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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Jakarta, Indon

PARTICIPANTS: President of the Republic of Indonesia Suharto
Major General Sudharmono, State Secretary
Deputy Secretary of Defense Clements
Ambassador David D. Newsom

DATE & PLACE: September 30, 1974;

SUBJECT: Frigates for Indonesia; Diego Garcia

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Chief, Records & Declass Div. AF
Date: AUG 02 2018

At the close of a conversation on Indonesia's position in Asia and bilateral relations with the United States (report in Jakarta 12129), President Suharto said he wanted to continue to depend upon the United States for military supply and had turned to Britain to buy frigates only after having been turned down by the United States. Mr. Clements said that this was the first he had heard of this and turned to the Ambassador to ask for background.

The Ambassador explained that the Indonesians had approached the Department of Defense several months before to inquire about the availability of frigates. General Hasnan Habib, who made the contact, was told that the United States did not have the frigates of the type Indonesia was seeking in the inventory; the matter was dropped at that point. The Ambassador said he had advised Washington of the interest of Indonesia in the

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~~EO 12958~~
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Mr. Clements then asked the President what he thought about the U.S. plans to establish a navy base at Diego Garcia; the President laughed and indicated he fully understood the implications of the question. He said that Indonesia agreed with the other littoral states around the Indian Ocean that the Indian Ocean should not be an area of conflict. Indonesia would like to see it established as a zone of peace. The President then added that since Mr. Clements was asking him his personal views, he could say that he did not want to see only the Soviet Union in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Clements said he understood his answer.

In concluding the meeting, Mr. Clements told the President that he was pleased to hear that they shared a common interest in cattle. He mentioned to the President the very special facilities in animal husbandry at Texas A & M and suggested the President consider sending his sons who are being trained in this science to Texas A&M. The President expressed appreciation for the suggestion.

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