

# INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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~~SECRET~~ ACTION DEPT 4187 INFO CINCSRIKE 22 CINCLANT  
17 CINCPAC 181 FROM LONDON FEBRUARY 27 7PM

DEPT PASS DEFENSE. CINCSRIKE, CINCLANT, CINCPAC FOR  
POLADS. FOR ALEXIS JOHNSON FROM KITCHEN.

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS.

FIRST TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH ON US DEFENSE  
INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL  
PROGRESS. FIRST DAY DEVOTED LARGELY TO UK RUNDOWN IN  
CONSIDERABLE DETAIL OF POLITICAL, MILITARY AND TOPOGRAPHICAL  
ASPECTS OF VARIOUS ISLAND GROUPS AND TO US EXPOSITION OF  
CONCEPT OF GRADUAL BUILDUP AUSTERE SUPPORT FACILITIES,  
IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS, AND BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS. DISCUSSION  
REVEALED CONOFF, UNDER PECK'S ABLE DIRECTION, INTERESTED  
IN ENABLING US ACQUIRE ESSENTIAL FACILITIES NEEDED. MINISTRY  
DEFENSE REPS SIMILARLY INTERESTED IN BRINGING US PRESENCE  
INTO AREA BUT HAVE SOUGHT TO ENSURE LOCATION OF ANY FACILITIES  
THAT MAY BE CONSTRUCTED WILL BE USEFUL TO UK'S OWN NEEDS.  
ONE FACTOR HEAVILY INFLUENCING UK MILITARY ATTITUDE IS  
POSSIBLE FUTURE NEED FOR CENTRAL OCEAN FUEL STATION ON  
FAR EAST RUN WHEN AND IF UK LOSES CONTROL ADEN. ADDITIONAL  
FACTOR IS OBVIOUS CONCERN OVER VIABILITY GAN FACILITIES.  
ANOTHER IS HIGH DEGREE INTEREST IN AIR FACILITIES OFF  
EAST COAST AFRICA FOR WHICH UK BELIEVES ALDABRA BEST  
SUITED, IN ORDER PARTICULARLY EASE OVERFLIGHT BRITISH  
COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

IN DESCRIBING POLITICAL STATUS OF VARIOUS ISLAND GROUPINGS,  
COLONIAL OFFICE REPS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN QUITE FORTHCOMING,



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By ms NARA, Date 12-6-04

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-2- 4187 FEBRUARY 27, 7 P.M., FROM LONDON

*All subjects up  
to be included, + other de details*

*See other copy*

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2. RE ALDABRA -- US WILL SERIOUSLY STUDY EXISTING UK SURVEY FOR AIR FACILITY, PROVIDED BY AIR MINISTRY, WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION AND JOINT USE.

3. JOINT APPROACH WILL BE MADE TO AUSTRALIA WITH REGARD TO TERMS FOR USE OR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES ON COCOS ISLANDS.

THIS PAPER WILL ALSO ATTACH JOINT ASSESSMENT OUTLINING EXPECTED POLITICAL REACTION OF COUNTRIES ON INDIAN OCEAN PERIPHERY TO US PRESENCE INDIAN OCEAN AND GENERAL DIPLOMATIC ACTION TO BE TAKEN JOINTLY OR INDIVIDUALLY BY US/UK.

VELA HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

GP-3. BRUCE

NOTE: PASSED DEFENSE 2/27/64-525PM

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	Airgram	45	Am Embassy London to Dept. State	3/3/64	32
India, Indian Ocean Task Force, Vol. II	Special Memo	1	Board of National Estimates Special Memorandum	4/11/67	16
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