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22/84 ACTION AF-13

SS-14 RSC-01 PM-06 NSC-10 INFO OCT-Ø1 EUR-20

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R 251843Z FEB 72 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 984 INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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CORRECTED COPY (FOR PAR SIX)

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF CHAGOS WORKERS

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 4-246: Not Say in Def 15 Said . U.S.

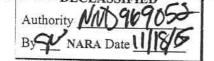
(B) STATE 20963# AND (C) LONDON 1780

1. WE DISCUSSED CURRENT STATUS OF EX-CHAGOS POPULATION WITH KNIGHT (FCO ATLANTIC & INDIAN OCEAN DEPT) ON FEBRUARY 25.

2. AS OF NOVEMBER 1971, POPULATION STILL IN CHAGOS I.E. ON PEROS BANHOS AND SAOLMON ISLANDS, WAS 65! MEN! 70, WOMEN, 197; CHILDREN, FOR TOTAL OF 322, OF THESE, 18 MEN, 18 WOMEN AND 49 CHILDREN (TOTAL 85) WERE EVACUATED FROM DIEGO GARCIA. ALL OF SEYCHELLDIS FROM ON DG HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO SEYCHELLES, AND EXCEPT FOR 85 STILL ON PB & S. ALL DG EVACUEES OF MAURITAIN ORIGIN HAVE RUTURNED TO MAURITIUS EITHER BECAUSE THEIR CONTRACTS HAD EXPIRED OR BECAUSE THEY CHOSE TO DO SO.

3. AS FAR AS FCO IS AWARE, NONE RPT NONE OF THE DG EVACUEES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO AGELEGA. FOO COULD NOT ENTIRELY RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT A VERY SMALL NUMBER MIGHT HAVE ELCTED TO GO TO AGELEGA UNDER CONTRACT WITH MOULINIE, BUT IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT WAS ENTIRELY A PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT WITHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT OR INVOLVEMENT

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OF HMG. FCO DOUBTS THAT ANY DID.

4. FCO CONSIDERS AGELGA DEVELOPMENT A DEAD LETTER.

MOULINI FAILED TO COME UP WITH WORKABLE PLAN. AND WHILE

IT IS POSSIBLE HE MAY IN FUTURE EXPAND PLANTATIONS ON

AGELEGA, HMG WILL NOT SUBSIDIZE OPERATIONS THERE.

MOULINI DOES NOT WISH TO RECRUIT FROM CHAGOS FOR

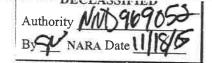
AGELEGA AND IF HE HIRES IN FUTURE, WILL DO SO ONLY FROM

MAURITIUS.

5." DISLOCATION" PAYMENT OF 500 RUPES: PER HEAD WAS AUTHORIZED BY HMG LAST MAY FOR THOSE DG EVACUEES WHOSE CONTRACTS WERE PREMATURELY TERMINATED. PAYMENTS WERE TO HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH MOULINI OR HTS AGENTS SINCE HMG HAS NO DIRECT CONTRACTUAL RELATION WITH WORKERS AND THEIR WAGES NORMALLY PAID IN LUMP USM AT END OF CONTRACT. REGARDING RUMORS THAT PAYMENTS NOT MADE. FCO HAS NOT SEEN ANY INSTANCE OF CLAIM. FORM PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

6. HMG BELIEVES IT HAS PURSUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOM! DILIGENTLY. THEY HAVE BEEN LENGTHLY BECAUSE PROBLEM OF HOW TO PROVIDE FOR WELFARE OF PEOPLE GIVEN SITUATION IN MARUITIUS IS INHERENTLY DIFFICULT, AND LATENATIVES SUCH AS AGLEGA PLAN HAD TO BE THOROUGH Y EXPLORED BEFORE DISCARDING. FED NOW HOPES IT IS ON VERGE OF REACHING AGREEMENT. GOM RECENTLY COMPLETED SURVEY OF EX-CHAGOS POPULATION WHICH FCO DESCRIBES AS "REAPROFESSIONAL". ON BASIS OF THIS SURVEY, PROPSAL HAS BEEN WORKED OUT WHERBY HMG WOULD FINANCE OR CONTRIBUTE TO TWO NEW HOUSING ESTATES IN NEW AREAS, TOGETHER WITH FACILITIES FOR RIG-BREEDING, VEGETABLE GROWING, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. HOUSING AND FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT NOMINAL RENT TO ANY EXICHAGOS WORKERS WHO HAD RETURNED TO MAURITIUS SINCE 1965. PROJECT WOULD ABSORB 330 HEADS-OF-FAMILY AND STNGLE MEN NOW IN MAURITIUS. AND EVENTUALLY REMAINDER OF CHAGOS POPULATION NOW IN PB & S. PROJECT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SURVEY'S FINDINGS REGARDING WHERE PEOPLE CONCERNED WANT TO LIVE AND WHAT THEY WANT TO DO. GOM IS WELL! SATISFIED WITH PROPOSAL AND ACCEPTS THAT IT WOULD DISCHAREG ALL OF HMG4S OBLIGATIONS. OUTSTANDING QUESTION

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IS AMOUNT OF UK FINANCING AND KNIGHT REGRETTED HE UNABLE GIVE US FIGURE SINCE THIS CRUCIAL POINT NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN WHITEHALL.

7. RELOCATION ISSUE IS ON AGENDA FOR USZUK AFRICA TALKS: / IN WASHINGTON EARLY MARCH. FCO: WILL BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS FUTHTER ALTHOUGH DOUBTFUL FIANCIAL TERMS OF AGREEMENT WEILL BE SETTLED.

8. FINALLY, KNIGHT SAID IT IS HMG'S INTENTION TO CLOSE OUT OPERATIONS ON PB&S AS SOON AS POPULATION THERE CAN BE ABSORBED INTO MAURITIAN PROJECT. WHILE THEY WISH TO DO THIS IN ANY CASE TO CLOSE OUT RESIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS WILL ALSO HELP FÜLFILL TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO USE TO MAKE BIOT AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVIELY FOR OFFENSE USE.

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