

ACTION AF-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	INL-00	DOTE-00
	EB-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	NIMA-00
	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	SP-00	FMP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/000W	
-----EA6598 061138Z /38							

R 061131Z MAY 05
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1217
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
CJTF HOA
KUSLO NAIROBI KE
HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
NAVCOMTELSTA DIEGO GARCIA
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000258

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: MARR, EWWT, PHUM, MP, SE, IO, XO
SUBJECT: VISIT TO CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO MOVED TO OCTOBER

1. The visit organized by the British government (HMG) to the islands of Diego Garcia, Perhos Banhos, and Salomon for a group of 100 Chagossians has been delayed until October 25. HMG decided not to charter the RTS Sinbad Nui because it was not possible to have the ship properly reclassified as a passenger ship in time for a May 7 launch. Mr. Olivier Bancoult, the leader of the "Chagos Refugee Group" had expressed frustration with the decision to delay the voyage, but has accepted the reasons for it.

2. Ginny Silva, of the British High Commission in Port Louis, told Poloff on May 4 that HMG has had difficulty locating a replacement ship that is properly classified and available. They believe they have identified a South African vessel that is available for a voyage October 25. She added that flying the Chagossians to the region of Diego Garcia was also explored, but was logistically unworkable as a ship would be necessary in any event to transport the group between the different islands. A press release was released by HMG May 4 that explains HMG disappointment with the delay.

PRICE

UNCLASSIFIED

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