

UNCLASSIFIED

P44

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

att1B5

CONFIDENTIAL
TELEGRAM

April 02, 2004

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE

Action: AF

From: AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS (PORT LOUIS 220 - IMMEDIATE)

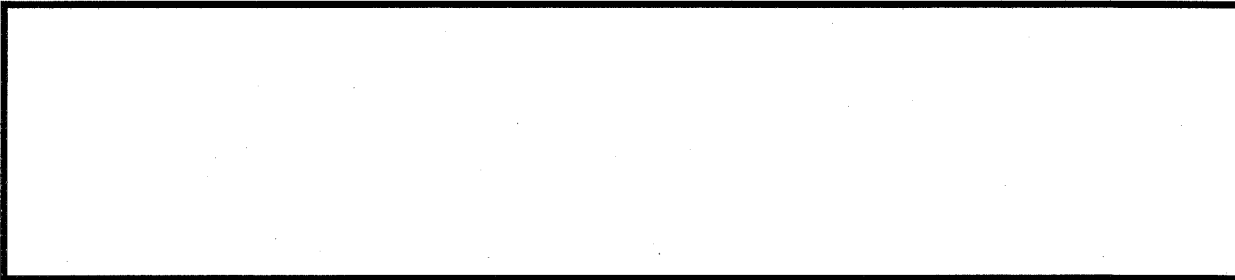
TAGS: KTIA, MARR, PREL, MP, UK

Captions: None

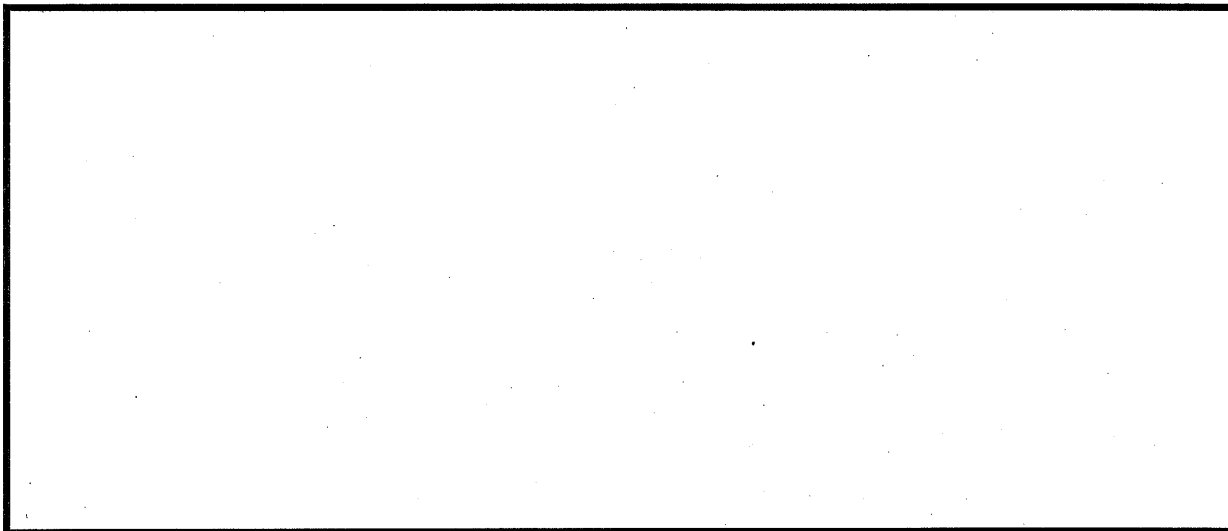
Subject: DIEGO GARCIA - PREPARATION FOR ANNUAL U.K./U.S. TALKS

Ref: REED-ROWE/WILLIAMS EMAIL OF 03/29/04

Classified By: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I..BISA WILLIAMS FOR REASONS 1.5 (B /D).



B1



B1, B5

Page 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK H PEREZ
DATE/CASE ID: 04 DEC 2006 200503422

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

att1B5

3. (C) FISHERIES PROTECTION POLICY

(U) The GOM has stated that it wants to exploit the fishing reserves in the waters of the archipelago. The GOM now has a good record on implementation of internationally agreed fisheries conventions and policies. From the environmentalist perspective, the GOM is capable of negotiating workable agreements regarding fishing.

