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Department of State
TELEGRAM

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REF: A. London 1207 (NOTAL)
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SUBJECT: Diego Garcia

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. British decision reported ref B regarding plans for moving all Chagos population outside the Archipelago is welcome. Most important, it would preserve and increase basic value of 1966 agreement by consolidating the status of the entire BIOT as uninhabited. It also would make economic sense to direct essential, long-term economic development to areas not subject to the possible defense requirements of either the UK or the US. Decision also would appear to be helpful in event we are able to move ahead with plans for a facility on Diego Garcia.

DRAFTED BY: PM/ISO: Capt From

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DRAFTING DATE
3/27/70

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