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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233807

E.O. 12958: DECL: RESOLUTION OF MAURITIAN CLAIM TO CHAGOS ISLANDS

TAGS: MARR, PREL, MP, UK

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH CHAGOSSIAN GROUPS

REF: A. A) PORT LOUIS 2059

B. B) PORT LOUIS 2062

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY PM ASST. SECRETARY ERIC NEWSOM.

REASONS 1.5 B/D.

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MORE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE IS  
PROVIDED IN THE TALKING POINTS AT PARA 5 BELOW.

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5. (SBU) BEGIN TALKING POINTS:

-- THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO WAS, AT THE TIME OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA, UNDER BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY AND REMAINS SO. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE U.S. WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE ARRANGEMENT FOR RESETTLING THE ISLANDERS FROM THE ARCHIPELAGO.

-- (IF ASKED) THE U.S. AND THE UK HAVE IMPORTANT STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN DIEGO GARCIA. WE EXPECT TO MAINTAIN OUR LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON THE ISLAND.

-- THE BRITISH COURT CASE AND ITS EFFECTS ARE A MATTER BETWEEN THE UK

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GOVERNMENT AND THOSE WHO BROUGHT THE LAWSUIT. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ABOUT IT.

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-- (IF ASKED) WE ARE OF COURSE CONCERNED FOR THE WELFARE OF THE ISLANDERS BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR THE FORMER ISLANDERS TO MAKE CLAIMS AGAINST THE USG.

-- (IF ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS): I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERNS, BUT THE MATTERS YOU RAISE ARE MORE APPROPRIATELY ADDRESSED TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.  
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