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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 9, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM:

JIM CONNOR 

SUBJECT:

Senator Mike Mansfield

The attached letter was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Info -- Shouldn't someone show Senator  
Mansfield the new developments in Somalia."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney  
Max Friedersdorf

Attachment:

Senator Mansfield's letter  
of December 3, 1975 on Diego Garcia

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Gen Scofield

Info.

Shouldn't someone  
show Gen. Mansfield the  
new developments in Somalia.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M. L.*  
SUBJECT: Senator Mike Mansfield

Senator Mansfield requested the attached letter marked PERSONAL be brought to the President's attention.

Receipt of the letter has been acknowledged by this office.

United States Senate  
Office of the Majority Leader  
Washington, D.C. 20510

December 3, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

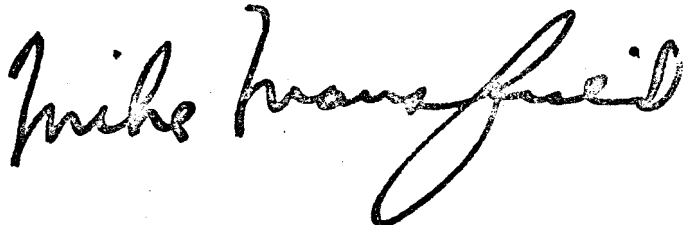
The decision to build a military facility on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean has been before the Congress since 1969. Much of the discussion has focused on the effect of such a facility on the possibility of obtaining suitable guarantees to insure that the Indian Ocean area remains an "ocean of peace." Mutual restraint in building naval installations and in otherwise limiting the naval presence of the Soviet Union and the United States in the Indian Ocean has been considered as a most desirable objective by many members. It is an objective, moreover, which we believe has not received an appropriate priority within the Executive Branch.

The building of a naval installation on Diego Garcia could irretrievably raise the threshold of military activity in the area. For this nation, moreover, this step could be the precursor of a three-ocean navy, with consequent heavy costs to the people of the United States.

It would seem that an agreement now with the U.S.S.R. to retain the status quo in installations and naval operations should be much easier to obtain than a rollback after each side has once escalated its presence. The Congress has expressed its deep concern in this matter by placing in the military construction bill a prohibition against construction of the Diego Garcia naval facility until April 15, 1976, and by asking immediate diplomatic initiatives with a report thereon to both Houses of Congress prior to that date.

I would express the hope, most respectfully, that you will undertake to have the Secretary of State give his personal attention to this most important undertaking. He should feel free to call upon those members of Congress with a deep interest in the matter for such consultation and advice as he might feel would be helpful.

Respectfully yours,



cc: Hon. Henry A. Kissinger