

2-12-74

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, Tuesday, February 12, 1974

## Russians Criticize Isle Plan

MOSCOW (UPI) — Pravda has said the Pentagon decision to expand its base on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean was a "deliberate aggravation" of tension aimed primarily against guerrilla movements in Africa.

The official Communist Party newspaper scoffed at U.S. military allegations that the decision was prompted by the threat of a Soviet naval buildup in the Indian Ocean.

That theory "holds no water," Pravda said, pointing out that Soviet ships' use of Indian Ocean sea lanes "is of no exceptional nature."

But Pravda said "The construction of one more base (by the U.S.) is indicative of the fact that the Pentagon intends to carry into life the policy of intimidation leveled both against the national liberation movements in Africa and against the developing states..."

For this reason, Pravda said, the American move, which entailed expanding its communication facilities on the British-owned island, was "a deliberate aggravation of tension in the vast and important part of our planet."