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RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 PORT L 01984 201221Z ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 DOEE-00 DS-00 SRPP-00 EUR-00 FBIE-00 UTED-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 L-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-02 G-00 DRL-02 SAS-00 /007W

-----A14CEE 201222Z /38 R 201024Z NOV 00 FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6038 INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY AMEMBASSY LONDON SECDEF WASHDC JCS WASHDC USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI COMUSNAVCENT

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 001984

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E, AF/PD, PM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MARR, MP, UK

SUBJECT: EMBASSY ARRANGES CORRECTION OF ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORT ON "COMPENSATION" FOR CHAGOS ISLANDERS

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REF: PORT LOUIS 1955

- 1. IN A NOVEMBER 19 PAGE FOUR ARTICLE COVERING THE NOVEMBER 13 MEETING BETWEEN U.S. AMBASSADOR MARK W. ERWIN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHAGOSSIAN SOCIAL COMMITTEE (REFTEL), THE WEEKLY "LE DIMANCHE" ERRONEOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE AMBASSADOR A COMMENT THAT HE "THINKS THE USA MUST PAY A COMPENSATION" TO THE CHAGOSSIANS ISLANDERS FOR THEIR EXILE FROM DIEGO GARCIA AND THE REST OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO.
- PAO, ON NOVEMBER 20, CONTACTED "LE DIMANCHE" SENIOR EDITOR RAYMOND NAUVEL TO ADVISE HIM THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD NEVER MADE SUCH A COMMENT. NAUVEL RESEARCHED THE ORIGIN OF THE ARTICLE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT HE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER DATE/CASE ID: 06 JUL 2006 200503422

VILL PUBLISH A RETRACTION OF THE MISINFORMATION IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE "LE DIMANCHE" ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

3. THE AMBASSADOR HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO TO ANY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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