

April 15, 1976

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON DIEGO GARCIA

The Indian Ocean Report being sent to the Hill today is in response to a Congressional request for a summation of the Administration's efforts to reduce tensions with the Soviets in the Indian Ocean area. Funds for the construction of Diego Garcia were to be held up until April 15, 1976, by which time the report was to be submitted. Construction for Diego Garcia has proceeded on schedule with FY '75 funds and '76 funds will be released as of tomorrow.

This report was not a prior requirement to the release of the funds. Basically, it asserts that we will continue to act with restraint in the area and while we hope the Soviets act similarly, we shall watch the progress of their build-up in Somalia very closely.