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RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00526 01 OF 02 061251Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-01
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DINT-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NEA-00	DCP-01
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	LBA-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/012W

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R 061246Z MAY 02
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7968
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//
CNO WASHINGTON DC//N3/N5//
NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT LOUIS 000526

SENSITIVE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT L 00526 01 OF 02 061251Z
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KTIA, PTER, PINR, MP
SUBJECT: MAURITUS: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER
JUGNAUTH

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR JOHN PRICE CALLED ON PM
JUGNAUTH ON APRIL 26. JUGNAUTH ENCOURAGED THE AMBASSADOR
TO WORK WITH THE GOM TO ATTRACT US INVESTMENT TO
MAURITIUS. HE LAMENTED THE BREAKDOWN OF ORDER IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND PLEDGED GOM COOPERATION IN THE WAR ON
TERRORISM. PM JUGNAUTH ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE PLAN
NED TO
WRITE PRESIDENT BUSH REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA, STRESSING
THAT THE GOM HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERRUPTING USG USE OF
THE MILITARY BASE. END SUMMARY

UNCLASSIFIED

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2. (SBU) AMBASSADOR JOHN PRICE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DCM (NOTETAKER), CALLED ON GOM PRIME MINISTER SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH ON APRIL 26 AFTER HAVING SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER GAYAN AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BERENGER. PM JUGNAUTH WAS IN A JOVIAL MOOD AND JOKED FREELY WITH THE AMBASSADOR THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. AFTER INTRODUCTORY COURTESIES, PM JUGNAUTH ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF AN EXPLOSION IN NEW YORK (NOT TERRORIST-RELATED), AND THEN COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE WAR ON TERRORISM WOULD BE SOLVED. "THEY (THE TERRORISTS) WANT TO RUIN THEIR COUNTRIES." THE AMBASSADOR CONCURRED NOTING THAT SOME HARD-LINE TERRORISTS SIMPLY WOULD NEVER GIVE UP.

3. (SBU) MIDDLE EAST: JUGNAUTH SEGUED INTO DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST. HE STATED THAT THE GOM HAS ALWAYS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT L 00526 01 OF 02 061251Z
BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD VACATE ALL OF THE LANDS IT HAS OCCUPIED. OTHERWISE, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE TROUBLE. HE SAID THAT BOTH SIDES MUST RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER'S RIGHT TO EXIST, AND MUST INCULCATE THAT IN THEIR SOCIETIES. HE CALLED THE ADVENT OF TEENAGE SUICIDE BOMBERS "FRIGHTENING," AND SAID IT WAS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S "DUTY" TO SEE TO IT THAT WE DO NOT ALLOW THINGS TO DETERIORATE FURTHER.

4. (SBU) THE AMBASSADOR CONCURRED WITH PM JUGNAUTH'S ASSESSMENT AND NOTED THAT THE TWO CULTURES AT ODDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAD BEEN AT ODDS FOR CENTURIES. HE SAID THAT ONE OF MAURITIUS' IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS WAS THE LEVEL OF PEACE, RESPECT FOR DIFFERENT CULTURES AND TOLERANCE ENJOYED BY MAURITIANS. IN THE CASE OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THE WARRING CULTURES HAD NOT LIVED PEACEABLY FOR OVER A MILLENNIUM. IT WAS A DIFFICULT ISSUE TO SOLVE.

5. (SBU) AGOA: IN RESPONSE TO JUGNAUTH'S QUESTION ABOUT RUMORED SETBACKS TO AGOA II LEGISLATION, THE AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT CONGRESS HAD ALREADY PASSED THE KNIT-TO-SHAPE PROVISIONS BUT THEY WERE HELD UP IN THE SENATE. HE CONFIRMED THAT TREASURY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE WHITE HOUSE FAVORED THE LEGISLATION, BUT THAT OUTSIDE FACTORS WERE SLOWING ITS PASSAGE.

