

Message Text

SECRET

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12
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 PM-07 SPC-03 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01

SSO-00 /061 W

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R 050815Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5868

S E C R E T NAIROBI 01798

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IO
SUBJECT: MOMBASA SHIP VISITS

1. I FEEL EMBASSY'S RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT REPEAT NOT TO DECIDE WHERE OR WHICH USN VESSELS SHOULD VISIT PORTS. HOWEVER, OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS CLEARLY TO DECIDE WHETHER VISITS SHOULD OCCUR. PARA TEN BELOW DRAWS CONCLUSION FROM THIS PREMISE.

2. COMIDEASTFOR (210925Z FEB 74 NOTAL) POINTED OUT PROBLEMS IN ARRANGING PORT VISITS IN WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN AND POSSIBILITY OF BRONSTEIN AND KITTY HAWK JEOPARDIZING MIDEASTFOR FOUR-SHIP TURNOVER.

3. CINCLANT (232050Z FEB 74) AGREED WITH COMIDEASTFOR AND STATED HE DOES NOT CONCUR KITTY HAWK/BRONSTEIN SHIP VISIT.

4. CINCUSNAVEUR PRESENTED (242100Z FEB 74) PROBLEM AND PROPOSED IN PARA FOUR EMBASSY SEEK CONCURRENCE FROM GOK FOR BOTH VISITS TOTALLING SIX SHIPS.

5. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, ON 25 FEB EMBASSY INDICATED (NAIROBI 1560) CAUTION IN ESCALATING VISITS IN NUMBER OR FREQUENCY BUT ALSO STATED ITS WILLINGNESS REQUEST CLEAR-SECRET

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ANCE IN ONE REPEAT ONE NOTE TO GOK FOR FOUR-SHIP TURNOVER

PLUS 20-26 MARCH KITTY HAWK/BRONSTEIN VISIT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT.

6. ON 1 MARCH EMBASSY NOTED (NAIROBI 1703) FURTHER DELAY IN REQUESTING CLEARANCE MIGHT WELL LEAD TO MISIMPRESSION BY GOK.

7. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED (281027Z FEB 74 NOTAL) ON 4 MARCH REQUEST FROM COMIDEASTFOR FOR EMBASSY TO SEEK CLEARANCES FOR USS KOELSCH, BRUMBY, PAUL, MULLINIX.

8. EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT NO CLEARANCES AS NOTED 1 MARCH (NAIROBI 1703), AWAITING DEPARTMENT'S REPLY.

9. ORIGINAL CINCPACFLT REQUEST FOR KITTY HAWK/BRONSTEIN DATED 21 FEB ALLOWED ONE MONTH FOR CLEARANCE. HOWEVER, DUE TO NAVY LACK OF COORDINATION AND INDECISION, ONLY FIFTEEN DAYS REMAIN PRIOR CONTEMPLATED ARRIVAL KITTY HAWK/BRONSTEIN 20 MARCH.

10. I AM FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT ANY FURTHER DELAY (ALLOWING LESS THAN TWO WEEKS TO REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR KITTY HAWK/BRONSTEIN) MIGHT PRESENT PROBLEM BETWEEN USG-GOK. AS POINTED OUT IN NAIROBI 1542 (AND WITH THE PUBLICITY BEING GIVEN TO THE INDIAN OCEAN, NOTABLY DIEGO GARCIA, LOCALLY ON DAILY BASIS) THE GOK AND KENYANS ARE KEENLY AWARE OF SHIP VISITS. WAITING UNTIL "LAST MINUTE" MIGHT WELL BE MISUNDERSTOOD OR NOT UNDERSTOOD BY GOK. THEY MIGHT WELL ASK "WHY?" OUR POLICY GUIDANCE (NAIROBI 1542) CAUTIONED NEED FOR LOW-KEY: RUSHED REQUEST FOR SIX-SHIP CLEARANCE IS NOT LOW-KEY.

11. HENCE I PLAN ON 6 MARCH TO SUBMIT REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE FOR FOUR-SHIP TURNOVER ONLY (NOT KITTY HAWK/BRONSTEIN) TO GOK AND TO SO ADVISE CINCLANT, CINCUSNAVEUR, CINCPAC, AND COMIDEASTFOR OF REASONS FOR SUCH ACTION AS SET FORTH IN THIS CABLE.

12. DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE SOUGHT
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TO PARA ELEVEN.
MARSHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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