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TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 109 OF 6 MARCH 1972 REPEATED FI
GOVERNOR SEYCHELLES (PERSONAL)

MY TELNO 103 BIOT RESETTLEMENT.

WE HAVE VISITED POINTE AUX SABLES AREA AND HAVE HAD FAIRLY DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH (BRITISH) OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAWING UP SCHEME. AS A RESULT I AM SATISFIED THAT THE PROPOSALS, WHICH HAVE BEEN FORMULATED BY EXPERTS FROM PLANNING, COOPERATIVE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS, FULFIL THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF A RESETTLEMENT SCHEME AS I SEE THEM: VIZ A VIABLE SCHEME PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THOSE DISPLACED FROM CHAGOS, AND ONE WHICH DISCHARGES AND CAN BE PRESENTED AS DISCHARGING THE MORAL OBLIGATION UPON HMG TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR RESETTLEMENT.

2. FURTHER WORK IS HOWEVER NECESSARY. NO (NO) PARTICULAR SITE HAS YET BEEN EARMARKED. THE GENERAL AREAS SELECTED ARE, HOWEVER, ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE AT PRESENT ON THE BEACH. COSTS MAY HAVE TO BE INCURRED IN CLEARING THE SELECTED SITES (MUCH OF THE GENERAL AREA IS ROCK STREWN) BUT THE OVERALL COSTS QUOTED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ESTATES ARE MAXIMA AND SAVINGS ON E.G. LAND PURCHASE ARE LIKELY TO BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER CLEARANCE. SOME SAVINGS COULD PERHAPS BE MADE BY ENGAGING THE SERVICES OF AN EXPERT FROM E.G. THE BUILDING RESEARCH CENTRE, ABLE TO ADVISE ON A CHEAPER METHOD OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND ON THE PLANNING OF THE ESTATES. FURTHERMORE, HIS SERVICES WOULD BE OF BENEFIT IN PRESENTING SCHEME TO PUBLIC.

3. THOUGH THE INITIAL COSTS OF PROVIDING STOCKS FOR THE PIGGERIES ARE LIKELY TO BE HIGH (BUT WITHIN THE FIGURES QUOTED) AS IMPORTED ANIMALS MUST BE USED, MAIN ATTRACTION OF THE SCHEME IS THAT WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, COUNTRYS CONSUMPTION OF PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS WOULD NO LONGER NEED TO BE IMPORTED, THUS SAVING FOREIGN EXCHANGE. THIS TOO IS OF IMPORTANCE PRESENTATIONALLY.

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4. ADVANTAGE OF THE SCHEME IS THAT THOSE ENGAGED IN IT WILL NOT (NOT) THEREBY BE COMPETING WITH MAURITIANS FOR EMPLOYMENT OR RESOURCES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE SCARCE. ANY SCHEME INVOLVING E.G. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING WOULD REPRESENT SUCH COMPETITION AND THUS BE UNPOPULAR LOCALLY. DISADVANTAGE IS PERHAPS THAT LOCAL FACILITIES FOR DEALING WITH PIG MEAT ARE NOT (NOT) YET CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES WHICH SCHEME WILL PUT ON TO THE MARKET. THIS IS CAPABLE OF IMPROVEMENT HOWEVER.
5. I AM NOT (NOT) OF COURSE IN A POSITION TO CHECK THE VERACITY OF THE FIGURES SUPPLIES. WITH THIS RESERVATION, I CONSIDER THE SCHEME TO BE AS REALISTIC AND VIABLE AS ANY OTHER WE ARE LIKELY TO GET FROM THE MAURITIANS. I WOULD THEREFOR RECOMMEND ITS ACCEPTANCE.
6. ONE APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN ESTATES WOULD PROBABLY BE READY FOR OCCUPATION IN AROUND 12 MONTHS, PROVIDED OF COURSE THAT PIGLETS CAN BE OBTAINED.
7. IT IS OF IMPORTANCE TO KNOW HOW MANY ILOIS ARE LEFT WHO MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO COME HERE IN ADDITION TO THOSE NOW IN PEROS BANHOS (SEYCHELLES TEL BIOV 5). I WOULD WELCOME GOVERNOR SEYCHELLES VIEW ON THIS.
8. FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE FI GOVERNOR SEYCHELLES (PERSONAL).
CARTER

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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