

ES7

SECRET

OO WASHINGTON
GRS 285
SECRET
FM FCO 081715Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 680 OF 8 APRIL
AND TO IMMEDIATE ASCENSION (FOR ADMINISTRATOR)

YOUR TELNO 1149: USE OF US FACILITIES ON ASCENSION ISLAND
1 THE COMPLETE RANGE OF OUR FUTURE REQUIREMENTS IS NOT YET CLEAR BUT THERE IS ONE REQUIREMENT WHICH WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO PASS ON AT THIS STAGE. WE WISH TO USE AIRFIELD FOR TWO NIMROD AIRCRAFT IN ORDER TO CONDUCT MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS ON A 24-HOUR BASIS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD (SINCE THEIR MISSIONS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH OUR SUBMARINE FORCES 24 HOUR COVER IS ESSENTIAL). WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF THE U S WOULD ARRANGE FOR THE AIRFIELD TO OPERATE ON A 24 HOUR BASIS FOR THE TIME BEING. WE REALISE THAT THIS WILL INVOLVE THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL AIR CONTROLLERS AS FORESHADOWED IN MY TELNO 634. MEANWHILE AIR TRANSPORT FORCE OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE ON THE PRESENT SCALE. WE ALSO PLAN TO LOCATE VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND AND A MET FACILITY. IN ADDITION WE SHALL REQUIRE FACILITIES FOR THE 3 COMMANDO BRIGADE AS MENTIONED IN PARA C OF MY TELNO 634.

2 A SENIOR OFFICER HAS NOW BEEN APPOINTED AS COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH FORCES SUPPORT UNIT AND HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LIAISE AS REQUIRED WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE U S FORCES ASCENSION ISLAND ON ALL MATTERS OF DETAIL INCLUDING POINTS MADE IN PARA D OF MOD'S TELNO 04180Z APR.

3 YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO MAKE THE POINT THAT IN A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING OPERATIONAL SITUATION IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE AS MUCH WARNING OF IMPENDING DEPLOYMENT AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST AND THAT IT WOULD CONSEQUENTLY BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO US IF THE U S WOULD AGREE TO OUR REQUESTS BEING PHRASED IN GENERAL TERMS, LEAVING DETAILS TO BE ARRANGED ON THE SPOT.
Pym

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CABINET OFFICE

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