

DECLASSIFIED

Reproduced at the National Archives

Authority *NNDP 9023*
By *KD* NARA Date *8/13*

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 928

PAGE 01 LONDON 10391 161847Z

47

ACTION AF 19

INFO OCT 01 EUR 20 NEA 13 EA 15 CIAE 00 DODE 00 RM 05 IH 02

INR 08 L 04 NSAE 00 NSC 10 P 03 RGE 01 PRS 01 SS 20

USIA 12 RSR 01 1135 W

084289

RI 161644Z DEC 70
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2061
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 10391

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA POPULATION

REF: PORT LOUIS 1109

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, WHOLE QUESTION OF
RELOCATION OF WORKER POPULATION ON DIEGO GARCIA
HAS BEEN IN LIMBO BECAUSE OF CONSTRAINTS WE IMPOSED
REGARDING ANY UK/GOM TALKS DURING PERIOD OF
CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. FCO IS PAINFULLY AWARE OF
DIFFICULTIES OF PERSUADING GOM TO ADD TO ITS PRESENT
UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM; NEVERTHELESS ALTERNATIVE
SOLUTIONS ARE NOT EASY TO FIND. FCO IS WORKING ON
SEVERAL POSSIBLE ANGLES BUT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR
WHERE THEY WILL COME OUT. IN MEANTIME, WISH TO
RECALL FOLLOWING FACTS OF WHICH CARTER SEEMS UNAWARE:
(A) THERE IS NO THOUGHT OF TRANSFERRING 400
PERSONS TO MAURITIUS, OF TOTAL POPULATION OF LESS
THAN 400 NOW ON DIEGO GARCIA, ABOUT 230 ARE
SEYCHELLOIS AND FCO INTENDS RETURN THEM TO
SEYCHELLES. OF REMAINDER, ABOUT 20 BORN IN
MAURITIUS AND ABOUT 125 BORN ON ISLANDS. LATTER
GROUP KNOWN AS ILOIS, PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME
TO HMG BECAUSE THEY HAVE DUAL NATIONALITY OF BOTH
UK AND MAURITIUS. FCO WOULD LIKE TO TREAT ILOIS
AND MAURITIANS IN SAME MANNER SO AS NOT TO CALL

CONFIDENTIAL

23

London - 10391
12-16-70

Authority

NND 969023

By

NARA Date



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 10391 161847Z

ATTENTION TO DISTINCTION. BUT NON-SEYCHELLOIS
 POPULATION PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN 150.
 (B) AGELEGA MAY PROVIDE PARTIAL SOLUTION TO
 RELOCATION PROBLEM, BUT NOT WHOLE ANSWER. MOULINIE
 HAS TENTATIVELY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO TRANSFER
 SMALL NUMBER FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO AGELEGA PLANTATIONS
 BUT THIS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE AT LATER STAGE
 OF OUR CONSTRUCTION SINCE NO HOUSING, ETC., IS
 READY TO RECEIVE THEM AT AGELEGA.
 (C) RESETTLEMENT AT PEROS BANHOS AND SALOMON
 REMAINS A POSSIBILITY FOR SOME PORTION OF DIEGO GARCIA
 POPULATION, BUT PROBABLY ONLY AS A TEMPORARY
 PALLIATIVE. PERMANENT RELOCATION THERE WOULD
 REQUIRE ADDITIONAL BRITISH INVESTMENT WHICH SEEMS
 HIGHLY UNLIKELY.
 (D) LATEST FONOFF THINKING SEEMS TO BE THAT
 AT LEAST SOME OF ILOIS AND MAURITIANS WILL HAVE TO
 GO BACK TO MAURITIUS. THEY KNOW THIS WILL BE HARD
 TO SELL AND MAY COST HMG SOME MONEY.

2. ~~THUS BRITISH HAVE A REAL PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IF~~
~~THEY TRY TO MEET OUR SCHEDULE. WE BELIEVE FONOFF~~
~~INTENDS TO DO UTMOST TO SOLVE IT, EVEN IF IT MEANS~~
~~REAL COST TO HMG TREASURY AND AN ADVERSE MAURITIAN~~
~~REACTION. FONOFF HAS PRESSED HARD IN PAST RE~~
~~POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT SOME WORKERS BY U.S. BUT IN FACE~~
~~OF CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE APPEARS TO HAVE~~
~~ABANDONED IDEA. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT~~
~~QUESTION BE REVIEWED NOW. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE~~
~~FACILITY WILL NOT REQUIRE SOME MENIAL WORKERS.~~
~~DIEGO COPRA HANDS WOULD PROVIDE CHEAP LABOR POOL~~
~~AND EMPLOYING THEM WOULD ASSIST IMMEASURABLY IN~~
~~EASING RELOCATION PROBLEM AND ASSURING CONSTRUCTION~~
~~SCHEDULE NOT DELAYED.~~
 GREENE:

CONFIDENTIAL

23