Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 176771

GENEVA FOR MR WARNKE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 16168 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANTANANARIVO, CANBERRA, COLOMBO, CINCPAC HONOLULU HI, JAKARTA, CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK, NEW DELHI, WELLINGTON, COMIDEASTFOR 11 JUL 78

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 16168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MARR, UR, US, XO

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN: TASS ACCUSES U.S. OF FREEZING

TALKS, BUILDING UP FORCES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 15918 (NOTAL), (B) PORT LOUIS 761 (NOTAL)

1. TASS WIRE OF JULY 11 CARRIES ITEM BY "ANALYST"
ALEKSEI PETROV (ASSUME FBIS HAS PROVIDED TEXT) ON
INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. MAJOR ELEMENTS OF PIECE,
OSTENSIBLY POSING TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHY THE
U.S. HAS "FROZEN" TALKS AND WHY THE U.S. IS "INTENSIVELY
WIDENING ITS MILITARY ACTIVITY" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, ARE:
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- -- DESPITE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSERTION, NEGOTIATIONS "HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN DISCONTINUED," WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE "BY NO MEANS ON THE SOVIET UNION'S INITIATIVE;"
- -- THE U.S., AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND PLAN "LARGE-SCALE NAVAL EXERCISES" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN THIS AUTUMN;

- -- CONSTRUCTION "IS FULL SPEED AHEAD" ON DIEGO GARCIA; AND
- -- TALKS HAVE RESUMED "ON THE CREATION OF A MILITARY BLOC IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA."

 THE ITEM CONCLUDES WITH A RHETORICAL QUESTION SUGGESTING THAT THE U.S. HAS FROZEN INDIAN OCEAN TALKS "IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A BUILD-UP OF ITS MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THAT AREA."
- 2. COMMENT: AS REFTELS SUGGEST, THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE BUILDING UP PRESSURE ON THE U.S. ON THE SUBJECT OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS AND THEY PROBABLY LOOK TO ARTICLES SUCH AS PETROV'S TO INTENSIFY THIS PRESSURE. MORE OF THE SAME CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED. MATLOCKK

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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TAGS: PARM, MARR, SOPN, UR, US, XO, TASS

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