6. (SBU) U.S INVESTMENT: PM JUGNAUTH COMPLIMENTED THE STRIDES MADE BY FORMER AMBASSADOR MARK ERWIN IN ATTRACTING U.S. INVESTMENT TO MAURITIUS. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED HIM FOR THAT PRAISE AND SAID THAT THE U.S. REMAINED INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN MAURITIUS AND THAT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PORT L 00526 01 OF 02 061251Z
SEVERAL TEXTILE CONCERNS HAD INDICATED THEIR INTEREST IN VISITING MAURITIUS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. JUGNAUTH WAS VISIBLY PLEASED WITH THE NEWS AND ENCOURAGED THE AMBASSADOR TO HAVE POTENTIAL INVESTORS LOOK AT THE FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTER AS WELL AS THE TEXTILE SECTOR. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN THE CYBER CITY PROJECT. HE HOPED THAT MAURITIUS WOULD BE OPEN TO AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY IN CYBER CITY AS SUCH AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT SHOULD AVAIL ITSELF OF CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY, NOT SECOND-HAND MATERIAL. JUGNAUTH TOOK THE POINT AND STATED THAT HE WOULD "LOOK FORWARD TO THAT (AMERICAN INVESTMENT). WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO INCREASE TRADE AND INVESTMENT."

7. (SBU) EDUCATION: WHEN THE AMBASSADOR PRAISED MAURITIAN ACHIEVEMENTS WITH EDUCATION, PM JUGNAUTH EAGERLY INTERRUPTED NOTING THAT EDUCATION HAD BEEN HIS PRIORITY THE FIRST TIME HE BECAME PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID IN THE 1980'S MAURITIUS WAS IN A 'TERRIBLE MESS' AND REQUIRED HELP FROM THE IMF AND WORLD BANK. AS A CONDITION FOR RECEIVING A LOAN, THE IMF INSISTED THAT MAURITIUS ELIMINATE FREE EDUCATION AND CLOSE SEVERAL COLLEGES. JUGNAUTH REFUSED ARGUING THAT MAURITIUS' ONLY RESOURCE WAS ITS HUMAN RESOURCE, AND THEY WOULD ONLY BE USEFUL IF EDUCATED. THE IMF RELENTED, AND MAURITIUS THRIVED. EDUCATION HAS BEEN ITS MAIN ASSET.

8. (SBU) DIEGO GARCIA: PM JUGNAUTH INFORMED THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 PORT L 00526 01 OF 02 061251Z

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ2089

PAGE 01 PORT L 00526 02 OF 02 061251Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-01
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	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NEA-00
	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	PA-00	PER-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00

UNCLASSIFIED

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TEST-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00
LBA-00 DRL-02 G-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /011W
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R 061246Z MAY 02
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7969
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//
CNO WASHINGTON DC//N3/N
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NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PORT LOUIS 000526

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AMBASSADOR THAT HE INTENDED TO WRITE PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ABOUT THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOM HAS ALWAYS HAD A DISPUTE WITH THE UK BECAUSE THE UK REMOVED A PART OF MAURITIUS' TERRITORY BEFORE GRANTING INDEPENDENCE. THE UK ALSO ALWAYS TOLD THE GOM THAT IT COULD NOT DISCUSS THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT ACCEPT A CHANGE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO'S STATUS. JUGNAUTH SAID THAT THE GOM "IS NOT AGAINST THE U.S. MILITARY BASE (ON DIEGO GARCIA). THE OTHER ISLANDS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO ARE "VERY FAR OFF." "THE ONLY THING IS A QUESTION OF OUR PRIDE, OUR TERRITORY."

HE CONTINUED THAT THE UK HAS NOW AGREED THAT THE "OTHER ISLANDS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO CAN BE REVERTED BACK TO MAURITIAN TERRITORY" IF THE U.S. AGREES. JUGNAUTH SATED THAT IF HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET W USG OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE, HE WAS SURE THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED. HE IS FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF A LONG-TERM LEASE, AND HE IS AWARE OF HOW IMPORTANT THE BASE IT TO THE WAR ON TERRORISM.

9. (SBU) THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE USG LEASE IS WITH THE UK AND THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE WAS NOT A

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MATTER FOR THE USG TO DECIDE. HE STATED THAT THE USG
NEEDED THE BASE FOR WORLD SECURITY AND THAT THE UK HAD
AGREED TO THE U.S. LOCATING A BASE THERE. THE AMBASSADOR
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT L 00526 02 OF 02 061251Z
ALSO NOTED THAT THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE UK ALLOWS
FOR THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE LEASE UNTIL 2036, TO WHICH
JUGNAUTH REJOINED, "WE'RE PREPARED TO LET YOU GO MUCH
FURTHER!"
PRICE

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