

## POINT PAPER ON DIEGO GARCIA

- What it is
  - Coral Atoll in Indian Ocean
  - 1000 miles south of India
  - Part of British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)
  - US/UK agreement (1966) permits use for joint defense
  - Communications station authorized by Congress FY71
- US intentions
  - Expand facilities for limited but more efficient/flexible logistics support of forces in area
  - Lengthen runway from 8000' to 12,000'
  - Construct additional fuel storage capacity (640,000 bb for total of 700,000 bbls)
  - Dredge larger basin for ships (for normal carrier task group)
  - Build small pier for alongside berthing (primarily for offloading tankers)
  - Additional quarters and storage facilities
  - No intent to base operational forces on island permanently
  - No ships/aircraft stationed there; no dependents
- We have asked Congress for:
  - FY75: \$18.1M; FY76: \$13.8M; FY77: \$5.9M
- The need for facilities on Diego Garcia
  - Important interests in Indian Ocean area
    - Stability of area, freedom of oil routes
  - Demonstrate capability to operate forces in area
    - Exercise right to navigate freely on high seas, show continued free access to area by all nations
  - Demonstrate credibility of US military force
    - Flexibility, efficiency, effectiveness of US forces
    - Provide hedges/options in face of political uncertainty
  - Diego Garcia facilities not to support permanent, large force
    - Nearest logistical facility to western Indian Ocean is Philippines, 4000 miles distant
    - Alternative to Diego Garcia is costly/inefficient increase in naval tankers/mobile logistics force
- Attitudes of littoral countries
  - Survey of public reactions indicate most unfavorable
  - Private reactions known to significantly differ
- Arms Control factors
  - US approached Soviet Union in 1971. No response.
  - Soviets are continuing buildup; i.e., installations at Berbera
  - US has nothing comparable
  - US ability to negotiate from such position is poor
  - Should not link Diego Garcia construction to prior discussions on arms limitations

## ADDENDUM TO POINT PAPER ON DIEGO GARCIA

### Status in Congress

- For FY 75 Congress authorized \$18.1M ; \$14.8M for Navy, \$3.3M for Air Force.
- Section 613 of PL 93-552 required two conditions before obligation of funds:
  - (1) President must certify essential to national interest.
  - (2) 60 days expired after certification during which neither House adopts resolution of disapproval.
- These funds deleted from appropriation on condition any available funds could be used if no resolution of disapproval.
- President certified necessity May 12, 1975.
- Senator Mansfield introduced resolution of disapproval, S. Res. 160, May 19, 1975.
- SASC held hearings June 10.
- SASC voted 10-6 June 17 to disapprove S. Res. 160 (Report No. 94-202).
- 60 days for action will expire July 30.