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electric power, water and medical facilities. During MOL
launch operations, aircraft and men would normally be deployed
to Easter Island for a few days, but possibly up to three weeks
if launch postponed. After MOL launch, aircraft and men would
depart leaving special MOL facilities in caretaker status.
Operational date for staging area is approximately April 1, 1969
and would continue at least through 1970 with launches at about
3 or 4 month intervals.

3. Many facilities needed for MOL staging area will be con-
structed at Easter Island [redacted] operations will
require permanent facilities and relatively complete support.
Additional support needed for MOL and to be supplied by DOD
consists of (a) application of hard surface to airstrip, (b)
additional aircraft parking area, (c) storage shelter, (d)
additional aircraft fuel storage tank, and (e) austere living
and messing facilities for periodic temporary operating force.
Only alternative site for staging area, Henderson Island
(Pitcairn), would require much more construction. Use of
Easter Island would, therefore, result in substantial financial
savings.

4. Establishment of this station is not in itself sensitive
element of MOL program and would be classified primarily to
avoid premature speculation in news media. Operating party
would, however, have classified material and would receive
and send classified communications, thus requiring right of
entry without customs or other inspections.

5. Request Embassy seek GOC approval for MOL staging area at
Easter Island. Embassy may brief, on classified basis,
appropriate GOC officials on MOL program generally and specific
activities we wish established at Easter Island. In describing
proposed MOL plans for Easter Island, Embassy should not refer
[redacted] except to those few GOC officials briefed on
[redacted]

Unless

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Embassy sees some objection, we think exchange of letters, tailored to meet MOL needs, between USAF Chief of Staff and the Commanding Officer, Air Force of Chile. [REDACTED]

would be appropriate. Will such an exchange insure GOC providing necessary duty free exemption?

KATZENBACH, ACTING

Clearances:

AUSA/EC - Mr. Fimbres
AUSA/EAS - Mr. Sharp
AUSA - Mr. Dickel
C/ADM - Mr. Lee
AUSA/DNA - Mr. Judd
A/T - Mrs. McDowell

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