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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 0615
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5/J3// PRIORITY
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J5// PRIORITY
CNO WASHINGTON DC//N3/N53/POLAD// PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N00J/N42/N51// PRIORITY
COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA//00/03/00J// PRIORITY
NAVSUPPFAC DIEGO GARCIA//N00// PRIORITY

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IO, MARR, MP, PREL, UK
SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA - AIR MAURITIUS ETOPS FLIGHTS

REF: PORT LOUIS 392

1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. SEE PARAGRAPHS THREE
AND FOUR.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY. GOM REQUESTED CLEARANCE TO USE DIEGO
GARCIA AIRPORT AS AN EN-ROUTE ALTERNATE IN THE CASE OF

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DIVERSION FOR AIR MAURITIUS FLIGHTS TO AND FROM INDIA, SINGAPORE, KUALA LUMPUR, HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA (PORT LOUIS 392). REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE ARE PROPERLY DIRECTED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AS THE GOVERNMENT WITH SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OVER THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. USG OPPOSES THIS USE OF DIEGO GARCIA DUE TO MILITARY SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATIONAL CONCERNS. END SUMMARY.

3. (SBU) FOR PORT LOUIS: DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH GOM AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND DELIVER A RESPONSE TO THE GOM REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE TO USE DIEGO GARCIA AIRPORT AS AN EN-ROUTE ALTERNATE IN CASE OF DIVERSION.

- REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE ARE PROPERLY DIRECTED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AS THE GOVERNMENT WITH SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OVER THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO.

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IF PRESSED FOR USG POSITION:

- U.S. OPPOSES ANY USE OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO THAT DEGRADES THE MILITARY SECURITY OR OPERATIONAL MISSIONS SUPPORTED FROM DIEGO GARCIA. USE OF DIEGO GARCIA AS A DIVERT FIELD FALLS IN THIS CATEGORY.

4. (SBU) FOR LONDON: DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH HMG AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND DELIVER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- THE GOM REQUESTED CLEARANCE FROM THE U.S. TO USE DIEGO GARCIA AIRPORT AS AN EN-ROUTE ALTERNATE IN CASE OF DIVERSION FOR AIR MAURITIUS FLIGHTS TO AND FROM INDIA, SINGAPORE, KUALA LUMPUR, HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA.

- U.S. IS INFORMING THE GOM THAT REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AS THE GOVERNMENT WITH SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OVER THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO.

- WHILE EVERY CONSIDERATION WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE GIVEN FOR AN IN-FLIGHT EMERGENCY, THIS REQUEST TO USE DIEGO GARCIA AS A DIVERT FIELD WOULD APPLY TO ROUTINE CONDITIONS OF POOR WEATHER OR HEAVY AIR TRAFFIC AT A DESTINATION AIRPORT.

- GIVEN THE GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION OF DIEGO GARCIA, THERE ARE MANY OTHER COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS THAT ARE MORE SUITABLE FOR ROUTINE AIR TRAFFIC DIVERSION.

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- U.S. OPPOSES ANY USE OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO THAT
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DEGRADES THE MILITARY SECURITY OR OPERATIONAL MISSIONS
SUPPORTED FROM DIEGO GARCIA. USE OF DIEGO GARCIA AS A
DIVERT FIELD FALLS IN THIS CATEGORY.

5. (U) DEPARTMENT POINT OF CONTACT IS COMMANDER STEVE
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