

NOTES ON A VISIT TO C. EGCS

BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

16th-30th July, 1969

30 Jul. 1969

1. Itinerary

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 16th July, 1969 | 11.15 hours | Departed Mahe in Nordvaer |
| 20th July | 09.30 hours | Arrived Egmont |
| | 11.30 hours | Departed Egmont |
| 21st July | 07.30 hours | Arrived Diego Garcia |
| 23rd July | 17.00 hours | Departed Diego Garcia |
| 24th July | 08.00 hours | Arrived Salomon |
| 25th July | 06.00 hours | Departed Salomon |
| | 10.00 hours | Arrived Peros Banhos |
| 26th July | 01.00 hours | Departed Peros Banhos |
| 30th July | 06.30 hours | Arrived Mahe |

The Administrator was accompanied by Mr. Marcel Moulinie of Moulinie & Company (Seychelles) Limited.

2. Egmont Atoll

(a) Due to heavy seas from the East-South-East it was not possible to land at Egmont although this is said normally to be possible during both monsoons. Even from a ship offshore it is possible to see that the islands are now a thick jungle of coconuts. Very few other large trees are present. The sand spit joining South East Island and Takamaka Island is covered with coconut trees about half the height of the trees on the original islands and further building-up seems to be taking place along the South side of the atoll. No trace can be seen of the former plantation buildings.

3. Plantations

(a) The plantation on Diego Garcia is gradually becoming more overgrown as the number of workers on the island is insufficient to allow cleaning to keep pace with growth without interfering with the immediately productive work of coconut collection and copra preparation. The amount of copra produced in 1968 was only 512 tons compared to 702 tons in 1967. This is partly due to the reduction in the labour force and partly due to the poor condition of the plantation. Increased concentration on nut collection at the expense of clearing has improved the production figures for the first half of 1969. This policy can of course only be justified as a short term one. Details of copra production are given at Appendix 1.

(b) On Peros Banhos and Salomon the plantations are much less overgrown than on Diego Garcia as the growth of the ground cover and shrubs is much less prolific. As can be seen from the table in Appendix 1 production in 1968 was poor compared to previous years. This is mainly due to lack of labour

(c) The cattle on Diego Garcia seem to be in good condition and five of the cows are now in calf. The pig herds on all three islands are increasing in size and the introduction of the Wessex Saddleback boars on Diego Garcia has produced some promising litters. One boar was transferred to Salomon. Details of the livestock on the islands are given in Appendix II. There are, in addition, ducks and hens on the islands but these are owned mainly by individual labourers. An attempt to improve the stock is being made on Salomon where some Rhode Island Reds have been introduced.

(d) The vegetable garden on Diego Garcia grows well but is too small to provide vegetables for the whole population. Despite successful results on Salomon in 1968, no further plantings have been made and the garden has fallen into disuse. On Peros Banhos the management also has no vegetable garden and on none of the islands do the workers make any attempt to grow their own vegetables.

(e) The Plantation buildings in general remain adequate despite the reduction of maintenance to a minimum. On Diego Garcia it has been necessary to reroof the boat shed.

4. Labour

(a) Details of the labour force are given in Appendix III and details of earnings in Appendix IV. It is intended to transfer 15 men temporarily from Salomon to Peros Banhos in an attempt to increase production by working on some of the more rarely visited islands.

(b) Relations between the management and labour remain generally good. There are signs that the increased trade union activities in Seychelles are beginning to have an effect on the labourers on the islands.

(c) The labourers' quarters are, as has often been noted before, generally poor and the most that can be said of the majority is that they are weather-proof. The camp areas are, however, being kept cleaner than before.

(d) The stocks of rations on the islands are adequate and the shops are well stocked.

5. Population

(a) Details of the population including family size and citizenship are given in Appendix V. Compared to the figures for March 1967, the total population shows a decrease of 155. The details of this decrease are as follows:-

| | <u>Change in Number of</u> | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | <u>Adults</u> | <u>Children</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Seychellois | -26 | +6 | -20 |
| Mauritians | -33 | -18 | -51 |
| Ilois | 144 -56 | -28 | -84 |
| Total | -115 | -40 | -155 |

As can be seen, the main decrease is in the number of Mauritians and Ilois on the islands. This is due to communications with the island now being confined for commercial reasons to Mahe.

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The decrease in the number of Seychellois is due mainly to the difficulty which has been experienced in obtaining labour for not only Chagos but also for the Seychelles Outlying Islands. There is some indication that the position is improving.

(b) Details of births, deaths and marriages are given at Appendix VI.

