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CINCLANTFLT INFO:

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STATE

SUBJECT: Diego Garcia - Mauritian Labor/Relocation of

Copra Workers

REF: A. Port Louis 156 (NOTAL)

B. London 1445 (NOTAL)

C. London 1456 (NOTAL) D. London 1478 (NOTAL)

E. Port Louis 162 (NOTAL)

F. London 1632 (NOTAL)

G. Port Louis 183 (NOTAL)
H. Port Louis A=36 (NOTAL)

I. London 2391 (NOTAL) J. Port Louis 256 (NOTAL)

K. State 46045 (NOTAL)

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

Ref A discussed relation of USG purchases of provisions in context of welfare Diego Garcia residents and posed question on possibility of employment of Mauritians/in

PM/ISO:Capt. Day/ds 3/23/71 28688 PM/ISO - Mr. Stoddart

CLEARANCES: AFE-Mr. Marks AF/C-Mr. Bishop AF/I-LCol Critz OL/AF-Mr. Verville L/PM-Mr. Nelson EUR/BMI-Mr. Burns ONEA/RA-Mr. Helseth J-5-Capt. Kay

OSD/I&L-Mr. Bandiumis ATSA/FID-Col Bakar OTSA/NEGA Dr. Bishop AF/I-LCol Critz OL/AF-Mr. Verville Service Color Colo OSD/I&L-Mr. Bandjunis OISA/EUR-Col Baker OISA/NESA-Dr. Timberlake ISA/FMRA-Mr. Nagy

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Diego Garcia construction operations. Other reftels discussed same issues to include relocation of copra workers and citizenship of Ilois on Diego Garcia. This message is to respond to all questions raised on these subjects in reftels.

Re possibility of employment of Mauritians on Diego Garcia Navy has reexamined question and concludes that present construction plan as approved by Congress will not accommodate employment of third country nationals in construction operations. One of key factors in obtaining USG approval for Diego Garcia construction was that third country national involvement would be at a minimum with station to consist of entire island and no persons on isaand who are not official US or UK personnel employed at and residing on station. Decision to use Naval con-

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ACTION: PORT LOUIS, LONDON construction without outside help was based on this policy and on funding limitations. While we recognize that short-term US-GOM relations would be improved by even temporary hire of Mauritians on project, this action Would create private community on island dependent on station for economic livelihood from outset of project. In long run, this could create problems which outweight

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any short-term improvement in US-GOM relations. Evaluation these factors has resulted in determination that construction must continue as planned, i.e. without

3. FYI. We will be forced to let bids for private conthird country hire. tractors if third increment funding for dredging operations if approved by USG. Navy does not have capability to conduct necessary dredging. At that time it might be necessary to have non-government civilians on

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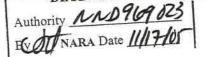
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island in conjunction with the dredging operation.

There might be opportunity for Mauritians to work in this effort. This possiblity should not, however, be discussed by Embassy, since third increment is not yet approved. END FYI

- 4. Appreciate excellent Embassy London report on relocation contained ref B. We will continue to be interested in further developments on possible use of Agalega by Moulinie, including information on employment, housing, social services and attitudes of migrants long-term solution for some of families on Peros Banhos and Salomon but intend take no active role in UK actions on this point. Appreciate London and Port Louis reports on Ilois
- 5. We are troubled by implication ref D that some British ministers are having second thoughts about exclusion of

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citizenship problem contained Ref C and ref G.

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non-official personnel from Diego Garcia. Art VII of the

1966 British Indian Occan Territory agreement provides
of
for hiring the local labor to maximum extent practicable
consistent with USG policies, requirements and schedules.

USG policy continues to be that island should be reserved
exclusively for Defense purposes with/non-official
community. Suggestion that we might have kinds of problems
associated with relations between Defense bases and local
populations would seriously jeopardize further funding
for project.

6. For Port Louis. We recognize that policy described in para two causes problems for you, particularly in view extremely helpful cooperation GOM in staging personnel from aircraft to ship in mid-March. We will continue to be alert to RR every opportunity to RXX create benefit for Mauritius from activities on Diego Garcia but see

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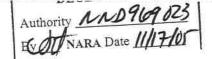
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no possibility of acceding to this particular request.

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