



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION: PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

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SUBJECT: REINDEER STATION

REF: (A) STATE 200310;
B) MURRAY/FROM TELECON, 10 DEC 70;
(C) OPLINGER/GOLDSTEIN TELECON, 11 DEC 70.

1. WE HAD EXTENDD DISCUSSION AFTERNOON NOV 10 AND AGAIN EVENING 11 NOV WITH FCO AND MOD REPS ON BASIS REF A. BRITLY HAVE TENTATIVELY PROPOSED, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF MINISTERS, THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT BE RMAD E ON WEDNESDAY 16 DEC, AT 1600 HOURS BRITISH TIME, AND THAT THE CLOSELY COORDINATED APPROACHES TO THIRD COUNTRIES BE MADE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO TIME OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. BRITISH FEEL IT ESSENTIAL TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK, NOTWITHSTANDING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON ON 17TH AND 18TH. THEY BELIEVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEDNESDAY WOULD DECOUPLE DIEGO GARCIA FROM PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. 1) IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, IN BRITISH VIEW, TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE PARLIAMENT ADJURNS ON 18 DEC. PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN KEEN, AND QUESTIONS ARE TO BE RAISED ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY OF NEXT WEEK. IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY

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HARMFUL TO HMG TO MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DURING PARLIAM-
MENTARY RECESS OR TO HAVE PRESS LEAK DURING THAT TX.
ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK. (A) MEETS HMG POLITICAL
PROBLEM, (B) PERMITS HMG TO PROCEED WITH RELOCATION
OF ISLANDERS, (C) PRECLUDES FURTHER LEAKS, AND (D)
MAY CAUSE ANTICIPATED ADVERSE REACTIONS TO BE DILUTED BY
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PREOCCUPATIONS. THERE IS FURTHER
IMPORTANT POINT THAT PCME MINISTER WILL HAVE BILATERALS
WITH PAKISTAN AND INDIA ON JAN 9 AND 12, RESPECTIVELY,
EN ROUTE TO COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN
SINGAPORE ON 17 JAN. THIS AND PROCEEDING POINTS ARGUE
FOR ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK, NOTWITHSTANDING VISIT OF
PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON.

2. WEDNESDAY ANNOUNCEMENT IS ABOUT EARLIEST POSSIBLE,
GIVEN PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION, BUT WILL STILL BE BEFORE
HEATH ARRIVAL WASHINGTON.

3. BRITISH STRESS THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES
IN MEETING MARCH DATE FOR RELOCATION OF ISLANDERS.
THE DIMENSIONS OF THE DIFFICULTIES CANNOT BE KNOWN
UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH TODD, UK ADMINISTRATOR
FOR SEYCHELLES, WHO WILL BE UK MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, BRITISH BE-
LIEVE TODD OR HIS DESIGNATE SHOULD ACCOMPANY OR PRECEDE
EIGHT-MAN SURVEY PARTY ONTO DIEGO. BRITISH ALSO ASKED
IF US WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND NAVY REP TO BRIEF
TODD PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF SURVEY TEAM AND ACCOMPANY
TODD TO DIEGO GARCIA IF DESIRED. REQUEST WASHINGTON
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO TIMING.

4. BRITISH SUGGESTIONS REGARDING NOTIFICATION OF
THIRD COUNTRIES, PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, AND PROPOSED
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE SUBJECT OF SEPTELS.

5. WE HAVE ASKED FOR UK VIEWS ON STAGING OF CONSTRUCTION
FORCE, PARTICULARLY EIGHT-MAN SURVEY PARTY. THEY ARE
LOOKING INTO AVAILABILITY OF NORDVAER OR ALTERNATIVE
BRITISH SHIPS. THERE IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF COORDINA-
TION BETWEEN SURVEY PARTY AND TODD REFERRED TO ABOVE.

BRITISH AWAITING LAIRD TO CARRINGTON LETTER BEFORE

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By KD NARA Date 8/13

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- PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE THEIR PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTION.
7. BRITISH ENVISAGE SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT, PROBABLY EXCHANGE OF NOTES, WHICH INCORPORATES DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENT.
8. EMBASSY AGREESTO NAVEUR PARTICIPATION PROPOSED PARA 13 REFTEL, AND WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH ADM. MENDT'S STAFF.
- ANNENBERG

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FORCE, PARTIAL AVAILABILITY
LOOKING INTO AVAILABILITY
BRITISH SHIPS. THERE IS ESSENTIAL
TION BETWEEN SURVEYPARTY AND TODD REFTEL
BRITISH AWAITING LAIRD TO CARRINGTON LAIRD

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