURVEYED.

FONOFF AND COLOFF CONVINCED IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT REVERSE PRESENT TACTICS AND IN LONG RUN ACQUIESCENCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES LIKELY TO BE GAINED IF BRITS ARE FRANK IN TELLING THEM COMPLETE STORY AT VERY START.

(COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BRIT ANALYSIS OF TACTICS TO BE EMPLOYED IS SOUND AND THAT THERE NO SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY DEPT'S PROPOSAL CHANGE TACTICS AS SET FORTH REF DEPTEL PARA 6. FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THAT CHANGE IN TACTICS WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE GOING BACK TO THE MINISTERS INVOLVED IN CABINET DECISION AND GETTING THEIR APPROVAL NEW APPROACH. TO GET FONOFF TO LEAD SUCH EFFORT WOULD REQUIRE MUCH STRONGER ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF CHANGE THAN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRESENT. FONOFF EQUALY CONCERNED OVER DANGERS OF PRESS LEAK BUT FEELS THAT THIS PROBLEM LESS SERIOUS WITH RESPECT TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHEN COMPARED WITH FACT THAT STORY IN SUBSTANTIAL DETAIL NOW IN HANDS OF US NEWSPAPERS.)

C. ADMINISTRATION OF DETACHED ISLANDS: ROSE REITERATED DETACHED ISLANDS WILL BE DIRECT DEPENDENCIES OF UK AND ADMINISTERED FROM LONDON BY COLOFF. PRECISE MODALITIES OF ADMINISTRATION NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. PRESENT THINKING IS IT WILL BE NECESSARY DESIGNATE LOCAL COMMISSIONER (UK COLOFF OFFICER) TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR "ON THE SPOT" ADMINISTRATION OF DETACHED ISLANDS. ROSE INDICATED IT LIKELY, THOUGH NOT FINALLY DECIDED, THAT GOV SEYCHELLES WILL BE GIVEN THIS JOB OF LOCAL COMMISSIONER (TWO-HAT ARRANGEMENT). ADMINISTRATION OF DETACHED ISLANDS WOULD BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM THAT OF SEYCHELLES.

(COMMENT: ROSE SHOWED EMOFF UK INSTRUCTIONS BRIT EMB COVERING THIS POINT WHICH QUITE DEFINITELY STATES THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL BE FROM LONDON. INDICATED THIS APPROVED MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND CONTINUES AS UK VIEW. COLOFF OPERATING UNDER THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND NO DOUBT IN THEIR MIND ON THIS POINT.)

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D. SURVEYS: (1) ROSE, SINCE RETURNING FROM LEAVE, LEARNED OF EXCHANGE MESSAGES BETWEEN BRIT NAVY AND US NAVY USING JULY 3 AS PROVISIONAL DATE FOR DEPARTURE SURVEY PARTIES. COMMENTED ADMIRALTY HAD GOTTEN AHEAD OF GAME AND CONSIDERED THEIR ACTIVITY MOST UNFORTUNATE. EMBOFF NOTED THAT WE WISH SEE SURVEY INITIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IT NECESSARY FOR US NAVY UNDERTAKE ADVANCE PLANNING IN ORDER TO POSITION AIRCRAFT AND US ELEMENT SURVEY PARTY. DISCUSSED POSSIBLE FEASIBLE DATES AND ROSE AFTER CHECKING WITH MOD SUGGESTED JULY 8 AS NEW PROVISIONAL DATE. THIS BASED ON EXPECTATION THAT BRITS WOULD HAVE REACTION FROM RAMGOOLAN BY JULY 1 AND COULD COMPLETE TALKS WITH OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS PROMPTLY THEREAFTER. IF RAMGOOLAN REACTS UNFAVORABLY, IT LIKELY INVOLVE TWO OR THREE WEEKS DELAY WHILE FURTHER PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR.

