

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

September 19, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: LES JANKA *for*
SUBJECT: Preemptive Action on Diego Garcia

I convened an informal LIG meeting today with State and Defense representatives to discuss growing Congressional concerns over the removal of the transient labor force from Diego Garcia. As you know, Senator Culver attached an amendment to the State Department authorization bill which would require the President to submit to the Congress a full report on the background of the removal by November 1. In an effort to calm Congressional concern, we have briefed Senator Bartlett and a few other friendly Senators on the facts available to us at this time. We have worked closely with the British on the material made public.

It was agreed today that we should move quickly to put this issue to rest before some Congressional committee calls for special hearings or the matter is raised in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee mark-up of the Defense appropriation bill in which FY 76 funds for the Diego Garcia expansion are now included. This mark-up is expected to occur in late October.

X [While the record of USG action (and inaction) is not a totally glorious one, we believe that putting out the full story of the background of this issue will be, on balance, not damaging but helpful to the Administration, whereas appearing to be reluctant to provide information would only heighten suspicions in Congress that we have something to hide and precipitate hearings which could endanger the whole project.

The following strategy was, therefore, agreed to in today's meeting.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By W/H/M, NARA, Date 9/13/00~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ XGDS

1. Ambassador McCloskey will send a letter to Chairman Sparkman and Chairman Morgan outlining the Administration's willingness to provide by October 10 full details on the background of this issue and promising a full Administration report, consistent with (but preempting) the requirement posed by the Culver Amendment. (Draft attached)

2. State and Defense will draft this comprehensive report and will have a working draft ready for interagency circulation by September 27. I instructed State and Defense to write the draft on the premise that any information or facts available to us, including those which may be somewhat painful, will surely become public, and therefore the report should be written so that no later evidence can undermine it and our credibility.

Denis Clift and I will carefully monitor this drafting process and will clear the final report through you. We will also ensure that State continues to work closely with the British to ensure their full agreement on what is made public; they have been fully cooperative so far.

^{15h} Denis Clift and Dick Boverie concur fully in this approach to the problem.

DRAFT LETTER TO

Sparkman/ Case
Morgan/Broomfield
Price/Bob Wilson
Stennis/Thurmond
McClellan/Young
Mahon/Cederberg

Dear _____:

As you know, the proposed Amendment #2 to the State Department authorization bill, S.1517, now due for conference consideration, would require a report from the President by November 1, 1975, on the role of the U.S. government in the resettlement of previous inhabitants of Diego Garcia.

Because of wide Congressional interest in this question, this Department and the Department of Defense are compiling a detailed report which we expect will answer all of the questions which the members of Congress may have. *I would hope to* ~~will~~ have this report to you by October 10, 1975.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

RJM

H;SGoldberg

9/19/75

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TO: PRES _____

FROM: KISSINGER _____

KISSINGER _____

SCOWCROFT _____

DAVIS _____

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SCHLESINGER, J _____

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CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

REFERENCE:

SUBJECT: *State of Georgia*

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION				ACTION REQUIRED	
	ACTION	INFO.	REC CY FOR		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK ()	
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES ()	
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR _____ ()	
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION ()	
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO _____ TO _____ ()	
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS ()	
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO ()	
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR _____ ()	
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ()	
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE ()	
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: _____	
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)	
CONGRESSIONAL					
OCEANS POLICY					
INTELLIGENCE					

[illegible]

DISPATCH _____
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NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____
SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____
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M/F/D - _____ BY _____

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(NSC 75-22)
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