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TAGS: OVIP (ALBRIGHT, MADELEINE K.), PREL, MARR, ETRD

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH, PRIM
MINSTER OF MAURITIUS, DECEMBER 10, 2000, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEAL WALSH
REASON: 1.5(B,D).

2. (U) DECEMBER 10, 2000, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, GOVERNMENT
HOUSE, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

3. (U) PARTICIPANTS:

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U.S.:

THE SECRETARY

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EVELYN LIEBERMAN

COUNSELOR WENDY SHERMAN

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUSAN RICE

AMBASSADOR MARK ERWIN

ADMIRAL WALTER DORAN

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN RICHARD BOUCHER

DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION ALEXANDER MARGULIES, NOTETAKER

MAURITIUS:

PRIME MINISTER SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAUL BERENGER

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FOREIGN MINISTER ANIL GAYAN
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT KHUSAM KUSHIRAM
CABINET SECRETARY LOGANARDEN RAMSAMY

4. (S) SUMMARY: IN A DECEMBER 10 MEETING WITH MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH AND LEADING MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY PRAISED MAURITIUS FOR ITS DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS; WELCOMED IT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL; SOUGHT ITS SUPPORT ON UNSC IRAQ SANCTIONS, THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, UN SCALES OF ASSESSMENT REFORM AND PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS; EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY THE AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA); ENCOURAGED ITS WORK ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION; AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF DIEGO GARCIA TO THE USG'S SECURITY INTERESTS AND DEFENSE COMMITMENTS.

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5. (S) MAURITIAN OFFICIALS CAUTIONED THAT THEIR REPRESENTATION COULD ACCELERATE AFRICA AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WOULD INFORM THEIR POSITIONS ON UNSC ISSUES; AGREED TO SUPPORT UN SCALES OF ASSESSMENT REFORM; EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AGOA COULD ACCELERATE "DELOCALIZATION" OF APPAREL PRODUCTION FROM MAURITIUS TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; SOUGHT THE USG'S SUPPORT FOR A WTO WAIVER FOR THE EU-ACP COTONOU AGREEMENT;

END SUMMARY.

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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

6. (C) THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE USG'S PLEASURE OVER MAURITIUS' ELECTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC), PRAISING ITS SUCCESSFUL DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS. SHE STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO COOPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH MAURITIUS ON UNSC ISSUES. SHE RECOGNIZED THAT MAURITIUS HAD NATIONAL INTERESTS THAT COULD INFLUENCE ITS VOTE ON SOME ISSUES, BUT THAT ON "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUES IN WHICH THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNSC WAS INVOLVED, THE U.S. HOPED IT COULD COUNT ON MAURITIUS' SUPPORT.

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7. (C) PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH THANKED THE U.S. FOR ITS HELP IN SECURING MAURITIUS' ELECTION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HIS GOVERNMENT LOOKED FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH THE U.S., BUT CAUTIONED THAT AS ONE OF TWO AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE UNSC, AND AS A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), MAURITIUS' POSITION ON SOME ISSUES WOULD REFLECT THE CONSENSUS VIEWS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS. ON OTHER ISSUES, JUGNAUTH SAID, MAURITIUS WOULD SUPPORT MEASURES THAT FURTHERED WORLD PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT.

8. (C) THE SECRETARY SAID THE USG UNDERSTOOD THAT MAURITIUS WOULD REPRESENT AFRICA ON THE UNSC, BUT SHE NONETHELESS HOPED MAURITIUS WOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND. THE SECRETARY RECALLED THAT, WHEN SERVING AS UN PERMREP, SHE MET MONTHLY WITH THE NAM CAUCUS ON UNSC ISSUES AND SHE HOPED THESE MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION SHE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN FORGING PROGRESS IN NEW YORK.

UNSC SANCTIONS ON IRAQ

9. (C) IRAQ, THE SECRETARY STRESSED, WAS ONE "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUE ON WHICH THE USG WOULD LOOK FOR MAURITIAN SUPPORT. SHE REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE UNSC SANCTIONS REGIME, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT WAS A "BLUNT INSTRUMENT" THAT AFFECTED THE COMMON PEOPLE AS
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WELL AS THE IRAQI LEADERSHIP, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE SANCTIONS DID NOT CONSTITUTE AN EMBARGO OF FOOD AND MEDICINE. SHE NOTED THE USG HAD INITIATED THE PROGRAM UNDER WHICH IRAQ COULD OBTAIN FOOD AND MEDICINE IN EXCHANGE FOR OIL, AND HAD AGREED TO THE RECENT RESOLUTION PERMITTING IRAQ TO USE OIL REVENUES TO MAINTAIN ITS OIL INDUSTRY. THE SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT SADDAM HAD SPENT OVER USD TWO BILLION ON PALACES SINCE THE GULF WAR ENDED AND CITED THE IRAQI LEADER'S AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT, REPRESSION OF HIS OWN PEOPLE, AND CONTINUED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. SHE PRAISED THE SANCTIONS' SUCCESS IN "KEEPING SADDAM IN A BOX," PREVENTING HIM FROM USING OIL REVENUES FOR

