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E26

ACTION AF-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DOEE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	SAS-00	/004W					

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R 271331Z OCT 03
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9723
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//J5//

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000860

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PBTS, MARR, PREF, MP
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS TO BE MORE PROACTIVE ON
SOVEREIGNTY OF DIEGO GARCIA

REF: FBIS141145Z

1. (U) SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF THE BRITISH COURT
DECISION NOT TO GRANT COMPENSATION TO THE REFUGEES OF THE
CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, THERE ARE INCREASING SIGNS THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS WILL BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN SEEKING
MAURITIUS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, INCLUDING
DIEGO GARCIA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESIDENT SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH
ON OCTOBER 17 AND NEW PRIME MINISTER PAUL BERENGER ON OCTOBER
16. GOM CLAIMS TO THE ISLAND GROUP WERE RAISED IN BOTH
MEETINGS. JUGNAUTH, THE MORE INSISTENT OF THE TWO, TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR, "WE WANT OUR SOVEREIGNTY." PRESIDENT JUGNAUTH
ALSO INSISTED THAT THE GOM "SHOULD HAVE BEEN RECEIVING RENT
FROM THE USG SINCE 1966," WHEN THE CURRENT LEASE AGREEMENT
WAS ARRANGED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.
JUGNAUTH ALSO SUGGESTED, ERRONEOUSLY, THAT THE USG LEASE ON
DIEGO GARCIA WAS VALID ONLY UNTIL 2016. (NOTE: IN REALITY
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GREAT
BRITAIN, THE U.S. MAY EXTEND ITS LEASE OVER DIEGO GARCIA
UNTIL 2036. THE AMBASSADOR CLARIFIED THIS POINT WITH

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PRESIDENT JUGNAUTH. END NOTE)

3. (U) PM PAUL BERENGER WAS LESS CONFRONTATIONAL DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR. PM BERENGER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS ON DIEGO GARCIA, BUT THAT THE GOM "RECOGNIZED USG SENSITIVITIES AT THIS TIME", REFERRING TO THE CURRENT WAR AGAINST TERRORISM AND THE WAR IN IRAQ. BERENGER'S COMMENTS WERE CONSISTENT WITH HIS RECENT STATEMENTS IN THE LOCAL PRESS. AS REPORTED IN FBIS141145Z THE OCTOBER 14TH EDITION OF LE MAURICIEN QUOTES THE PRIME MINISTER AS SAYING, "WERE IT NOT FOR THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE U.S. AND THE WAR IN IRAQ, A LOT WOULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED REGARDING THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO CASE." HE ADDED THAT, "WE ARE GOING TO WAIT UNTIL THE DUST IS SETTLED A BIT BEFORE CONFRONTING OUR AMERICAN AND BRITISH FRIENDS FROM A NEW ANGLE."

4. (U) ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE GOM DOES NOT INTEND TO LET THE CHAGOS/DG ISSUE FALL TOO FAR OFF THE PUBLIC SCREEN WAS APPARENT TOWARD THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK WHEN ON OCTOBER 16TH, L'EXPRESS, A MAURITIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT ON NOVEMBER 3RD A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD "MARKING THE DATE WHEN THE CHAGOSSAINS ARRIVED IN MAURITIUS."

PRICE

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