



Department of State TELEGRAM

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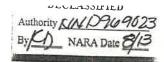
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SUBJECT: REINDEER STATION

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

1. WE HAD EXTENDO DISCUSSION AFTERNOON NOV 10 AND AGAIN EVENING 1: NOV WITH FCO AND MOD REPS ON BASIS REF A. BRITIY HAVE TENTATIVELY PROPOSED, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF MINISTERS, THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT BE RMADE ON WEDNESDAY 16 DEC. AT 1600 HOURS BRITISH TIME, AND THAT THE CLOSELY COORDINATED APPROACHES TOTHIRD COUNTRIES BE MADE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO TIME OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. BRITISH FEEL ITESSENTIAL TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK, NOTWITHSTANDING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON ON /ITH AND 18TH. THEY BELIEVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEDNESDAY WOULD DECOUPLE DIEGO GARCIA FROM PRIME MINISTER'SVISIT. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, IN BRITISH VIEW, TO MAKE ANNOUNCE. MENT BEFORE PARLIAMENT ADJRNS 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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HARMFULTO HMG TO MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DURING PARLIAMENTARY RECESS OR TO HAVE PRESS LEAK DURING THAT TIX.
ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK (A) MEETS HMG POLITICAL:
PROBLEM, (B) PERMITS HMG TO PROCED WITH RELOCATION
OF ISLANDERS, (C) PRECLUDES FURTHER LEAKS, AND (D)
MAY CAUSE ANTICIPATED ADVERS REACTIONS TO BE DILUTED BY
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PREDCCUPATIONS. 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 WASHINGON.

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. N 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 ARRIVALOF SURVEY TEAM AND ACCOMPANY
TODD TO DIEGO GARCIA IF DESIRED. REQUEST WASHINGTON
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO TIMING.

4.0 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 COORDINATION BETWEEN SURVEYPARTY AND TODD REFERRED TO ABOVE.

BRITISH AWAITING LAIRD TO CARRINGTON LETTER BEFORE



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7° BRITISH ENVISAGE: SOME FORM OF: AGREEMENT, PROBABLY EXCHANGE OF NOTES, WHICH INCORPORATES DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENT.

PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE

THEIR PERSONNEL: CONTRIBUTION.

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8. EMBASSY AGREESTO : PARA 13 REFTEL; AND I ADM: WENDT'S STAFF. ANNENBERG WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH

FORCE, PART AVAILABLE IS ESSENTED KEINGTO LOOKING INTO THERE AND TODD KEINGTO BRITISH SHIPS SURVEYPARTY AND CARRINGTO TION BETWEEN SURVEYPARTY AND TO CARRINGTO BRITISH AWAITING LAIRD TO CARRINGTON LE



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