

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
A/ISS/IPS, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
Date: 10/4/2007

~~TOP SECRET/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford  
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and  
Assistant to the President for National Security  
Affairs  
Dr. James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense  
The Joint Chiefs of Staff:  
Gen. George S. Brown, USAF, Chairman  
Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, USA  
Adm. James L. Holloway, III, CNO  
Gen. David C. Jones, USAF  
Gen. Robert E. Cushman, Jr., USMC  
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to  
the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME:

Tuesday, August 13, 1974  
3:00 p. m.

PLACE:

The Cabinet Room  
The White House

[Omitted here is material unrelated to Diego Garcia.]

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CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

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[Omitted here is material unrelated to Diego Garcia]

Adm. Holloway (CNO):

[Omitted here is material unrelated to Diego Garcia]

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There  
is a Persian Gulf Task Force. We now know we can stay in Bahrain.

Chart number 14 shows our augmentation capability. Since October we have put a major force into the Indian Ocean for three or four quarters. It is difficult to support.

Kissinger: The Chinese are a great supporter of this deployment.

Adm. Holloway: It is difficult to do; that is why we want to see Diego Garcia upgraded.

President: Did the authorization knock out the limitation?

Scowcroft: Stennis put in \$14.8 million which put it in the door.

President: But the authorization didn't prevent it?

Scowcroft: No.

Kissinger: This Indian Ocean deployment is crucial for our foreign policy.

President: Is the harbor adequate?

Adm. Holloway: No. Even with dredging it could take only the oiler. We have only carrier ports like Mombasa. But we have a force going in in November for bilateral operations with the Iranian Navy. We go around South Africa once a year.

[Omitted here is material unrelated to Diego Garcia.]

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