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MILITARY PURPOSES. [REDACTED]

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10. (C) FOREIGN MINISTER GAYAN ASKED WHAT THE U.S. THOUGHT ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BERENGER SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE KURDISH PROBLEM, WHICH STRUCK HIM AS A LONGER-TERM ISSUE THAN IRAQ. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HUMANITARIAN FLIGHTS DID NOT VIOLATE THE SANCTIONS REGIME, BUT RATHER CAUSED IT TO "FRAY AT THE EDGES." WHAT WAS IMPORTANT, SHE STRESSED, WAS THAT NO WMD TECHNOLOGY BE PERMITTED TO ENTER IRAQ, AND THAT THE UNSC DID NOT ACCEDE TO SADDAM'S DEMANDS THAT ADMISSION OF UNMOVIC INSPECTORS BE TIED TO A GUARANTEED TIMETABLE FOR REMOVING SANCTIONS. WITH RESPECT TO THE KURDS, THE

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SECRETARY AGREED THAT IT WAS A COMPLEX ISSUE INVOLVING NUMEROUS REGIONAL PLAYERS AND KURDISH FACTIONS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. AND P-5 CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF IRAQ.

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UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS

12. (C) THE SECRETARY REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF UN GENERAL AND PEACEKEEPING ASSESSMENTS, AND DESCRIBED THE
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CONDITIONALITY CONGRESS HAD ATTACHED TO THE PAYMENT OF
U.S. ARREARS. SHE REQUESTED MAURITIUS' SUPPORT IN REDUCING THE
CEILINGS FOR GENERAL ASSESSMENTS TO 25 PERCENT, AND FOR
PEACEKEEPING ASSESSMENTS TO 22 PERCENT. SHE NOTED THAT MAURITIUS
WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED IN ANY WAY BY THE PROPOSED CEILING
REDUCTIONS. PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH SAID THAT MAURITIUS
HOPED THERE WOULD BE CONSENSUS ON REFORM OF ASSESSMENTS. FOREIGN
MINISTER GAYAN ADDED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE PREVIOUSLY
WITH AMBASSADOR ERWIN, AND THAT MAURITIUS WAS CONSULTING WITH IT
AFRICAN COLLEAGUES TO SEE HOW THE U.S. POSITION COULD BE
ACCOMMODATED.

UN PEACEKEEPING

13. (C) AS A UNSC MEMBER, THE SECRETARY OBSERVED,
MAURITIUS WOULD BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN APPROVING UN
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (PKO'S). SHE HOPED IT WOULD PARTICIPATE
IN SUCH OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN AFRICA, SUCH AS THE
SIERRA LEONE PKO AND THE PKO TO POLICE THE ETHIOPIA-ERITREA PEACE
TREATY. HER MAURITIAN INTERLOCUTORS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS REQUEST,
BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

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14. (U) THE SECRETARY RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTION THAT MAURITIUS PROVIDED IN LOBBYING FOR
AGOA. SHE EMPHASIZED THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S
FOCUS ON AFRICA, AND HER OWN EFFORTS TO RECOGNIZE THE
IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-AFRICAN TIES. THE SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED
THERE WAS FRUSTRATION OVER DELAYS IN AGOA'S IMPLEMENTATION, BUT
STATED THAT IT SHOULD BE FULLY IN PLACE BY THE END OF THE MONTH

15. (U) PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH EXPRESSED HIS HOPE
THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE, AS MAURITIUS WAS PLACING A
LOT OF FAITH IN AGOA AS A KEY TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC
FUTURE. MAURITIUS WELCOMED PRIVATE INVESTMENT,
PARTICULARLY IN THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR,
WANTED TO FINALIZE A POSSIBLE USD 500,000 TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (TDA) STUDY FOR CYBERPARKS, AND

HOPED TO ENTER INTO A DOUBLE-TAXATION AVOIDANCE TREATY
WITH THE U.S. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BERENGER STATED
THAT THERE WAS CONCERN THAT MAURITIUS COULD "SUFFER FOR
ITS SUCCESS," AS AGOA'S PROVISIONS AUTHORIZING DUTY-
FREE IMPORTS FROM LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDC'S)

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USING THIRD-COUNTRY FABRICS COULD ACCELERATE THE "DELOCALIZATION" OF APPAREL PRODUCTION FROM MAURITIUS TO LDC'S SUCH AS MADAGASCAR AND MOZAMBIQUE. HE ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD SEEK A WTO WAIVER FOR AGOA.

