jen (.3

(6) 1555.520

Authority LIV D969023

By NARA Date 8/3

OR	IGINZAC	TION	AION	DEPARTITION
7 (-4)			·	A B B B B B B B
91.0	10	AL	1	TALLIS CO STALL OF A
PM/	REPRES	N. S. C.	ARA	The Say
A)	1 :	13.	-	Original to be Filed in Decentralized Files.
EUI		NEA	cu	FILE DESIGNATION
5	_			CONFICENCE YR DOLK Shall U.S.
J"Ü	9.0	P	5	HANDLING INDICATOR
4	FBO	AID	0	TO : Department of State RECEIVED
3		20	L.	UGPANIMENT OF STATE
	5/5	PM	9R	American Embassy LONDON
1	10	19	1	Department of Defense
			ORM	T - KS/AN
AGR	COM	FRE	نل	ANALYCIC Do
	1,			FROM : American Embassy PORT LOUIS DATE: December 20 June
LAB	TAR	TR	XMB	20, 1971
AIR	ARMY	NAVY	OSD	The first of other largest a best first a
15	3	7 .	34	REF : Condition and Recommendations for Assistance
USIA	NSA	CIA	7	
	3	16		F ₁₀₀
	MSC			SUMMARY: One year ago the Embassy received a seven-part flash
SUGGI	ESTED D	ISTRIBU	TION	cable (State 202722) announcing the establishment of a naval
	7	-	on	communications facility on Diego Garcia. During the past year
	106		- 1	messages relating to the future of the inconsistent flow of
54			3.1	messages relating to the future of the 1968-1971 inhabitants of the island (hereafter referred to as Ilois, whether technically Seychellois or born in Mauritius on a line of the second
េហ	3			Seychellois or born in Mauritius or on Diego and whether British
₽₩	BA		1	or Mauritian citizens or dual nationals). The last of the Ilois
4	4	- 1 (A)	.	were removed from the Chagos Archipelago by November 1971; many
100	Postuko	UTING	-	exists no operative plan and a file. To our knowledge, there
	Action	Info. le	albitio	compensate them for the hardship as allocation of funds to
ARG/ POS	- 5			home and their loss of livelihood. We recognize that primary
904	4.1		77	responsibility for this problem lies with HMG, but doubt that
18 ₉				this would give us much protection should public criticism develop.
ECON	-			of these people who were is all the for the well-being
CONS	- 1			Aside from receiving information as to the status of HMG, the GOM,
ADM	-			and Moulinie Ltd. efforts to implement measures for the Ilois, the Embassy believes we have regretably applications.
AID	-		35	Embassy believes we have regrettably neglected our obligation
USIS	"	_		HMG be undertaken in andertaken in and specific exchanges with
\dashv	_	- 1		that authority for this essentially sold waitare of the Ilois and
-		-		ately centralized within the Department.
	-	-		.
Action To	ken:		_	* * * *
, ,	18	(Ka)		a difficult and the second sec
		12200		2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Date;	100			CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF
nitials:				CONFIDENTIAL For Department Use Only
Drafted :	Dy:	Melips	8	
Clearanc	,:/(var a tale X	ecnt:	:AMB: WDBrewer: 12/20/71 Phone No.: Contents and Classification Approved by: AMB: WDBrewer
			8	jlb

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

17

Authority MN 0949023

By NARA Date 8/13

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

Number and Condition of the Ilois. Although our files contain conflicting estimates of the number of people involved, the British High Commission here now estimates that there are 1000 Ilois in Mauritius. (These include both a group which arrived in 1968 and some who reached here this year.) A more exact figure will be reported when the current SCM census of the Ilois is completed. Additionally, possibly 300 Ilois have been transferred to Agalega (a "dependency" of Mauritius) or the Seychelles. Those on Agalega include families which were moved from Diego earlier this year to Peros Benos end Selomon; they were soon retransferred from those islands because the UK wished to avoid an inquiry into their condition by the UNGA Committee of 24.

