REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES HVOT NARA Date 11/17/05 202722 SECRET DEC 707 18 17 Department of State TELEGRAM INDICATE: COLLECT CHARGE TO DISTRIBUTION Amembaasy LONDON XMMKDIXIE FLASH CTION: EXMINIC USNATO Amembassy JIDDA BANGKOK 11 DJAKAKTA 11 **TOKYO** LISBON PARIS TEHRAN ADDIS ABABA LUSAKA TANANARIVE NAIROBI **ISLAMABAD** COLOMBO

Wid- Kinds Carrier KUALA LUMPUR" SINGAPPORE RXXIII **RANGOON CANBERRA** WELLINGTON NEW DELHI KUWAIT PRETOR LA 11 MOGADISCIO DAR ES XXXXX SALAAM " KAMPALA XXXBLANTYRE LOUIS DHAHRAN,

CINCEUR + COMIDEASTFOR APPROVED DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT. AF-Mance R. S. Smith NEA-Mr. Van Hollen P/PG-Mr. Goldstein EA-Capt. Long P/PG-Mr. Hurd Charles EA-Capt. Long P/PG-Mr. Hurd Charles EA-Capt. Long P/PG-Mr. Hurd Charles EA-Capt. Long PM/TSO Mr. SAPERMENT PM/TSO Mr. SAPERM The Under Secretary AF-Mr. ER.S. Smith NEA-Mr. Van Hollen OSD/PA-Mr. Freidheim (Qs & As)

EJR-Mr. Goldstein EA-Capt. Long OSD/LA-Mr. Capen (timing)

P/PG-Mr. Hurd Stoddart EUR/PM-Mr. McGuire (Mr.)

PM/ISO-Mr. Stoddart EUR/PM-Mr. McGuire (Mr.)

PM-Mr. Spiers OASD/ISA/FMRA-Mr. Barringer S/PRS-Mr. King (info) PM-Mr. Spiers OASD/ISA/FMRA-Mr. Barringer OASD/PA-Capt. Barberm OASD/ISA/AF-Capt. Hilscherm White House Mr. Sonnenfeldt SECRET White House \_ Mr. Sonnenfeldt FORM DS-322

CINCPAC

CINCLANT

USUN

AmCon

INTO NAME CINCLANTELT CINCUSNAVEUR

CINSTRIKE

y 15 Ind-45



Page 2 - Amembassy LONDON Classificati on

Department of State

OCATE: COLLECT **TELEGRAM** 

D. F. 1	DISTRIBUTION		
n.		SECRET STATE	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	SUBJECT: Diego Garcia  JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE  REF: A. STATE 200310 C. LONDON 10243 E. LONDON 102  B. LONDON 10242 D. LONDON 10244 F. LONDON 102  gx G. LONDON 10249 H. LONDON 10250  1. We perphasizately agree to public release on	<u>2</u> 47 248
		Tuesday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. Washington time	
		(4 pm London time). <b>RKXMKXXXKEEMENK</b> XX <b>HMWEYEK</b> XX <b>XX</b> Press	
12	Σ	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Amc Kopp		statement and Q's and A's provided herein in entirety was have	ze :
INC INS:		formulated after taking into consideration refs 🚜 А н (Notal)	
MIL		through % /and further reflections here. Subsequents  Posts are authorized t	.0
ISO -Mr		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
ap Zog		approach third countries as close as possible to	
lap ZOM V/F IS, SD		public release time, in accordance with information contained herein.	
<i>f</i> e		2. Joint US/UK Public Announcement	_
		The Government of the United Kingdom and the	
	DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT. APPROVED BY:	
CLEARA	CLEARANCES:		
		/ <del>***</del> *	
		SECRET	
FORM D	FORM DS-322	Classification	

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCH





Classificati on

## Department of State

CATE: COLLECT three CHARGE TO

Page \*\*\* of telegram to LONDON

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

Secretary of Defense of the United States announced today ( December) that construction will commence in March 1971 on an austere naval communications facility on Diego Garcia Atoll in the Chagos Archipelago, British Indian Ocean Territory. facility is being built under the terms of a bilateral agreement between the U.K. and the U.S., signed in December 1966, which makes the islands of the British gavax Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) available to the U.S. and U.K. governments for defense activities for 50 years. The facility will consist of communications, and minimum necessary support activities, including an air-strip. Construction of the facility will be accomplished by the United States. Units of the U.S. Naval Construction Force will build it. Both the British and American flags will fly over the

-		24	-85 will fly ov	er the
DRAFTED SY:				
	DRAFT	ING DATE TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:	
CLEARANCES;	the state of the s		20	

SECRET

Classification

FORM DS-322



## Department of State TELEGRAM

Page 4 of telegram to LONDON

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: facility and the United Kingdom will assist in its manning.

