

See also copy

16th March 1974

In my letter of 9th March on the BIOT accounts I said that we intended to produce an account for the period up to 31st March 1973 showing separately the commercial and evacuation costs. This is being done but as an interim measure I am sending you details of compensation and other payments. It may help if I set out first the sequence of movements leading to the final evacuation. 41

2. (a) In September/October 1971 Diego Garcia was closed. 27 Ilois and their dependants were transferred from Diego Garcia to the other Chagos islands. 44 Seychellois and their families were repatriated to Seychelles.
- (b) In November 1972, 62 Ilois and their families were repatriated to Mauritius.
- (c) In May 1973 the final 74 Ilois were repatriated to Mauritius and the Manager and his staff returned to Mahe.
3. Compensation payments took two forms.
- (a) Those transferred from Diego Garcia to the other Chagos islands received compensation of Rs 500 per family. The total cost was £750. This is not 27 x Rs 500 as in some cases there were more than one labourer in the same family.
- (b) Those whose contracts were prematurely terminated received compensation for this. The total paid came to £6,724.

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4. Passages and expenses other than on the NORDVAER came to £2,416. It is difficult to establish a cost for passages on the NORDVAER as she was on charter and was partly employed on evacuation duties and partly on normal commercial duties. As a rough guide taking half the cost of the first two voyages and all of the last this would give a total of some £12,000. A more accurate assessment will be made in the final account.

5. These payments are summarised in the attached paper. They are based on the papers in my files and will be checked in Moulinie's accounts when these are produced in a consolidated form.

(J R TODD)

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JRT/MCR

(a)	Compensation for transfer from Diego Garcia to other Chagos islands	£ 750
(b)	Compensation for premature termination of contracts	£6,724
(c)	Passages etc for Ilois	13,416
(d)	Passages for Seychellois	1,000
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		<u>£21,890</u>