(SBU) Over the past several years, Embassy Port Louis has been called upon by the GOM to request search and rescue assistance from DG for Mauritian fishermen. The frequency of those emergency rescue operations, which have entailed search, rescue, medical assistance and/or hospitalization, and transport to Singapore, would increase, we suspect, if an expectation of greater commercial fishing access emerged.

B1

(SBU) For the record, Ambassador John Price has also wanted to visit the archipelago, especially Diego Garcia, for some time. The Department has discouraged a visit, but the Ambassador feels strongly that understanding the situation in Diego Garcia is important. Finding an "agreeable solution" to Diego Garcia is a cornerstone of GOM foreign policy. Even though the Ambassador avoids engaging the GOM on the topic, the GOM often takes opportunities to advocate its position. The Ambassador cannot always remain silent on those occasions. He feels strongly that to rebut credibly GOM demarches, he should have first-hand knowledge of the archipelago.

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

(SBU) Embassy periodically receives letters from Mauritian former employees on DG, from Mauritians desiring to work on the island and from Mauritian businesses desiring contracts for services to the island. Employing Mauritians might be a way to tone down the GOM sovereignty rhetoric. The Mauritian human resource pool is skilled, educated, and English-speaking.

(SBU) Adding Mauritius to the Department of Defense's list of

countries from which goods and services can be purchased would certainly be welcomed by the GOM and local businesses. Several Mauritian firms have expressed interest in selling merchandise ranging from Pepsi, Coca Cola and beer (all produced and bottled here), to construction materials, machinery and electronics. Most major brands of American products are sold in Mauritius and several major American companies have offices here. U.S.-based contractors doing work in DG have lamented that they cannot obtain more of their supplies from Mauritius, especially since Mauritian quality controls meet USG standards, delivery time is fast, transportation routes -- especially shipping lanes -- are safer than most others in the region, and Mauritian businesses are reliable as well as amenable to meeting customer demands.

