

Parliamentary Paper
No. 330/1976

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

AUSTRALIA AND THE
INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Report from the Senate Standing
Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

*Brought up and
ordered to be printed 30 November 1976*

The Commonwealth Government Printer
Canberra 1977

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Senator J.P. Sim, Chairman
Senator C.G. Primmer, Deputy Chairman
Senator J.W. Knight
Senator G.D. McIntosh
Senator D.B. Scott
Senator K.W. Sibraa

SECRETARY

Mr T. Magi,
The Senate,
Parliament House,
Canberra.

CONTENTS

	page
Preface	1
The Committee's Terms of Reference	
Scope of the Inquiry	
1. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN	3
Historical Influences on the Region	5
The Geographic and Political Status of the Indian Ocean Region	6
Assessments of Individual Littoral and Related States	10
South Africa	16
Mozambique	17
Tanzania	18
Kenya	19
Somalia	20
Ethiopia	22
French Territory of Afars and Issas	23
Yemen (PDRY)	24
Arab Republic of Yemen	25
Saudi Arabia	26
Oman	27
Qatar	28
United Arab Emirates	29
Bahrain	30
Sudan	31
Egypt	32
Kuwait	33
Iraq	34
Iran	35
Madagascar	39
Mauritius	40
The Seychelles	41
The Republic of the Maldives	42
Comoro Islands	43
India	43
Pakistan	46

	page
Sri Lanka	47
Bangladesh	48
Malaysia	50
Singapore	51
Burma	53
Thailand	54
Indonesia	56
2. STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN	59
Global Strategic Position	61
Superpower Competition in the Indian Ocean	71
Soviet Political Involvement	73
United States Interests	78
3. BACKGROUND TO SUPERPOWER NAVAL INVOLVEMENT	87
Soviet Union	89
United States	99
Comparisons	106
4. NAVAL PRESENCES	109
Superpowers	111
Other Nations	128
5. MULTINATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS AND PROPOSALS INVOLVING THE REGION	133
Zone of Peace	135
Law of the Sea	139
Antarctica	141
ASEAN and ZOPFAN	142
6. INVOLVEMENT OF NON-REGIONAL POWERS	145
Japan	147
China	149
France	152
The United Kingdom	153

	page
7. AID AND ASSISTANCE TO THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION	155
Australia	157
United States	161
Japan	162
Soviet Union	163
China	164
East European	165
Canada	166
West Germany	166
United Kingdom	166
France	167
Scandinavia	167
Netherlands	167
Italy	167
OPEC Countries	167
Regional Development Organisations	168
8. AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE REGION	169
A Significant Trade and Communications Link	171
Air Transport	171
Shipping	172
Australian Participation in Regional Transport Bodies	173
Australian Aid and Assistance in the Transport Field	174
Immigration to Australia from the Indian Ocean Region	174
Control and Surveillance against Smuggling	176
Scientific and Oceanographic Research in the Indian Ocean	179
Political Implications for Australia	180
The Soviet Presence in the Indian Ocean - Australia's Reaction	183
Australia's Defence Role	190

	page
9. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	195
10. RECOMMENDATIONS	201
Acknowledgements	207
Appendices	209