6. Courts

(a) Details of cases heard by Peace Officers and in the Magistrate's Court are given in Appendix VII. The Peace Officers' records are generally well kept and their treatment of cases satisfactory.

7. Medical

(a) There is a dresser and a midwife on Diego Garcia but on both Peros Banhos and Salomon both functions are performed by one person qualified as both. The dresser / midwife on Peros Banhos is due to go on leave in October and it is unlikely that a suitable replacement will be available. The hospitals are in good condition and the supply of drugs adequate. The general health of the population is satisfactory.

8. Education

(a) The schools on the three atolls continue to function, each with one unqualified teacher. There are 21 pupils at Diego Garcia, 25 at Peros Banhos and 24 at Salomon. With the exception of Peros Banhos, it seem doubtful whether anything useful is achieved. *

9. Communications

(a) The Nordvaer provides the only regular sea link with Chagos and has visited the islands five times in her first year of operations. Appendix VIII gives details of the boats on the various islands. These are used for transport within the atolls and the two large motor boats on Peros Banhos and Salomon maintain sea communication between the two atolls.

(b) Difficulties have been experienced in obtaining sufficient fish for rations on Peros Banhos as fishing within the lagoon is poor and there is no suitable boat available for fishing outside the lagoon. A small fishing boat is therefore being built to remedy the situation.

(c) Three tractors with trailers and a Toyota truck (10 cwt.) are in use on Diego Garcia. There are no vehicles on the other islands.

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(d) The Meteorological Station on Diego Garcia continues to send and receive wireless messages on behalf of the management to Seychelles and Peros Banhos. The wireless set on Salomon, however, is not in working order and is probably beyond further

10. Geodetic Survey

(a) The United States' geodetic survey station on Diego Garcia continues to function. There is now only one team of three carrying out optical observations. Their relations with the management and with the labour are very good. Moulinie & Company act as their agents in Mahe arranging for stores and other requirements to be sent to the island by the Nordvaer. This system is working well now that efficient liaison arrangements have been worked out.

11. Conclusion

The islands continue to be run satisfactorily on a care and maintenance basis and the conditions of life on the islands remain acceptable. Under the present restrictions on development this is as much as can be expected.



ADMINISTRATOR

30th July, 1969

COPRA PRODUCTIONAPPENDIX I

| Island | Diego Garcia | Peros Banhos | Salomon | Total Chagos |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| Average 1955-58 | 586 | 461 | 264 | 1311 |
| 1967 | 702 | 380 | 202 | 1284 |
| 1968 | 512 | 236 | 193 | 941 |
| Jan-June 1969 | 286 | 142 | 96 | 524 |

LIVESTOCKAPPENDIX II

| | Diego Garcia | Peros Banhos | Salomon | Total |
|---------|--------------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Horses | 6 | - | 5 | 11 |
| Pigs | 64 | 80 | 47 | 191 |
| Cows | 21 | - | - | 21 |
| Donkeys | 200* | 12 | 5 | 217 |

* Estimated

LABOUR FORCEAPPENDIX III

| | Diego Garcia | Peros Banhos | Salomon | Total |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|-------|
| Managers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Accountants | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Dressers | - | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Nurses/ Midwives | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Clerks | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Teachers | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |
| Senior Overseers | 1 | - | 2 | 3 |
| Overseers | 6 | 7 | 8 | 21 |
| Artisans | 13(inc. 4*) | 8(inc. 4*) | 4 | 25 |
| Male Labourers | 116 | 42 | 39 | 197 |
| Female Labourers | 57 | 29 | 35 | 121 |
| Boys | 23 | 6 | 3 | 32 |
| Total | 225 | 95 | 95 | 415 |

* Apprentices

EARNINGSAPPENDIX IV

| | Diego Garcia | Peros Banhos | Salomon | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| Number employed | 225 | 95 | 95 | 415 |
| Total basic (Rs.) | 7,143 | 3,752 | 3,434 | 14,329 |
| Total extras(") | 8,175 | 3,182 | 1,348 | 12,705 |
| Total earnings | 15,318 | 6,934 | 4,782 | 27,034 |
| Shop account | 11,755 | 2,120 | 3,376 | 17,241 |

