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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1967
1:45 p. m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The attached documents from DOD state that on November 18 British Minister of Defense Healey wrote to the Secretary of Defense McNamara that the British will be unable to go ahead with the ALDABRA Project.

Healey states that this was a marginal option and in the pressure of priorities the British can no longer see a need for it. The British will announce the decision very early next week.

This eliminates the problem on the controversy between the scientific community (headed by Dr. Ripley) - which objected to the use of ALDABRA as an air base on the grounds that it would interfere with the unique ecology of the island, and the Defense considerations which prompted the possibility of its use as an air base.

Therefore the President would not have to see Dr. Ripley, according to the Department of Defense, because the issue has disappeared.

Marvin

Confidential File, CO 301, Bx 12, "UK (1967) CO 305"
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