We know almost nothing of the number or status of the Ilois on Agalega, except that the local Catholic Church is sending them a school teacher. We strongly suspect that they are badly treated, for Marcel Moulinie of Moulinie Ltd., who managed the copra plantations on Diego, also operates the Agalega plantation. He is described by the HiCom (protect) and visiting U. S. Naval officers from Diego as the "worst kind of Franco-Mauritian," a "19th—century slave master" and as one who, though charming with his "equals," has only the faintest paternalistic concern for his employees. Before the Navy came to Diego, mass had not been celebrated for the Catholic Ilois for two years; there was no provision for medical care or constitutional justice; there was one school teacher for over 500 children. According to the press, copra workers received Rs. 25* per month, housing, and a weekly ration of 10 lbs. of rice, 1/2 litre of oil, 1 lb. dried beans, and 1/4 lb. salt. We have heard various reports of the mental and physical cruelty that Moulinie inflicted on the Ilois in the months before their departure from Diego, e.g. leaving them without food, without information as to their future, and using physical force to make them board the departing vessel. This is the man whom the British asked to develop Agalego as a resettlement scheme. In effect, the Ilais served as Moulinie's indentured labor; but, as a local priest observes, Diego was their home. "They liked it there, and most would go back." Resides, many were better off then than now.

We have not inquired deeply into the condition of Ilois in Mauritius hechuse we did not wish to excite local political appetites and have noted the Department's position that this issue should be left completely to the British. Our information is thus gathered from press reports and casual conversations. The Ilois have been arriving here since 1960. Sugar name freely; others same on vacation and were prohibited from returning to Diego. Those workers who left Diego this year were promised

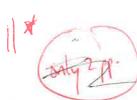
\$1.00 = As. 5.27

CONFIDENTIAL

(AS)
(1300)

Myahire

XX



87-ym. 30-33/22/24/24/24/2

Bx 3010

CONFIDENTIAL

3

As. 500 in severance pay by Moulinie; according to the press, this money has not been delivered. In addition, the workers have several other unsettled wage claims against Moulinie and his principals in Mauritius, Bogers and Co.

No special provision was made to receive the returning Ilois in Mauritius, and they have lived where they could find accommodations, usually with friends or relatives. Many are concentrated in communities on the outskirts of Port Louis, one of which is a public housing project abandoned during the 1968 Moslem-Creole riots. Those who cannot find work in the hard-pressed Mauritian economy receive normal GOM relief payments. For example, a family with three children below age 14 can receive Rs. 10 per month if their income does not exceed Rs. 225 per month. Widows, orphans, and the infirm may have monthly "outdoor relief," i.e., Rs. 8 per child, Rs. 15 per adult, and helf of the rent payment up to Rs. 12. The British have agreed to compensate the GOM for these relief payments and understand the total amount due has now reached Rs. 300,000.

British Rebabilitation Efforts. Rereading a year's messages on this subject, one is impressed with the haphazard naturation of British thinking on this subject and the apparent absence of any real determination to deal with the problem speedily and effectively. One of the most comprehensive statements (London 4528) showed British relocation "hopes ... pinned primarily on Agalegan development option," including a 4 to 5-year subsidy as Moulinie established new copra plantings there. Reports, consultations, a detailed plan, and GOM and HMG approval were foreseen. However, this large-scale Agalegan resettlement project (100 families) has now apparently been abandoned as, according to the British HiCom, Moulinie has refused to expand production and employment because of his fears that the GOM might later take over a more valuable plantation. Parenthetically, it should be noted that the British have not found it easy to deal with Moulinie, since he tends to hide behind the excuse that his "Board of Directors" would not agree to a given proposal.

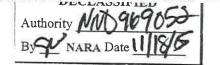
To rehabilitate the Ilois in Mauritius, the Aritish have unsuccessfully sought to encourage the GOM to produce a development scheme which HMG would finance. This initiative was foredoomed on two accounts. First, it would be politically impossible to single cut the Creole Ilõis for special projects using scarce resources (land or industrial opportunities) while the unemployed local Hindus, Creoles, and Moslems received no such benefits. Second, the GOM has lacked the imagination, drive, and managerial telent to use existing UK aid money; it could hardly be expected to take on a new special project. The HiCom now realizes this and is convinced that the only feasible rehabilitation project is a lump sum

CONFIDENTIAL

Pronh

HE UL

X



CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

payment to the Ilais. The HiCom says Prime Minister Ramgoolam is almost in agreement on this approach.