DETAILS OF EXTRAS

| | Diego Garcia | Peros Banhos | Salomon |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Cleaning | 2068 | 82 | 98 |
| Collecting and husking | 1231 | 1106 | 560 |
| Transporting nuts | 378 | 415 | 308 |
| Breaking nuts | 278 | 63 | 154 |
| Bagging copra | 196 | 5 | - |
| Calorifer/Oil Mill | 952 | 313 | 56 |
| Total extras on copra production | 5103 (63%) | 1984 (62%) | 1176 (81%) |
| Maintenance of boats | 65 | 970 | 57 |
| Maintenance of quarters | 739 | 12 | 92 |
| Maintenance of other buildings | 1634 | - | - |
| Total extras on maintenance | 2438 (30%) | 982 (31%) | 149 (17%) |
| Other extras | 584 (7%) | 216 (7%) | 24 (2%) |
| Total extras | 8175 | 3182 | 1349 |

POPULATION

APPENDIX V

| | | ADULTS | | | CHILDREN | TOTAL |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total | | |
| DIEGO GARCIA | Seychellois | 100 | 40 | 140 | 85 | 225 |
| | Mauritians | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| | Ilois | 27 | 21 | 48 | 45 | 93 |
| | Total | 128 | 61 | 189 | 130 | 319 |
| PEROS BANHOS | Seychellois | 16 | 2 | 18 | 8 | 26 |
| | Mauritians | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | Ilois | 22 | 26 | 48 | 73 | 121 |
| | Total | 40 | 29 | 69 | 82 | 151 |
| SALO- MON | Seychellois | 21 | 5 | 26 | 20 | 46 |
| | Mauritians | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Ilois | 26 | 28 | 54 | 82 | 136 |
| | Total | 47 | 33 | 80 | 102 | 182 |
| TOTAL CHAGOS | Seychellois | 137 | 47 | 184 | 113 | 297 |
| | Mauritians | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| | Ilois | 75 | 75 | 150 | 200 | 350 |
| | Total | 215 | 123 | 338 | 314 | 652 |

FAMILY SIZE

| | Diego Garcia | | | | | Peros Banhos | | | | Salomon | | | | Total | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---|-----|-------|--|--------------|---|----|-----------------|---------|---|----|-------|-------|---|----|-------|
| | S | M | I | Total | | S | M | I | Total | S | M | I | Total | S | M | I | Total |
| 1 | 56 | 1 | 12 | 69 | | 10 | 1 | 10 | 21 | 14 | - | 11 | 25 | 80 | 2 | 33 | 115 |
| 2 | 9 | - | 11 | 20 | | - | - | 4 | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 4 | 10 | - | 18 | 28 |
| 3 | 12 | - | 5 | 17 | | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | - | - | 3 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 13 | 26 |
| 4 | 4 | - | 3 | 7 | | - | - | 7 | 7 | - | - | 4 | 4 | 4 | - | 14 | 18 |
| 5 | 4 | - | - | 4 | | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 4 | 6 | 7 | - | 4 | 11 |
| 6 | 3 | - | 1 | 4 | | - | - | 4 | 4 | 2 | - | 5 | 7 | 5 | - | 10 | 15 |
| 7 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | | 1 | - | 3 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 4 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | 5 | 7 |
| 9 | 2 | - | - | 2 | | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 4 |
| 10 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 |
| 11 | - | - | 1 | 1 | | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total Single Men | 56 | 1 | 12 | 69 | | 10 | 1 | 10 | 21 | 14 | - | 11 | 25 | 80 | 2 | 35 | 115 |
| Total Families | 37 | - | 25* | 62 | | 2 | 1 | 25 | 28 ⁺ | 6 | - | 24 | 30 | 45 | 1 | 74 | 120 |

* Includes 7 Seychellois en menage with Iloises and 3 Ilois en menage with Seychelloises

+ Includes 4 Seychellois en menage with Iloises and 1 Ilois en menage with Seychelloises

INCOMPLETE FAMILIES

| Island | Without Male | | | | Without Female | | | | Total | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---|----|-------|----------------|---|---|-------|-------|---|----|-------|
| | S | M | I | Total | S | M | I | Total | S | M | I | Total |
| Diego Garcia | - | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| Peros Banhos | - | - | 7 | 7 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 8 | 8 |
| Salomon | - | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 |
| Total | - | - | 12 | 12 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | 14 | 15 |