16. (U) THE SECRETARY SAID THAT AGOA WAS DRAFTED TO HELP ALL ELIGIBLE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WAS NOT AIMED AT DISADVANTAGING MAURITIUS. SHE PRAISED MAURITIUS' ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IT WOULD SUCCEED IN
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PROFITING FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY AGOA. AMBASSADOR ERWIN ADDED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS PROMOTING MAURITIUS TO AMERICAN COMPANIES THROUGH THE AMERICAN REGIONAL TRADE FAIR HELD IN APRIL, AND THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CREATED IN NOVEMBER. WITH RESPECT TO THE WTO, AMBASSADOR ERWIN EXPLAINED THAT THE USG INTENDED TO SUBMIT A WAIVER REQUEST, BUT IN THE MEANTIME WOULD GO AHEAD WITH FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF AGOA.

WTO WAIVER FOR EU/ACP AGREEMENT

17. (U) PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH ASKED FOR THE USG'S SUPPORT IN THE WTO'S CONSIDERATION OF THE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE EU-ACP COTONOU AGREEMENT THAT WOULD SUCCEED THE LOME ACCORD. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BERENGER ADDED THAT THERE WAS SOME OPPOSITION WITHIN THE WTO, IN WHICH A 3/4 MAJORITY IS REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL OF WAIVERS. HE CONCLUDED THAT APPROVAL OF THE COTONOU AGREEMENT WAIVER WOULD SET A POSITIVE PRECEDENT FOR A FUTURE AGOA WAIVER. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE UPCOMING U.S.-EU SUMMIT.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

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18. (SBU) THE SECRETARY APPLAUDED MAURITIUS' CHAMPIONING OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION THROUGH THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) AND THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA), TO WHICH THE USG PROVIDES USD 940,000 ANNUALLY IN ASSISTANCE. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE COMESA BUDGET MEETING IN

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LUSAKA, AND THAT USG ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED BY COMESA'S MEMBERSHIP. [REDACTED] STATED THAT MAURITIUS WAS CONCERNED THAT POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND CIVIL STRIFE IN SADC MEMBER COUNTRIES SUCH AS ZIMBABWE, ANGOLA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND SWAZILAND HAD DAMAGED THE ORGANIZATION'S IMAGE. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT MAURITIUS WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S TENDENCY TO ACT UNILATERALLY, CITING PRESIDENT MBEKI'S PLANNED TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA TO DISCUS A BILATERAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA) WITH MERCOSUR, RATHER THAN TRYING TO WORK FOR A SADC-MERCOSUR FTA.

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19. (U) THE SECRETARY REITERATED THE USG'S SUPPORT FOR SADC AND EXPLAINED THAT THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM WAS STILL DEVELOPING. SHE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT REGIONAL GROUPS BE EFFECTIVE FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIPS, AND THAT THEY FUNCTION WITH EACH OTHER INCREASE WORLD TRADE.

CHAGOS ISLANDS - DIEGO GARCIA

20. (S) THE SECRETARY STRESSED TO THE MAURITIANS THAT THE U.S.
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BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA SERVED THE VITAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES. REFERRING TO THE RECENT BRITISH HIGH COURT JUDGMENT OVERTURNING THE 1971 BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY (BIOT) ORDINANCE, SHE OBSERVED THAT THE ISSUES WAS A MATTER BETWEEN THE PLAINTIFFS AND THE UK, AND DID NOT INVOLVE THE U.S. LIKEWISE, SHE EMPHASIZED, THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY WAS A PURELY BILATERAL ISSUE BETWEEN MAURITIUS AND THE UK.

21. (S) PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH REPLIED THAT MAURITIUS UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. POSITION. [REDACTED]

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23. (S) THE SECRETARY REITERATED DIEGO GARCIA'S IMPORTANCE TO VITAL STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, COMBATING TERRORISM, AND DEALING WITH INSTABILITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY COUP ATTEMPTS. THE USG, SHE REPEATED, WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS OR DISPUTE THE QUESTION OF BRITAIN'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CHAGOS ISLANDS, NOR WOULD IT BE APPROPRIATE FOR TO DO SO. THE SECRETARY CONCLUDED THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD THE MAURITIAN POSITION AND WOULD DISCUSS IT IN WASHINGTON.
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