The facility will close a gap in the U.S. Naval Communications System. It will provide communications support to U.S. and U.K. ships and sircraft in the completed Indian Ocean. It is expected to be mexican in less than three years.

- 3. List of Anticipated Questions and Approved Answers -(Unclassified when authorized for use/in response to query).
  - Q. What is the purpose of the facility? 1.
- To close a gap in our worldwide communications system and to provide communications support to U.S. and U.K. ships and aircraft in the Indian Ocean.
  - 2. Q. What is meant by a communications facility?

	<u> </u>		
DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE TEL.	APPROVED BY:	
CLEARANCES:		4.0	

SECRET

Classification

FORM DS -322

CATE:

NARA Date III TIDI SECRET

Classification

# Department of State

**TELEGRAN** 

## CHARGE TO Page 5 of telegram to LONDON DISTRIBUTION ACTION: A. An activity outfitted to provide communications support to ships and aircraft. facility at Q. Will ships be able to use the/Diego Garcia? No decision has been made on harbor accommodations. 4. Q. What will be the depth of the channel? A. No decision has been made on harbor accommodations. 5. Q. How long and what is the purpose of the runway? The 8,000 foot runway is for support of logistic aircraft. 6. Q. How much will the facility cost?

A. Construction of the facility might ultimately cost about \$19 million.

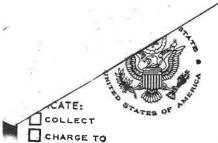
DR DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE TEL. EX	XT. APPROVED BY:
	<del> </del>	

CLI CLEARANCES:

SECRET

Classification

FC FORM DS-322



Classificati on

## Department of State

## **TELEGRAM**

Page 6 of telegram to LONDON

#### DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

- 7. Q. Is the U.K. sharing the construction cost?
- A. No. The principal requirement lies with the U.S. and/U.S. is funding the project.
- 8. Q. Who will command the facility, an American or British Officer?
  - A. An American officer.
- 9. Q. What are the terms of the agreement under which this facility is being built?
- A. The facility is being built under the terms of a bilateral agreement between the U.K. and the U.S., signed in December 1966, which makes the islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) available to the U.S. and U.K. governments for defense activities for 50 years.
- 10. Q. Will nuclear or CBW weapons be stored at the facility?

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

FORM DS-322

SECRET

Classification



Classification

# Department of State

## TELEGRAM

Page 7 of telegram to LONDON

DISTRIBUTION

CHARGE TO

It is the policy of the United States ACTION: neither to confirm nor deny the presence of such weapons.

11. Q. What are the possibilities of confrontation between U.S. and Soviet naval forces in this area, since the Soviets seem to be bargaining for bases elsewhere in the Indian Ocean area?

No more than any other location where units of both forces operate.

Is this part of

Down a U.S. build-up in the Q. Indian Ocean?

No.

What is the expected reaction from Arab, Q. 13. African and other states on the Indian Ocean littoral?

Neither the modest size of this facility nor the support activities planned there should provide

	**	THY I	APPROVED BY:	
	DRAFTING DATE	E TEL. EXI.	in B	_
DRAFTED BY:				
		The way		

C CLEARANCES:

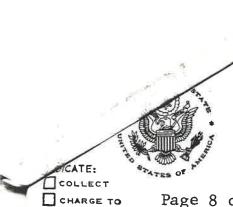
?afp€ Fron

G-Mr ISOír D/P∤

RM DS

SECRET Classification

FORM DS-322 4 - 68



Classificati on

### Department of State

## TELEGRAM

Page 8 of telegram to LONDON

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

grounds for concern among the countries bordering on the Indian Ocean, who have been informed regarding this subject.

- 14. Q. How many U.S. and U.K. military personnel will be permanently assigned to Diego Garcia?
- 15. Q. How large is Diego Garcia Atoll and how much of it will be included in the facility?
- A. Diego Garcia is an irregular V-shaped atoll, roughly 14 miles in length and five miles in width. The width of the island surrounding the lagoon varies between 300 and 7200 feet. The facility will third occupy approximately one-backs of its 5,700 acres.
- 16. Q. What will happen to the population of Diego Garcia?

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT.

XT. APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

**SECRET** 

Classification

FORM DS-322

Classificati on

### Department of State

Page 9 of telegram to LONDON

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

The population consists of a small number of contract laborers from the Seychelles and Mauritius engaged/www work on the copra plantations. Arrangements will be made for the contracts to be terminated at the appropriate time and for their return to Mauritius and the Seychelles.

- 17. Q. Will this facility be used to support operations in Vietnam (Indochina)?
  - No such use is contemplated...
- When will the facility be in full operation?
  - Probably March 1974.
- 19. Q. Will other facilities be built in this area?
  - No others are contemplated.

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT. APPROVED BY:	
CLEARANCES:		L	
*:			

FORM DS-322

DIC

SECRET Classification

Olegelii cation

4 - 68 DS -32Z