

DECLASSIFIED

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ACTION PM-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-20 ADP-00 CTAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00

RSC-01 T-03 OMB-01 SS-14 NSC-10 L-03 ACDA-19 RSR-01

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 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8237
 INFO DOD WASHDC
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 AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00791

SUBJECT: BIOT: LAST OF THE ILOIS

1. FCO INFORMED US JAN 22 THAT DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO CLOSE DOWN OPERATIONS ON PEROS RANHOS AND SOLOMON ISLANDS IN BHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO IN APRIL, AND TO REMOVE REMAINING ILOIS POPULATION AT THAT TIME. THIS INVOLVES ABOUT 30 ADULTS OF MAURITIAN ORIGIN AND SLIGHTLY OVER 100 CHILDREN, WHO WILL BE RETURNED TO MAURITIUS. ACCELERATED CLOSE-DOWN DECIDED UPON AFTER FULL DISCUSSION BETWEEN BIOT ADMINISTRATOR AND MOULINIE ON GROUNDS THAT FURTHER OPERATION UNECONOMIC.

2. ILOIS AFFECTED WILL BE PAID COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF THEIR CONTRACTS. RELOCATION OF THESE PEOPLE TO MAURITIUS HAS BEEN AGREED BETWEEN HMG AND GOM. RETURNEES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER RESETTLEMENT PLAN.

3. FCO HOPEFUL THIS ACTION WILL NOT CREATE MAJOR STIR IN MAURITIUS BUT EXPECTS SOME LOCAL ADVERSE REACTION. THEY WILL TAKE LINE ACTION DICTATED BY ECONOMIC NECESSITY AND WOULD IN ANY CASE BECOME INEVITABLE AT SOME TIME IN NEAR FUTURE.

XGDS-1. SOHM.

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