CITIZENSHIP

| | Legit- mate | Natural | Total Births | O R I G I N * | | Ilois |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| | | | | Seychellois | Mauritian | |
| <u>Diego Garcia</u> | | | | | | |
| 8.11.65-31.12.68 | 14 | 35 | 49 | 25 | 1 | 23 |
| 1.1.69-30.6.69 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 17 | 43 | 60 | 31 | 2 | 27 |
| <u>Peros Banhos</u> | | | | | | |
| 8.11.65-31.12.68 | 19 | 18 | 37 | 8 | - | 29 |
| 1.1.69-30.6.69 | 3 | 10 | 13 | - | - | 13 |
| Total | 22 | 28 | 50 | 8 | - | 42 |
| <u>Salomon</u> | | | | | | |
| 8.11.65-31.12.68 | 8 | 20 | 28 | - | 1 | 27 |
| 1.1.69-30.6.69 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Total | 8 | 21 | 29 | - | 1 | 28 |
| <u>Total Chagos</u> | | | | | | |
| 8.11.65-31.12.68 | 41 | 73 | 114 | 33 | 2 | 79 |
| 1.1.69-30.6.69 | 6 | 19 | 25 | 6 | 1 | 18 |
| Total | 47 | 92 | 139 | 39 | 3 | 97 |

* Origin of father in case of legitimate children or of mother in case of natural children

CIVIL STATUS RECORDS

APPENDIX VI

BIRTHS

| | DIEGO GARCIA | | | | PEROS BANHOS | | | | SALOMON | | | | TOTAL CHAGOS | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------|------|---------------|---------------|------|------|---------------|---------------|------|------|---------------|---------------|------|------|---------------|
| | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | Jan-June 1969 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | Jan-June 1969 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | Jan-June 1969 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | Jan-June 1969 |
| Male | 10 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 | - | 20 | 17 | 18 | 12 |
| Female | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 19 | 13 | 13 |
| Total | 17 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 10 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 35 | 36 | 31 | 25 |
| Legitimate | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | - | 16 | 13 | 17 | 6 |
| Natural | 12 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 23 | 14 | 19 |
| Still Births | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| DEATHS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Female | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | 6 | 11 | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | - | 15 | 18 | 10 | 5 |
| Under 1 year | Not available | 1 | 1 | - | Not available | 3 | 2 | - | Not available | 1 | 1 | - | Not available | 5 | 4 | - |
| 1-10 years | 2 | - | - | - | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 9 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 10 yrs.+ | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| MARRIAGES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | - | 3 | 5 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | 7 | - | 3 | 5 |

PEACE OFFICERS RECORDS

APPENDIX VII

CASES HEARD

| | DIEGO BARCIA | | | PEROS BANHOS | | | SALOMON | | | TOTAL | | |
|---|--------------|------|----------------------|--------------|------|----------------------|---------|------|----------------------|-------|------|----------------------|
| | 1967 | 1968 | Jan- June 1969 | 1967 | 1968 | Jan- June 1969 | 1967 | 1968 | Jan- June 1969 | 1967 | 1968 | Jan- June 1969 |
| Affray | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - |
| Assault | 11 | 18 | 6 | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 26 | 10 |
| Conduct liable to cause breach of peace | 6 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| Damaging property | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Drunkenness | 6 | - | 1 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 12 | 12 | 4 |
| Obscene Language | 2 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 | 6 | 13 | 4 |
| Stealing | 7 | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | 7 | 1 |
| Other offences | - | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Total | 36 | 40 | 11 | 9 | 25 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 50 | 69 | 22 |
| <u>DISPOSAL OF CASES</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Fines</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rs. 1-10 | 19 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 26 | 34 | 12 |
| Rs. 11-20 | 8 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| Total Fines | 27 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 34 | 37 | 13 |
| <u>Imprisonment</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-7 days | 9 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 26 | 10 |
| 8-14 days | - | 6 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| Total Imprisonment | 9 | 24 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 32 | 13 |
| Not Guilty | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Total | - | 40 | 11 | 9 | 25 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 12* | 50 | 69 | 26* |
| Appeals Heard | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Upheld | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

* Fine and imprisonment in four cases

APPENDIX VIII

BOATS

| <u>Type</u> | DIEGO GARCIA | PEROS BANHOS | SALOMON |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Towing boats | 1x18' Fair. Under repair | 1x35' Good | 1x32' Good |
| | 1x20' Good | 1x40' Fair | |
| | Both without engines | | |
| | 1x27' Fair | | |
| Loading boats | 2x27' 1 Fair 1 Good | 2x28' Good | 2x45' Good |
| | 1x36' Good | 2x40' Good | |
| | 1x100 (lighter) ton poor | | |
| Sailing boats | 1x18' Good | 1x32' Good | 1x18' Good |
| | | 1x35' Good | 1x25' Good |
| Pirogues | 1x30' Good | 2x20' Good | 1x12' Good |
| | | | 1x21' Good |
| Dinghies | | | 1x15' Good |