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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subj: Indian Ocean Islands (U)

Ref: (a) Memo of Information Ser 001688P61 of 27 May 64
(b) Memo of Information Ser 001670P61 of 12 May 64

1. The UK discussed the question of detachment of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius with Dr. Ramgoolam, Mauritian Premier. Dr. Ramgoolam has reserved his position, and thus the issue of detachment of Chagos and other islands is still unresolved.

2. Nevertheless, plans are proceeding for the joint US/UK survey of Chagos and other Indian Ocean islands. The U.S. members of the survey party are now scheduled to leave for London on 13 July and board HMS DAMPIER at Can on 17 July. In addition to the Chagos, surveys are planned of Diego Reche, Coetivy and Agalega.

3. To possibly obviate attacks when the fact of the surveys becomes known, the UK had intended, following its talks with Dr. Ramgoolam, to inform certain key third countries of the impending surveys. However, in view of the Mauritian Premier's reservation, the UK now believes it is desirable not to do so and simply to live with any repercussions.

4. Meanwhile, a WASHINGTON POST correspondent has ferreted out the complete story about our Indian Ocean island plans. The Department of State has prevailed upon Mr. Friendly, the POST's Managing Editor, to withhold publication of the story until a more appropriate time. However, STATE made a commitment to give timely notification to the POST should it be learned that the story is about to break elsewhere.

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