

SECRET

(18)

Category AC: no unclassified reply or reference.

5472

SECRET

From: BDS Washington

RECEIVED IN
MAILS No. 32
27 APR 1967

192026Z April

Date: 19.4.67.

To: MOD UK

Recd: 2211Z

Mr. Brody Turner

I have enclosed a sep. copy.

There seems to be a strong case for going along with this both in wider terms of coop-1.

RFT/WASCOS 26

For CDS from Head BDSW

Subject: Diego Garcia

1. I was approached today by CNO's representative who showed me a letter sent by First Sea Lord to Admiral Thatch on the subject of the British decision not to go ahead with facilities on Diego Garcia.

2. The US Navy is keen to go ahead with the construction of facilities by Mr McNamara has ruled that while money is of no great significance to the US in this matter he is not prepared to authorise the plan without some British participation.

3. CNO's ideas for overcoming the difficulties are on the following lines and he asked me to explore possible British Government reactions to these if they were put by the US Government:- The US will build and man the facility as soon as possible after the survey to take place this summer is completed, using surplus construction equipment available in Vietnam. At all times the British and US flags would be flown at the facility. At least one British Liaison Officer would be required to live on the facility which would otherwise be entirely manned by the US. British ships and aircraft would have full right of access to the facility at all times, to be paid for on an "as used" basis. Storage facilities for British POL and stocks could probably be arranged. In short, the US would build, man and run the facility with nominal British participation.

I agree. Under our agreements with the Americans, we can hardly do less.

MSB

24/4

4. It would seem on the face of it that an arrangement on these lines would be possible under the terms of the agreements reached last November with Kitchen in London. Since, however, I am not aware of the background leading up to the First Sea Lord's letter to Admiral Thatch, I will be grateful for some early indication as to what advice I should give CNO before he puts this idea forward to Mr McNamara.

192026Z

Mr. Beith

Entire copy

also

MSB

26/4

- GDS (7)
- CNS (5)
- CGS (5)
- CAS (5)
- CAPL (2)
- AUS (POL)
- DS 11
- DC DS (I) (4)

Distribution authorised by DOC

To DOC for Circ.

- DOC/COSSEC (7)
- D of DP (3)
- Foreign Office Mr Sykes (3)
- Commonwealth Office
- Maj Gen McNeill (3)

LR/170

SECRET