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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 CIAE-00 PM-08 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11 SR-02
ORM-03 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /148 W

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R 161030Z OCT 72
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3420
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCUSNAVEUR
DOD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0973

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON ILOIS SETTLEMENT

REF: PORT LOUIS 0972

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1. UNDERSTAND REFTEL ARTICLE LARGELY DUE JOURNALISTIC ENTERPRISE FORMER GRANTEE SULAIMAN PATEL WHO TALKED WITH VISITING CHURCH WORLD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE JAN VAN HOOGSTRAATEN HERE LATE LAST WEEK. ACCORDING LOCAL SOURCE, VAN HOOGSTRAATEN SEPARATELY BRIEFED MAURITIAN COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES AND PATEL ON DIEGO RESETTLEMENT, USING LETTER ON SUBJECT FROM DEPT ASST SECY SMITH MORE OR LESS AS TALKING PAPER. TEN MILLION RUPEE FIGURE IN ARTICLE REPRESENTS CONVERSION OF \$2 MILLION FIGURE IN LETTER. AS DEPT AWARE, ACTUAL AMOUNT 650,000 STERLING (PORT LOUIS 0893) OR SOME \$1.6 MILLION. ILOIS FIGURE ALSO IN ERROR, SINCE NUMBER REMAINING CHAGOS AREA REPRESENTS INDIVIDUALS, NOT RPT NOT HEADS OF FAMILIES (PARA 2 PORT LOUIS 0967).

2. COMMENT: UNCLEAR PRECISELY WHAT MOTIVATED VAN HOOGSTRAATEN TALK SO FREELY HERE ABOUT MATTER WHICH NOT YET ANNOUNCED BY GOM OR UK. WE SURMISE HE WISHED MAKE CLEAR WHY SMALL AMOUNT PROPOSED CWS AID TO HELP RESETTLE ILOIS WOULD BE ADEQUATE. GOM OFFICIALS MAY NEVERTHELESS BE SOMEWHAT IRKED AT PREMATURE FULL PUBLICITY GIVEN ISSUE. LOCAL CWS REP NOW RPT NOW ENDEAVORING MINIMIZE IMPACT ON HER FUTURE OPERATIONS. SINCE ARTICLE NOTES OUR EFFORTS

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MOVE PROBLEM ALONG MORE RAPIDLY AND SUGGESTS ISSUE IN PROCESS
SOLUTION, ANTICIPATE NO SIGNIFICANT REPERCUSSIONS AS FAR AS
USG CONCERNED. HOWEVER, PROPOSE HAVE QUIET WORD LATER IN DAY WITH
BRIT HYCOM TO ASSURE HIM EMBASSY NOT SOURCE EXPRESS PIECE.

ODS.

BREWER

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