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Authority NND 959000
By NA NARA Date 11-17

S23; Num 64-64 54/250/6/23/3-4
Bx 1638

Nitze

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Origin

ACTION: CIRCULAR 1223

Info

1. Navy Secretary Nitze in Washington speech yesterday referred to QUOTE power vacuum UNQUOTE in Indian Ocean area. Nitze said QUOTE Today, we have challenge of determining whether it feasible and possible acquire base rights to support permanent or temporary deployment in that area. If it possible, then we must learn what these facilities should be. We have opportunity, and associated problems, of establishing in ~~xxxx~~ conjunction with CINCSTRIKE and State Department a proper relationship between either a permanent or a temporary naval force in that area, and countries adjacent thereto UNQUOTE.

2. In reply to ~~xxxxxx~~ press query Department spokesman responded ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ as follows (unnecessary words omitted). QUOTE We have had small naval force, consisting of sea plane tender and two destroyers, under Commander Middle East Force on station in Persian Gulf ever since World War II. It has widely cruised in Indian Ocean area. Other US naval ships have visited Indian Ocean

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Drafted by: G/PM:GFMuller:mms 1/10/64

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

G - U. Alexis Johnson

FE-Capt. Wop FE-Mr. Green NEA-Mr. ~~Billings~~ Billings ~~FE-Mr. Cuthbert~~
G/PM-Mr. Kitchen NEA-Mr. Grant S/P-Capt. Colbert BNA-Mr. Judd gm
DOD/ISA-Mr. Sloan (in substance) P-10 Jan 1964

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