



To: The Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
USA

7 September 2025

**Dear Mr. President,**

We address you as a cross-party, cross-sector coalition of former British Ministers, Members of Parliament, peers, public servants, military veterans, and national security professionals. On many issues we differ. On this, we do not: the proposed transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago from the United Kingdom to Mauritius is a deliberate act of strategic self-harm that threatens both British and American security.

If ratified, the plan would place Diego Garcia, the backbone of US power projection in the Indian Ocean, under the sovereignty of a state bound by the Pelindaba Treaty, Africa's nuclear-weapon-free zone agreement. Mauritius is a party to that treaty. The United States is not. This change injects legal ambiguity into the presence and movement of nuclear-capable US forces and invites rivals, notably China and Russia, to use treaty provisions as a lever against American interests.

Mauritius may offer "assurances." They will endure only until Port Louis finds it expedient to rescind them. Under sustained Chinese influence, or amid UN and IAEA agitation, Mauritius could be pushed into inspections, legal disputes, or performative denunciations of US deployments, eroding the strategic ambiguity essential to deterrence.

Diego Garcia has never been under Mauritian administration. This is not restitution of stolen property. It is the voluntary abandonment of British Overseas Territory that for decades has anchored the collective security of the West. The result will be a strategic gift to adversaries and an act of self-sabotage by Britain against its closest ally.

If the UK and US are prohibited from storing nuclear weapons at Diego Garcia, this will have significant consequences for our strategic interests, defence capabilities and the effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent.

Mr. President, you have built your reputation on refusing to cede strategic ground to those who would weaken America. We urge you to use your influence, publicly and privately, and your prerogatives under the US-UK defence agreement of 1966 to oppose this surrender and to ensure that Diego Garcia remains exempt from any constraint under the Pelindaba Treaty.

Respectfully,

**The Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP** – Former Conservative Party Leader; UK co-chair of Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China IPAC

**The Rt Hon Grant Shapps** – Former Defence Secretary

**The Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP** – Former Home Secretary

**The Rt Hon the Lord Jack KBE PC DL** – Secretary of State for Scotland 2019 - 2024





**The Rt Hon David Jones** – Former Secretary of State for Wales  
**The Rt Hon Steve Baker** – Former Minister of State for Northern Ireland  
**The Rt Hon Mark Francois MP** – Former Armed Forces Minister  
**The Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP** – Former Cabinet Minister  
**The Rt Hon The Lord Hannan** of Kingsclere  
**The Lord Ahmad** of Wimbledon  
**The Lord Bellingham**  
**The Lord Johnson** of Lainston  
**The Lord Moylan**  
**The Lord Jackson** of Peterborough  
**The Lord Greenhalgh**  
**The Baroness Hoey**  
**Sir John Redwood**  
**Sir Edward Leigh MP**  
**Dr Nile Gardiner**, Former Aide to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher  
**Bob Blackman CBE MP**  
**Andrew Rosindell MP**  
**Danny Kruger MP**  
**Graham Stringer MP** (Labour)  
**Peter Bedford MP**  
**Jack Rankin MP**  
**Rear Admiral Dr Christopher John Parry CBE, PhD, RN (Retd)**  
**Brigadier Charlie Hobson CBE**, Royal Marines (Retd)  
**Dr David Starkey CBE**  
**Martin Howe KC**  
**Jim Allister KC MP** – Leader of TUV, Northern Ireland Assembly.  
**Ben Habib** – Leader of Advance UK and Chairman of Great British PAC  
**Nick Tenconi** – Leader of UKIP  
**James Glancy** – Former Brexit Party MEP, ex-Royal Marines Commando.  
**John Longworth** – Former Brexit Party MEP.  
**Jonathan Bullock** – Former MEP.  
**Christina Jordan** – Former MEP.  
**Brian Monteith** – Former MEP.  
**Alexandra Phillips** – Former MEP.  
**Jake Pugh** – Former MEP.  
**John Tennant** – Former MEP.  
**Johnny Leavesley DL** – Chairman, MIC  
**Christopher Howarth** (Geopolitical Expert and Parliamentary Researcher)  
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**Claire Bullivant** – CEO Great British PAC (Letter Organiser)