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INFO: CINCLANTFLT
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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 A636 (NOTAL)
I. London 2391 (NOTAL)
J. Port Louis 256 (NOTAL)
K. State 46045 (NOTAL)

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. 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

DRAFTED BY: PM/ISO: Capt. Day/ds
DRAFTING DATE: 3/23/71 TEL. EXT. 28688 APPROVED BY: PM/ISO - Mr. Stoddart
CLEARANCES: AFE-Mr. Marks DAF/C-Mr. Bishop DAF/I-LCol Critz OL/AF-Mr. Verville
L/PM-Mr. Nelson DEUR/BMI-Mr. Burns DNEA/RA-Mr. Helseth DJ-5-Capt. Kay
OSD/I&L-Mr. Bandjunis DISA/EUR-Col Baker QISA/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.

2. Re possibility of employment of Mauritianians 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 island who are not official US or UK personnel employed at and residing on station. Decision to use Naval construction ~~xxxxxxresidingxx~~ forces to accomplish

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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 outweigh any short-term improvement in US-GOM relations.

Evaluation these factors has resulted in determination that construction must continue as planned, i.e. without third country hire.

3. FYI. We will be forced to let bids for private contractors 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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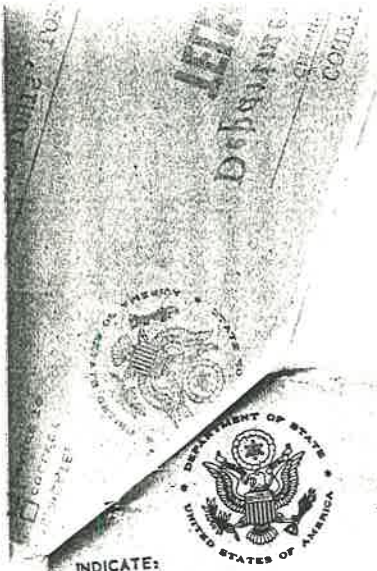
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island in conjunction with the dredging operation.
There might be opportunity for Mauritians to work in
this effort. This possibility should not, however, be
discussed by Embassy, since third increment is not yet
approved. END FYI

4. Appreciate excellent Embassy London report on relo-
cation 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 ^{as} ~~the~~ 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
citizenship problem contained Ref C and ref G.
5. We are troubled by implication ref D that some British
ministers are having second thoughts about exclusion of

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non-official personnel from Diego Garcia. Art VII of the 1966 British Indian Ocean 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 no 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 ~~be~~ every opportunity to ~~xxx~~ create benefit for Mauritius from activities on Diego Garcia but see

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no possibility of acceding to this particular request.

GP-4

END

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