

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

MESSAGE

BFR  
FLAGPLOT  
IP  
94(10)  
94  
63  
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FEB 64  
NCC/96803/JJ/WC/4  
TOR/0434Z

ROUTINE  
SECRET  
R 272200Z FEB 64  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO DEFENSE

R 271856Z FEB 64

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEQHK/CINCSRIKE  
RUEKHC/CINCLANT  
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC

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 FONOEF, 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,  
ALTHOUGH CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT US ENVISAGES

STATE READDRESSES FOR DEFENSE  
PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED  
REF BY MSG NUMBER IN  
UNCLASSIFIED REPLY PROHIBITED

GROUP-3  
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS  
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

*Indian Ocean*

DA IN 220403

SECRET

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272200

SECRET

MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

NR: 4187

EXCLUSIVE CONTROL (WITHOUT LOCAL INHABITANTS) OF INDIVIDUAL ISLANDS (WHILE WILLING SHARE USE OF FACILITIES WITH HMG) AND THAT US NOT PREPARED TO OFFER AID PROGRAMS OR LARGE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO BENEFIT LOCAL ECONOMIES. UK SIDE INDICATE HMG NOW PREPARED MOVE AHEAD ON IDEA UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR PAST 18 MONTHS TO SEPARATE MAURITIUS DEPENDENCIES, INCLUDING DIEGO GARCIA, FROM MAURITIUS ADMINISTRATION BEFORE MAURITIUS BECOMES INDEPENDENT. COLONIAL OFFICE BELIEVES THIS CAN BE DONE, BUT UP TO THIS POINT SEEMS DETERMINED THAT MAURITIUS MINISTERS MUST BE CONSULTED, TO INCLUDE SOME SUITABLE REFERENCE TO FACT DIEGO GARCIA MAY, DEPENDING ON SURVEY, BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES BY US/UK. COLONIAL OFFICE UNWILLING MAKE DEFINITE COMMITMENT ON TIMING SEPARATION MOVE, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY BE DONE REASONABLY SOON. ECONOMIC PROBLEM RE DIEGO GARCIA LARGELY REVOLVES AROUND FACT WHOLE ISLAND RECENTLY PURCHASED BY COPRA DEVELOPER WHO HAS INVESTED POUNDS STERLING 112,000 IN DIEGO GARCIA AND NEARBY ISLANDS TO REHABILITATE COPRA PLANTATIONS. LAND ACQUISITION COSTS MAY, THEREFORE, BE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL PROBLEM FOR HMG. UK REPS CLEARLY UNDERSTAND PRINCIPLE THAT UK WILL BEAR SUCH COSTS FOR DIEGO GARCIA.

MEETING TODAY DEVOTED TO AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF PAPER OUTLINING ACTION RECOMMENDATION TO BE MADE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. IN GENERAL PAPER WILL SAY:

1. RE DIEGO GARCIA -- UK WILL MOVE RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE DIEGO GARCIA FROM MAURITIUS. THEREAFTER, JOINT US/UK SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER UK AUSPICES. IF SURVEY SATISFACTORY, UK WILL MOVE TO ACQUIRE ENTIRE ISLAND FOR US COMMUNICATIONS SITE AND LATER DEVELOPMENT OTHER AUSTERE FACILITIES.

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 OF 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.

GR-3. BRUCE

DISTR: OSD, DCSOP, ACSFOR, ACSI, AF, NAVY, CMC, DIA, JCS  
DA IN 220408

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