London 1445 of February 19 stated that the British estimated spanding a total of less than half a million sterling on rehabilitation. Three morths later London 4528 spoke of spanding a guarter million pounds on Agrlegen development in addition to Rs. 500/fc workers in dislocation pay. This compares with the lowest wage for Mauritian unskilled workers of about Rs. 1,500 annually. Mauritian Creoles are not generally thrifty, future—oriented people, and large lump—sum payments would predictably not lest long or be wisely spent in their hands. Additionally, the GOM will have to assume the burden of social services for the Ilais and should be appropriately compensated. We believe an equipped vocational training school, open to all, would be useful as a project grant for the GOM.

USG Pesponsibility and Possible Political Renormasions. metter of common sense to us that the USG, which required that the Ilois be removed from Diego and which resisted SDM and HMG efforts to permit Ilois to remain as employees of the facility, should be concerned over this issue from two points of view: (a) We cannot avoid morel responsihility for the situation we have done so much to create; and (b) we would find ourselves subject to censure at the UN and before world opinion should the problem ever be ventilated by unfriendly elements. The legal aspects of our responsibility are spelled out in a memorrodum from / dated December 28, 1970. Regrettably, the record available to us shows that we have done almost nothing to define in concrete terms, or to meet, our legal and moral obligations toward the Ilais. Instead, we have followed the guidance laid down in State 019430 that "basic responsibility clearly Pritish under terms BIOT Agreement..." No line of reasoning justifying this position was advanced nor was any citation from the Agreement offered, but it is interesting that, "USG also realizes it will share in any criticism levied at British for failing meet their responsibilities re inhabitants' welfare." Numbered point 2(c) of the Agreement does make clear that "measures to ensure the welfare of the inhabitants are taken" but does not say clearly by whom.

The present GOM has shown only moderate and sporadic concern for the welfare and rights of the Ilois, generally becoming interested in their problem when needled by opposition politicians. Similarly, the latter have not pushed a true campaign on behalf of the Ilois. Clearly, the 1300 miserable and uneducated refugees have no political clout locally. Nor is it clear that this issue is likely to provoke much stir at the UN, should a future GOM make an issue of the sale of Diego to the British.

CONFIDENTIAL

AA

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

The Ilois presently have no organization, and their current status does not constitute a serious political problem for the U.S. Nevertheless, we believe it would be the best of wisdom to deal with this problem before, rather than after, it could become a political football. Moreovar, we believe that justice should be done.)

Action Requested. The plight of the Ilois is a classic example of perpetuation of hardship through bureaucratic neglect. Not only is responsibility for the Diego issue spread within the USC, but the problem is further complicated because of the easential self—interest of Moulinie Ltd., the ovident lack of any real SOM concern, and British efforts so far to cope with these problems. To help deal with this situation, we recommend the following:

- —That early specific exchanges be undertaken with LMC with a view to undertaking prompt measures to insure the wolfare of the Ilois within the meaning of paragraph 2(c) of the US/UK Exchange of Notes of December 30, 1966; and
- —That responsibility for following this essentially political issue be centralized within the appropriate Bureau of the Department. Such centralization would be designed to facilitate full study and recommendations regarding the magnitude of this problem and the extent of measures which the USG should appropriately take to resolve it. Among relevant issues are the following:
 - (a) Some specific timateble for the accomplishment of particular actions;
 - (b) Clerification, and possible modification, of existing responsibility as among HMG, the GCM, the USG, and Moulinie Ltd. for the performance of prescribed activities;
 - (c) The sum to be paid to each <u>evacuated Ilois</u>. We believe this should include consideration of compensation on the basis of individuals, rather than limited to each worker as presently contemplated; and
 - (d) The question of how best compensation should be paid to the GOM. On this point, we believe some concrete project which would benefit all Mauritians, such as a contribution of funds, in whole or part, for a vocational training school, is to be preferred to a simple transfer of funds which might be misused by the GOM or confined solely to the Ilois who, after all, form only a portion of the Mauritian citizenry.

BREWER

Afon

CONFIDENTIAL