LIST OF APPENDICES

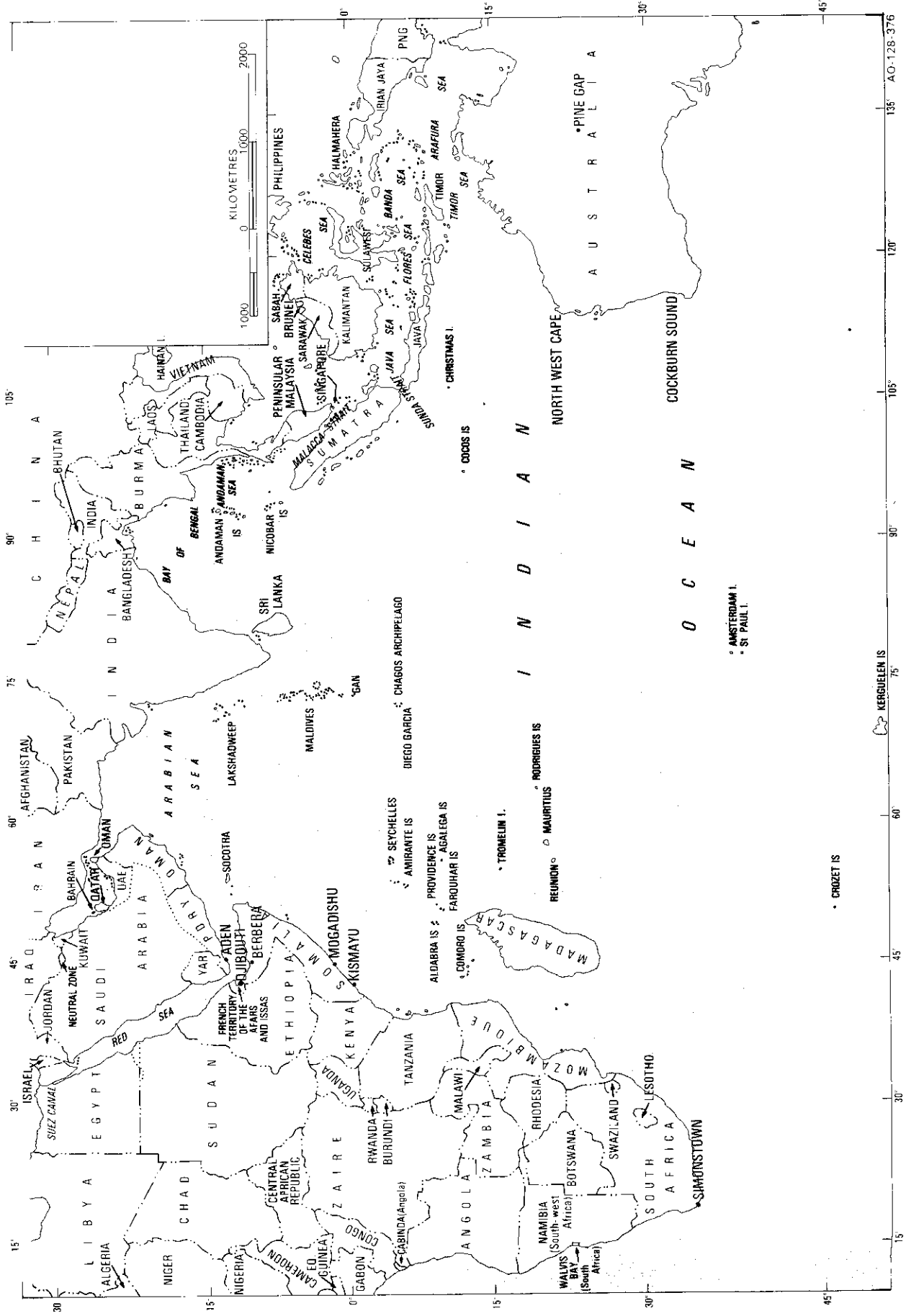
	page	
<u>Appendix A</u>	Summary of Soviet Naval Deployments in the Indian Ocean. Summary of United States Naval Deployments in the Indian Ocean.	211
<u>Appendix B</u>	Bilateral Aid to Indian Ocean Countries.	236
<u>Appendix C</u>	Australian Sponsored Overseas Students and Trainees in Australia - Indian Ocean Countries 1974/75.	237
<u>Appendix D</u>	Settlers Arriving, Australia : Country of Last Residence - Those Countries with Access to the Indian Ocean 1971/72 to 1974/75.	238
<u>Appendix E</u>	List of Persons and Organisations Submitting Evidence to the Committee.	239
<u>Appendix F</u>	List of Overseas Diplomatic Missions in Australia Providing Information.	242

ABBREVIATIONS

AA	anti-aircraft
ANZUS	Australia, New Zealand and the United States Security Treaty
ASW	antisubmarine warfare
CASOS	Coastal Air Sea Operational Support
CENTO	Central Treaty Organisation
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GNP	gross national product
ICBM	intercontinental ballistic missile
MIDEASTFOR	Middle East Force
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SAM	surface-to-air missile
SEATO	South East Asia Treaty Organisation
SLBM	submarine-launched ballistic missile
SSBN	strategic nuclear-powered submarine
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Childrens Fund
V/STOL	vertical/short takeoff and landing

Explanatory Note:

The term "matching presence", as it appears in the text, is not used to imply that the superpowers match their naval strength and deployments on a ship by ship basis in the Indian Ocean but rather that the capability exists for one to match any escalation by the other.



Preface

The Committee's Terms of Reference

On 31 March 1976, by resolution of the Senate, the Committee was given the following reference:-

"Australia and the Indian Ocean Region".

Scope of the Inquiry

The Committee in its considerations of the reference decided to examine and report on the subject with emphasis on the period 1972 to 1976. This period of time was chosen having in mind that the Indian Ocean region had been reported on by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs in 1971 and therefore an in-depth examination of the situation prior to 1971 was not considered necessary.

In its deliberations the Committee decided to update and supplement the 1971 Report and to broaden the scope of its inquiry to include South East Asia and Indonesia (not considered in the 1971 Report) and nations that have become independent since 1971. The Committee in its inquiry examined the reference from Australia's role in the region, the presence and influence of the superpowers, the relationships between the littoral states and their relationships with the superpowers and other external powers, strategic issues, economic, political and sociological factors, all of which contribute to the complexities of the world's largest group of emerging and diverse nations located around the littoral and in the Indian Ocean.