

Mr. Bundy

Other copy

~~SECRET~~

10 July 1963

Indian Ocean

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has occurred to me that our military presence in the area from Suez to Singapore is exceedingly light, and yet the pot is always boiling in that part of the world. My intelligence notes today included: notice of trouble ~~in~~ in Iran; indication of the discontent of the President of Pakistan over our aid to India; and evidence of political agitation and propaganda against the United States in connection with the squadron recently sent to Dhahran.

It would appear to me that we might better provide for tactical air and military presence in the Indian Ocean area with a small carrier task force. Such a force would be as much a political tool as a military instrument.

Would you please look into this matter and give me your thoughts on the subject? If such a step should be taken it should be done in a manner which would not require expensive base arrangements or involve significant flow of gold.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. KENNEDY

Honorable Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

(Shepard 40/7)

~~SECRET~~