Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02847 211604Z ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11562 XCDS TAGS: PARM XO UK

SUBJECT: UNGA: INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL

- 1. DURING BRIEFING BY PM DIRECTOR GELB ON LATEST ROUND OF US-USSR TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN, BRITISH ASKED IF USG WILL RECONSIDER ITS VOTE ON IOPZ NOW THAT IT IS DISCUSSING SOMEWHAT SIMILAR ISSUES WITH SOVIETS. UK SIDE (MOBERLY) INDICATED HMG IS PONDERING WHETHER TIME HAS COME TO SHIFT FROM QUALIFIED NO TO QUALIFIED YES, POINTING TO SIMILAR SOVIET SHIFT AT 32ND UNGA. MOBERLY ACKNOWLEDGED IOPZ RES STILL HAS SOME OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES FOR HMG SUCH AS PROVISIONS ON TRANSIT. MOBERLY ADDED BRITISH WILL WISH TO RAISE ISSUE MORE FORMALLY IN WASHINGTON IN NEAR FUTURE.
- 2. GELB SAID HE WOULD GIVE TENTATIVE ANSWER, BUT AT THI TIME THE US IS NOT RETHINKING ITS POSITION ON IOPZ. FRO TACTICAL STANDPOINT, SHIFT IN US ATTITUDE WOULD WEAKEN U HAND IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. MOREOVER GIVEN PRESENT FORM OF IOPZ RES, IT WOULD MEAN ASSOCIATIN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LONDON 02847 211604Z

US WITH THE DISMANTLING OF DIEGO GARCIA AND WITH CERTAIN INHIBITIONS ON OUR STRATEGIC FORCES, WHICH WOULD ALSO CREATE A SERIOUS PRECEDENT FOR THE US IN OTHER AREAS. GELB CONCLUDED WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS, BE INTERESTED IN HEARING FUTHER WHAT THE BRITISH ARE THINKING.

STREATOR

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NNN

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