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 By *SV* NARA Date *11/18/6*

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*Ref Secy*  
 Department of State

**TELEGRAM**

*pr Def 15 Ind - US*

CONFIDENTIAL 805

PAGE 01 LONDON 01724 260550Z

22/84  
 ACTION AF-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 PM-06 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 SA-03 PRS-01

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R 251843Z FEB 72  
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 984  
 INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
 AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 1724

CORRECTED COPY (FOR PAR SIX)

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF CHAGOS WORKERS

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS A-246; *Ref Secy to Def 15 Ind - US*  
 (B) STATE 20963; AND (C) LONDON 1780

1. WE DISCUSSED CURRENT STATUS OF EX-CHAGOS POPULATION WITH KNIGHT (FCO ATLANTIC & INDIAN OCEAN DEPT) ON FEBRUARY 25.

2. AS OF NOVEMBER 1971, POPULATION STILL IN CHAGOS, I.E. ON PEROS BANHOS AND SAOLMON ISLANDS, WAS 65 MEN, 70 WOMEN, 197 CHILDREN, FOR TOTAL OF 322. OF THESE, 18 MEN, 18 WOMEN AND 49 CHILDREN (TOTAL 85) WERE EVACUATED FROM DIEGO GARCIA. ALL OF SEYCHELLOIS FROM ON DG HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO SEYCHELLES, AND EXCEPT FOR 85 STILL ON PB & S, ALL DG EVACUEES OF MAURITAIN ORIGIN HAVE RETURNED TO MAURITIUS EITHER BECAUSE THEIR CONTRACTS HAD EXPIRED OR BECAUSE THEY CHOSE TO DO SO.

3. AS FAR AS FCO IS AWARE, NONE RPT NONE OF THE DG EVACUEES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO AGELEGA. FCO COULD NOT ENTIRELY RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT A VERY SMALL NUMBER MIGHT HAVE ELECTED TO GO TO AGELEGA UNDER CONTRACT WITH MOULINIE, BUT IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT WAS ENTIRELY A PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT WITHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT OR INVOLVEMENT

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*London - 1724  
 2-25-72*

*74p = 322  
 Nov. 1971*

*(2)*



# Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 01724 260550Z

OF HMG. FCO DOUBTS THAT ANY DID.

4. FCO CONSIDERS AGELEGA DEVELOPMENT A DEAD LETTER. MOULINI FAILED TO COME UP WITH WORKABLE PLAN, AND WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE HE MAY IN FUTURE EXPAND PLANTATIONS ON AGELEGA, HMG WILL NOT SUBSIDIZE OPERATIONS THERE. MOULINI DOES NOT WISH TO RECRUIT FROM CHAGOS FOR AGELEGA AND IF HE HIRES IN FUTURE, WILL DO SO ONLY FROM MAURITIUS.

5. "DISLOCATION" PAYMENT OF 500 RUPEES PER HEAD WAS AUTHORIZED BY HMG LAST MAY FOR THOSE DG EVACUEES WHOSE CONTRACTS WERE PREMATURELY TERMINATED. PAYMENTS WERE TO HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH MOULINI OR HIS AGENTS SINCE HMG HAS NO DIRECT CONTRACTUAL RELATION WITH WORKERS AND THEIR WAGES NORMALLY PAID IN LUMP SUM AT END OF CONTRACT. REGARDING RUMORS THAT PAYMENTS NOT MADE, FCO HAS NOT SEEN ANY INSTANCE OF CLAIM FORM PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

6. HMG BELIEVES IT HAS PURSUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOM DILIGENTLY. THEY HAVE BEEN LENGTHY BECAUSE PROBLEM OF HOW TO PROVIDE FOR WELFARE OF PEOPLE GIVEN SITUATION IN MAURITIUS IS INHERENTLY DIFFICULT, AND ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS AGELEGA PLAN HAD TO BE THOROUGHLY EXPLORED BEFORE DISCARDING. FCO NOW HOPES IT IS ON VERGE OF REACHING AGREEMENT. GOM RECENTLY COMPLETED SURVEY OF EX-CHAGOS POPULATION WHICH FCO DESCRIBES AS "REALLY PROFESSIONAL". ON BASIS OF THIS SURVEY, PROPOSAL HAS BEEN WORKED OUT WHEREBY HMG WOULD FINANCE OR CONTRIBUTE TO TWO NEW HOUSING ESTATES IN NEW AREAS, TOGETHER WITH FACILITIES FOR PIG-BREEDING, VEGETABLE GROWING, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. HOUSING AND FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT NOMINAL RENT TO ANY EX-CHAGOS WORKERS WHO HAD RETURNED TO MAURITIUS SINCE 1965. PROJECT WOULD ABSORB 330 HEADS-OF-FAMILY AND SINGLE MEN NOW IN MAURITIUS, AND EVENTUALLY REMAINDER OF CHAGOS POPULATION NOW IN PB & S. PROJECT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SURVEY'S FINDINGS REGARDING WHERE PEOPLE CONCERNED WANT TO LIVE AND WHAT THEY WANT TO DO. GOM IS WELL SATISFIED WITH PROPOSAL AND ACCEPTS THAT IT WOULD DISCHARGE ALL OF HMG'S OBLIGATIONS. OUTSTANDING QUESTION

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*Department of State***TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 03 LONDON 01724 260550Z

IS AMOUNT OF UK FINANCING AND KNIGHT REGRETTED HE  
UNABLE GIVE US FIGURE SINCE THIS CRUCIAL POINT NOW  
BEING CONSIDERED IN WHITEHALL.

7. RELOCATION ISSUE IS ON AGENDA FOR US/UK AFRICA TALKS: / ← ( ? )  
IN WASHINGTON EARLY MARCH. FCO WILL BE PLEASED TO  
DISCUSS FUTHTER ALTHOUGH DOUBTFUL FIANCIAL TERMS OF AGREE-  
MENT WEILL BE SETTLED.

8. FINALLY, KNIGHT SAID IT IS HMG'S INTENTION TO CLOSE  
OUT OPERATIONS ON PB&S AS SOON AS POPULATION THERE CAN BE  
ABSORBED INTO MAURITIAN PROJECT. WHILE THEY WISH TO DO  
THIS IN ANY CASE TO CLOSE OUT RESIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES,  
THIS WILL ALSO HELP FULFILL TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO US TO  
MAKE BIOT AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVIELY FOR OFFENSE USE.

GP-3

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