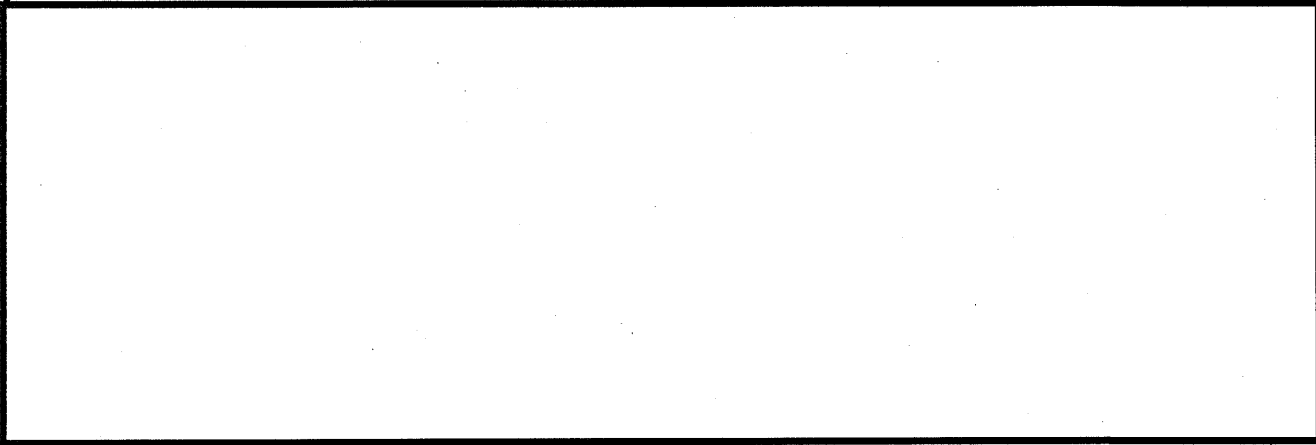
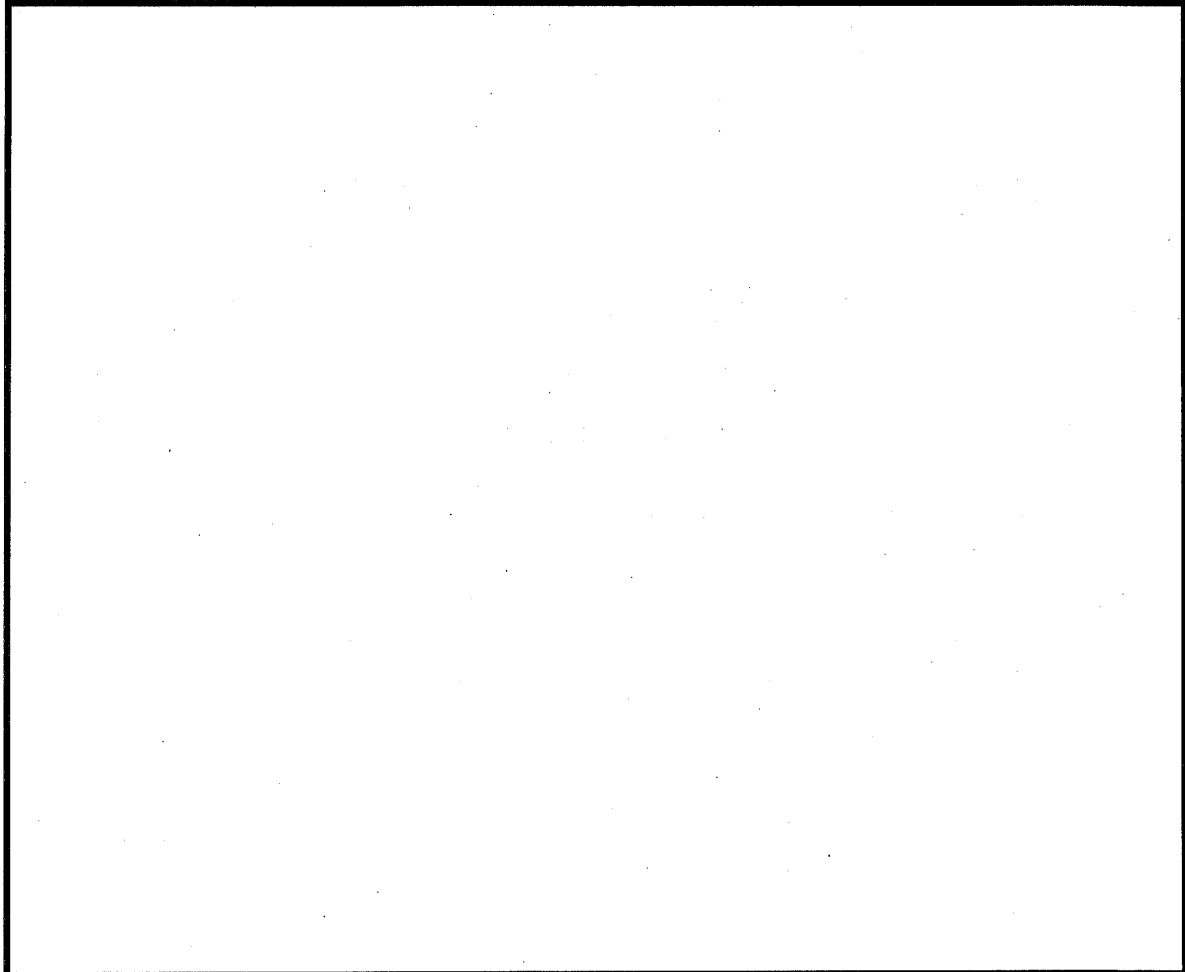
[REDACTED]

(SBU) In general the UK enjoys excellent relations with the

UNCLASSIFIED

att1B5

GOM. Because of former FM Jack Straw's 2002 letter to Berenger suggesting HMG approval of the GOM proposal for partial sovereignty, PM Berenger believes he has a "secret ally" in HMG on this issue.



Page 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

att1B5

Additional Addressees:

None

CC:

None

Distribution:

TED6841

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	PERC-00	DS-00
	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00
	DCP-01	NSAE-00	PM-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	EPAE-00	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	LBA-00	PRM-00	SAS-00
	(EUR-00	IO-00	NSCE-00)	/001W		

-----06E787 021147Z /38

O 021118Z APR 04

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0142

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 000220

FOR AF/E-J.GAFFNEY AND H.REED-ROWE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2014

TAGS: MARR, KTIA, PREL, UK, MP

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA - PREPARATION FOR ANNUAL U.K./U.S.
TALKS

REF: REED-ROWE/WILLIAMS EMAIL OF 03/29/04

UNCLASSIFIED