

Authority NND 969 023
NARA Date 11/17/05

Subj - Num 170-73 59/150/67/115
BX 1744



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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)

Def 15 Ind-3
Def 15-8 Ind-OS
XR LAB 13 MAURITIUS

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 SAF/C-Mr. Bishop SAF/I-LCol Critz QL/AF-Mr. Verville
L/PM-Mr. Nelson EUR/BMI-Mr. Burns DNEA/RA-Mr. Helseth DJ-5-Capt. Kay
OSD/I&L-Mr. Bandjunis DISA/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 iloio on Diego Garcia. This message is to respond to all questions raised on these subjects in reftels.

2. 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 island who are not official US or UK personnel employed at and residing on station. Decision to use Naval construction ~~xxxxxx~~ 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 con-
tractors if third increment funding for dredging
operations is approved by USG. Navy does not have capa-
bility to conduct necessary dredging. At that time it
might be necessary to have non-government civilians on

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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 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, ^{as} ~~to~~ 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

aware
 following
 removal
 efforts

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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 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 ~~xx~~ every opportunity to ~~xxx~~ create benefit for Mauritius from activities on Diego Garcia but see

Concern re local pop also motivated by concern re security policy & alleged Cong concerns re base rule

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no possibility of acceding to this particular request.

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END

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