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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

6/24/98

OSC BRIEFING

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19 September 1956

BACKGROUND--SUEZ: ANNEX B - UK O/B **CONFIDENTIAL**

I. Disposition of British Army troops in Mediterranean area:

total--51,000.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Cyprus | 26,600 | |
| Malta | 12,400 | 11,800 |
| Libya | 8,500 | |
| Jordan | 1,700 | |
| Aden - Bahrein | 1,800 | 2,650 |
| | 51,000 | 51,250 |

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 NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
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(Estimated en route - ~~3,500~~ ~~4,000~~) 2,900

II. Disposition of Royal Navy units in Mediterranean area (at Malta, unless otherwise noted):

- 3 aircraft carriers (1 at Gibraltar)
- 1 light cruiser (Cyprus)

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- 1 destroyers (1 refitting at Gibraltar, 1 at Cyprus)
 - 1 destroyer escort
 - 4 corvettes (Cyprus)
 - 10 ✓ submarines (2 refitting)
 - 1 minelayer
 - 1 amphibious warfare squadron
 - 5 ✓ minesweeping squadrons (*1/2 now at Cyprus*)
- (plus auxiliary vessels)

A. Disposition of Units in Red Sea/Persian Gulf:

- 1 light cruiser - Red Sea
- 1 destroyer - Red Sea
- 3 corvettes (from East Indies Station, Ceylon) Persian Gulf

III. Disposition of British combat aircraft in Mediterranean area:

A. Total - - RAF - 189
Fleet Air Arm - 101
290

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B. RAF

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Cyprus | 150 jets (94 fighters) (56 bombers /40 light, 16 medium/) |
| Malta | 24 jet fighters |
| Aden | 15 jet fighters |
| | 189 |

C. Fleet Air Arm

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Embarked on Bulwark | 30 |
| Embarked on Eagle | 32 |
| Embarked on Albion | 30 |
| Ashore at Malta | 9 |
| | <u>101</u> |

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