

Message Text

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OSD/SA:CDR GRUMWALT

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMCONSUL HAMILTON

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E.. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: SUPPORT OF TRIDENT I (C-4) MISSILE TEST FLIGHTS BY
NASA'S BERMUDA TRACKING STATION

REF: (A) STATE CA 7844 OF MAY 7, 1968

(B) LONDON A-4552 OF SEPT 13, 1968

(C) LONDON A 5216 OF DEC 14, 1968

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) HAS REQUESTED C-BAND
RADAR DATA TO BE ACQUIRED AT NASA' BERMUDA TRACKING STATION
IN SUPPORT OF TRIDENT I (C-4) MISSILE TEST PROGRAM, BEGINNING
JANUARY 1976 AND EXTENDING OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS.

THE DATA COLLECTED WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED REAL-TIME RANGE/TIME
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PARAMETER INFORMATION CONSIDERED BY USAF AS MANDATORY TO

RANGE SAFETY SUPPORT OF LAUNCHINGS CONDUCTED FROM AIR FORCE EASTERN TEST RANGE (AFETR) IN FLORIDA. IN ADDITION UNCLASSIFIED TRAJECTORY DATA WILL BE ACQUIRED TO MEET USAF METRIC DATA REQUIREMENTS.

2. REFTELS DESCRIBE SIMILAR SUPPORT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN 1968 FOR POSEIDON AND MINUTEMAN PROGRAMS. APPROVAL FOR USE OF STATION TO SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS WAS PROVIDED THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF CLASSIFIED DIPLOMATIC NOTES (REFS B AND C) WHICH ENCOMPASSED CERTAIN CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY HMG. SAME CONDITIONS FOR TRIDENT SUPPORT ACCEPTABLE.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY INITIATE EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH HMG TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR THIS NEW ACTIVITY.

4. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT WHICH CAN BE USED AS BASIS FOR EXCHANGE OF NOTES TO COVER THIS NEW PROGRAM.

QUOTE: I HAVE THE HONR TO REFER TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE USE OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) BERMUDA TRACKING STATION TO PROVIDE RADAR AND TRACKING SUPPORT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TRIDENT I (C-4) MISSILE TEST FLIGHT PROGRAM. USE OF THE STATION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:

(A) TRACKING DATA OBTAINED AT THE BERMUDA TRACKING STATION IN SUPPORT OF THE TEST PROGRAM WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED;

(B) NO UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL WOULD BE ASSIGNED, EVEN TEMPORARILY, TO THE STATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM;

(C) SUPPORT BY THE STATION WOULD ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR LAUNCHES WITHIN THE TEST PROGRAM;

(D) THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD BE INFORMED ON EACH OCCASION THAT IT IS PROPOSED TO USE THE STATION TO SUPPORT SUCH LAUNCHINGS. THE MECHANISM FOR SUCH NOTIFICATION WOULD BE FOR THE NASA STATION DIRECTOR
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TO INFORM THE U.S. CONSUL GENERAL IN BERMUDA OF EACH LAUNCH ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS ABOUT THREE TO FOUR WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE LAUNCHING: THE CONSUL GENERAL WILL THEN INFORM THE GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA.

IF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM CONCURS, I PROPOSE THAT THIS NOTE TOGETHER WITH YOURS IN REPLY CONFIRMING THE UNDERSTANDINGS SET FORTH ABOVE WOULD CONSTI-

TUTE APPROVAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO
USE THE NASA BERMUDA TRACKING STATION FOR THE PURPOSE
INDICATED.

COMPLEMENTARY CLOSE. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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