



Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION: PM-06:

INFO: OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-14 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-06 NSAE-00 P-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01

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R 201120Z OCT 71
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2645
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AFSCFOL-9: MAHE
NMCB 40 DIEGO GARCIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS: 0977

REF: AFSCFOL-9 MAHE 260735Z AUG 71

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA ILOIS

1. EVACUATION ILOIS FROM DIEGO HAS NOW HIT LOCAL PRESS UNDER BANNER HEADLINES: OCTOBER 20. ARTICLES BASED ON PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 19 CALLED BY MMM LEADER BERENGER AND UDM POLITICAN OLLIVRY (WHO REPRESENTING MMM IN DOCK ARBITRATION). BERENGER REPORTEDLY RECEIVED LETTER OCTOBER 6 RPT 6 FROM FNU SERVINA WHO DESCRIBED AS SECRETARY OF SEYCHELLES PEOPLES UNITED PARTY AND OF SEYCHELLES TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION.

2. UNDER HEADLINE "146 PEOPLE EXPELLED FROM DIEGO IN PRISON IN THE SEYCHELLES" LEADING DAILY AND OTHER PAPERS REPORT BERENGER/OLLIVRY AS HAVING STATED 146 INDIVIDUALS TRANSPORTED VIA "NORDVAER" TO SEYCHELLES, APPARENTLY IN TRANSIT FOR MAURITIUS. GROUP LODGED IN MAHE "PRISON" IN ABSENCE OTHER AVAILABLE QUARTERS. ASSERTING "HUMANITARIAN" INTERESTS, BERENGER/OLLIVRY DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR THESE "REFUGEES" FROM GOVERNMENTS OF MAURITIUS, UK AND US AS WELL AS CHAGOS-AGALEGA, LTD. (MOULINIE) WHICH AFFILIATED LOCAL CONGOLMERATE ROGERS AND CO. MMM DAILY PLAYS UP PRESS CONFERENCE UNDER BANNER HEADLINES, CLAIMING AN ALLEGED 500- RUPEE COMPENSATION PAYMENT PER INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT BEEN PAID.

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AND RESETTLEMENT BENEFITS ALSO DUE FROM HMG. ARTICLE CLAIMS INDIVIDUALS UNABLE OBTAIN PASSPORTS FROM SEYCHELLES AUTHORITIES DESPITE "OCTOBER 6 DOCUMENT" ATTESTING THAT SEYCHELLES REGARDS THEM AS "CITIZENS UK AND COLONIES". ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL STATES RETROCESSION DIEGO TO MAURITIUS IS "IMPERATIVE" OF MMM POLICY.

3. COMMENT: ABOVE INFO APPARENTLY BASED ON SERVINA LETTER. USG SO FAR NOT RPT NOT SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM. RECOGNIZE BRITISH HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY BUT THIS GETS READILY BLURRED HERE IN PUBLIC EYE BY REASON OUR DOMINANT ROLE AT FACILITY (MMM PAPER INDICATES EMBASSY MAY BE APPROACHED AS WELL AS BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION). WOULD APPRECIATE INFO ON STATUS MOVEMENT ILOIS (LATEST WE HAVE IS AUGUST REFTEL) AND SPECIFIC DETAILS "JAILING" INCIDENT SEYCHELLES. IT HAD BEEN OUR IMPRESSION (PARA 6, LONDON 4528, MAY 19) THAT TRANSPORTATION ILOIS OUTSIDE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO WOULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED UNTIL SOME ORDERLY ARRANGEMENTS MADE TAKE CARE OF THEM ELSEWHERE. FROM HERE APPEARS THIS CONCEPT OVERTAKEN AND THAT IMMEDIATE HARDSHIP SITUATION MAY HAVE ARISEN. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I BELIEVE PROMPT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN RESOLVE SUCH ISSUES AS COMPENSATION AND RELOCATION LEST PROBLEM BECOME RUNNING SORE IN WESTERN RELATIONS HERE.

4. BRITISH HICOM CARTER SIMILARLY WITHOUT CURRENT INFO AND HAS QUERIED LONDON AND MAHE. RECALLS PRIMIN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE SOMETIME AGO THAT MAURITIAN ILOIS (INCLUDING THOSE ALREADY HERE WHO CANNOT BE ABSORBED LOCAL ECONOMY) WOULD BE SETTLED COPRA PLANTATIONS AGALEGA WITH HMG FOOTING BILL AND THAT THIS WOULD DISCHARGE BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY. PRIMIN HAS NOT SO FAR SUBMITTED THIS PROPOSAL CABINET BUT AT THAT TIME NO DIFFICULTY FORESEEN.
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