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TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SEC. KISSINGER

FEBRUARY 28, 1974

FROM: JAN LODAL/HELMUT SONNENFELDT
SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN

SONNENFELDT HAS ALREADY DESCRIBED FOR YOU IN STATE CHANNELS THE BUEACRATIC SITUATION IN THE USG ON VARIOUS INDIAN OCEAN QUESTIONS, INCLUDING RATIONALE FOR USE WITH CONGRESS ON DIEGO GARCIA AND POSSIBILITY OF U.S.-SOVIET NAVAL LIMITATIONS.

IN TERMS OF BROADER SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WE ARE PREPARING A PAPER FOR YOUR MOSCOW TRIP THAT WILL ADDRESS SUCH POSSIBLE NAVAL LIMITATIONS, IN THE EVENT YOU WANT TO BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH BREZHNEV. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO ISSUE A NSSM ON THESE INDIAN OCEAN QUESTIONS. THE BUREAUCRACY WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY THIS AS THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE WORK DONE ALREADY (NSSMS 104,110) AND IT IS BADLY OUT OF DATE (1970-71). A NSSM EXERCISE WOULD SERVE TO FURTHER SLOW DOWN THE BUREAUCRACY FROM TAKING INITIATIVES. IF ANYTHING WORTH PURSUING EMERGES, THE NSSM EFFORT COULD SERVE TO ATTAIN THE BUREAUCRATIC CONSENSUS WHICH MIGHT BE CRITICAL--OR PERHAPS IMPOSSIBLE--FOR NEGOTIATING SUCH NAVAL LIMITATIONS.

MORI/CDF
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WITH THE ABOVE IN MIND, WE ARE PREPARING A DRAFT NSSM INTENDED TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE U.S. STRATEGIES THROUGH 1980 FOR DEALING WITH CURRENT AND PROJECTED SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND FOR FURTHERING U.S. INTERESTS IN THE AREA. WE WILL HAVE IT READY FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ON YOUR RETURN.

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State Dept. review completed

***** *WHSR COMMENT***** *ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY*

MCFARLANE, SECFILE

RECALLED

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