

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY

August 13, 1964

SECRET

MEMORANDUM TO: G/PM - Mr. Jeffrey C. Kitchen
FROM : G/PM - C. Arnold Freshman
SUBJECT : Indian Ocean Bases

I informed Ray Bronez on an urgent basis today of our interest in persuading the British to accomplish as much as possible on detachment prior to the September 8 meeting of the subcommittee of the Committee of 24, noting that before this could be done the US and the UK had to determine which sites in the Indian Ocean appeared to warrant detachment. This would require an early and accelerated reading from the survey team, which for some reason is presently in Diago Suarez.

Bronez telephoned me this evening to report this had stimulated the following actions:

1. On the basis of preliminary word already in regarding Diago Garcia's suitability as a communications site, Navy will prepare tonight and present to the Joint Chiefs at their meeting tomorrow a request for a quick decision to accept Diago Garcia for the communications site.

2. DOD will communicate with the survey team (through British channels necessarily) and either obtain a report of findings and conclusions to date, or bring back a senior member of the survey party to render an oral report. Bronez estimates that in either case it will take about a week before DOD would have any ideas concerning the suitability of other sites in the Indian Ocean for the purposes envisaged.

He felt

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