(COMMENT: PROVISIONAL JULY 8 DATE WOULD ENABLE US BE INFORMED ON REACTION AND DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT HOLD SURVEY PARTY ELEMENT IN CONUS. UNDERSTAND USN NOW IN PROCESS OF GETTING FLIGHT CLEARANCES TO ENABLE AIRCRAFT TO DEPART ON RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE.) ; (2) ON ISLANDS TO BE SURVEYED, PER REFDEPTEL, IT AGREED THAT SURVEY PARTY WOULD GO TO CHAGOS AND AGELAGA. COSMOLEDOS AND ALDABRA DROPPED FROM SURVEY. ON DESROCHES AND COETIVY, COLOFF HAS REQUESTED GOV SEYCHELLES VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY SURVEYING THESE ISLANDS. BRITS VIEW IS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE DETACH THESE ISLANDS FROM SEYCHELLES. IF DECISION EVENTUALLY MADE PLACE ANY DEFENSE FACILITIES ON ISLANDS, IT WOULD REQUIRE WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH SEYCHELLES AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS UK. POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO SURVEY MENTIONED BY ADMIRALTY STEM FROM FACT THAT ISLANDS COULD NOT BE DETACHED. VIEW ON DETACHMENT BASED ON FACT THAT DESROCHES AND COETIVY ARE INTEGRAL PART SEYCHELLES ISLAND GROUP. PHYSICALLY CLOSE AND ECONOMICALLY INTEGRATED TO MAIN SEYCHELLES ISLANDS. BRITS PREPARED TO DETACH OTHER ISLANDS (CHAGOS, ALEGAGA AND ALDABRA) ON GROUNDS THESE ISLANDS ADMINISTRATIVELY PLACED UNDER MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES BY UK ACTION AND THAT UK CAN LOGICALLY REVERSE THIS ORIGINAL ADMINISTRATIVE MOVE. THIS NOT SITUATION AT DESROCHES AND COETIVY.

BRITS PLAN FOR CIVILIAN OFFICIAL ACCOMPANY SURVEY PARTY.  
HE WILL BE RETIRED COLOFF TYPE WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE

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IN THE ISLANDS. WHILE HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE OF ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY SURVEY PARTY, HIS PRESENCE DESIGNED ASSURE LOCAL AUTHORITIES THEIR INTERESTS BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND PARTICULARLY TO HAVE LOOK AT RESETTLEMENT AND COMPENSATION PROBLEM WHICH MAY ARISE FROM ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES.

E. CONSULTATION: ROSE REMARKED THAT WHILE HE NOT PREPARED DISCUSS QUESTION RE CONSULTATION AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THIS WILL BE NECESSARY. CONCURRED ON NEED TO INFORM NATO, THE EARLIER THE BETTER, BUT THOUGHT IT NOT BE NECESSARY TO TELL NATO VERY MUCH. ON TIMING HIS FEELING IS THAT UK-NATO DELEGATION SHOULD INFORM THE PERM REPS AT SOME POINT BETWEEN FINAL DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND INITIATION SURVEYS. ON OTHER AREAS, PARTICULARLY COMMONWEALTH AND KEY AFRICAN STATES, HIS TENTATIVE THINKING IS WE SHOULD SPLIT COUNTRIES TO BE INFORMED BETWEEN US AND UK BUT SHOULD NOT APPROACH UNTIL WE HAVE SECURED THE ACQUIESCEANCE OF SEYCHELLES AND MAURITIUS AUTHORITIES TO THE PROPOSED DETACHMENTS. HE FELT TIMING AND HOW FAR WE SHOULD GO IN TELLING THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL AND EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES STILL NEEDED CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT.

F. PRESS GUIDANCE: WE SET THIS SUBJECT ASIDE FOR LATER DISCUSSION. (COMMENT: FYI. ROSE BELIEVES APPROACH HE AND EMBOFF AGREED ON IS STILL BEST. DOES NOT BELIEVE WE CAN GET AWAY WITH GENERAL STATEMENT UK HAS SUGGESTED. APPARENTLY ROSE HAVING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY WITHIN FONOFF SELLING HIS VIEW. PROBLEM DUE TO FACT THAT TOO LARGE DEGREE THIS MATTER FOR MOD AND COLOFF TO HANDLE AND FONOFF EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE PRESS OFFICERS THOSE DEPARTMENTS ANYTHING MORE TO SAY THAN VERY VAGUE GENERAL STATEMENT. CLOSE FYI)

GP-3. BRUCE

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