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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 05 PORT LOUIS 002064

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/11/30
TAGS: AMGT
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL (SECSTATE MEETING WITH
MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER)

SECRET
PROG 12/11/00
AF:SUSAN RICE
DCM:AHMARGULIES
AMB:MERWIN
S/S

USDEL SECRETARY IN GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS IMMEDIATE
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
SECRET

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
COMUSNAVCENT IMMEDIATE
USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPTTREAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

E.O. 1298: DECL: 12/11/10
TAGS: OVIP (ALBRIGHT, MADELEINE K.), PREL, MARR, ETRD,
MP, US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SIR ANEROOD
JUGNAUTH, PRIME MINSTER OF MAURITIUS, DECEMBER 10,

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2000, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AF A/S SUSAN RICE. REASON:
1.5(B,D).

2. (U) DATE AND LOCATION OF MEETING: DECEMBER 10,
2000, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PORT
LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

3. (U) PARTICIPANTS.

-- U.S.: SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT;
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS EVELYN LIEBERMAN; COUNSELOR AMBASSADOR
WENDY SHERMAN; ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN
AFFAIRS SUSAN RICE; AMBASSADOR MARK ERWIN; ASSISTANT TO
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ADMIRAL
WALTER DORAN; SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RICHARD BOUCHER; DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION ALEXANDER
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MARGULIES (NOTETAKER).

-- MAURITIUS: PRIME MINISTER SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH;
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAUL BERENGER; FOREIGN MINISTER
ANIL GAYAN; MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL
SERVICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS 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 IRAQI SANCTIONS, THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AND
UN SCALES OF ASSESSMENT REFORM AND ITS PARTICIPATING IN
UN 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 CHAMPIONING OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION; AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF DIEGO
GARCIA TO THE USG'S SECURITY INTERESTS AND DEFENSE
COMMITMENTS, AS WELL AS OUR REFUSAL TO BECOME INVOLVED
IN MAURITIUS' BILATERAL DISPUTE WITH THE UK OVER
SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. THE MAURITIAN
AUTHORITIES CAUTIONED THAT THEIR REPRESENTATION OF
AFRICA AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WOULD
DEFINE SOME OF THEIR POSITIONS ON UNSC ISSUES; AGREED
TO SUPPORT UN SCALES OF ASSESSMENT REFORM; EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT AGOA COULD ACCELERATE "DELOCALIZATION" OF

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APPAREL PRODUCTION FROM MAURITIUS TO LESS DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES; SOUGHT THE USG'S SUPPORT FOR A WTO WAIVER

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FOR THE EU-ACP COTONOU AGREEMENT;

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END SUMMARY.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

5. (C) THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE USG'S PLEASURE
OVER MAURITIUS' ELECTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL (UNSC), PRAISING ITS SUCCESSFUL DEMOCRACY,

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ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AND ITS INTERNATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY. SHE STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO
COOPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH MAURITIUS ON UNSC

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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. EXPECTED MAURITIUS' SUPPORT.

6. (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

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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.

7. (C) THE SECRETARY SAID THE USG UNDERSTANDS THAT MAURITIUS WILL REPRESENT AFRICA ON THE UNSC AND IS A MEMBER OF THE NAM. NONETHELESS, SHE HOPED THAT MAURITIUS WILL KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON ISSUES AND GIVE THE U.S. THE CHANCE TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION. THE SECRETARY RECALLED THAT, WHEN SERVING AS UN PERMREP, SHE COMMENCED THE PRACTICE OF MEETING MONTHLY WITH THE NAM CAUCUS ON UNSC ISSUES. SHE HOPED THAT THESE MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION, AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN FORGING PROGRESS IN NEW YORK.

UNSC SANCTIONS ON IRAQ

8. (C) IRAQ, THE SECRETARY STRESSED, WAS ONE "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUE ON WHICH WE LOOKED FOR MAURITIAN SUPPORT. SHE REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE UNSC SANCTIONS REGIME ON IRAQ; ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS A "BLUNT INSTRUMENT" THAT AFFECTED THE COMMON PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE IRAQI LEADERSHIP; POINTED OUT THAT THE

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SANCTIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN EMBARGO OF FOOD AND MEDICINE; RECALLED THAT THE USG HAD INITIATED THE PROGRAM UNDER WHICH IRAQ COULD OBTAIN FOOD AND MEDICINE IN EXCHANGE FOR OIL AND AGREED TO THE RECENT RESOLUTION

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PERMITTING IRAQ TO USE OIL REVENUES TO MAINTAIN ITS OIL INDUSTRY; REBUTTED SADDAM HUSSEIN'S CLAIMS THAT DUE TO THE SANCTIONS THE IRAQ DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO TAKE CARE OF ITS PEOPLE, OBSERVING THAT HUSSEIN HAS SPENT OVER USD TWO BILLION ON PALACES SINCE THE GULF WAR ENDED; CITED THE IRAQI LEADER'S AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT, REPRESSION OF HIS OWN PEOPLE, AND CONTINUED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION; AND PRAISED THE SANCTIONS' SUCCESS IN "KEEPING SADDAM IN A BOX," PREVENTING HIM FROM USING OIL REVENUES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

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9. (C) FOREIGN MINISTER GAYAN ASKED WHAT THE U.S. THOUGHT ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES,

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BERENGER SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE KURDISH PROBLEM, WHICH STRUCK HIM AS A LONGER-TERM ISSUE THAN IRAQ.

10. (C) 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 ARMS OR TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE USED FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WERE PERMITTED TO ENTER IRAQ, AND THAT THE UNSC DID NOT

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ACCEDE TO HUSSEIN'S DEMANDS THAT ADMISSION OF UNMAVIC INSPECTORS BE TIED TO A GUARANTEED TIMETABLE FOR REMOVING SANCTIONS. WITH RESPECT TO THE KURDS, THE 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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S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 05 PORT LOUIS 002064

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UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS

13. (C) THE SECRETARY REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF UN
GENERAL AND PEACEKEEPING ASSESSMENTS, DESCRIBED THE
CONDITIONALITY CONGRESS HAS ATTACHED TO THE PAYMENT OF
OVER USD 800 MILLION IN ARREARS; AND REQUESTED
MAURITIUS'S SUPPORT IN REDUCING THE CEILINGS FOR
GENERAL ASSESSMENTS TO 25 PERCENT, AND PEACEKEEPING
ASSESSMENTS TO 22 PERCENT. SHE NOTED THAT MAURITIUS
WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED IN ANY WAY BY THE PROPOSED
CEILING REDUCTIONS.

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14. (C) PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH SAID THAT MAURITIUS HOPED THERE WOULD BE CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON REFORM OF ASSESSMENTS. FOREIGN MINISTER GAYAN ADDED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE PREVIOUSLY WITH AMBASSADOR ERWIN, AND THAT MAURITIUS WAS CONSULTING WITH ITS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES TO SEE HOW THE U.S. POSITION COULD BE ACCOMMODATED.

UN PEACEKEEPING

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

AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

16. (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, AS EVIDENCED BY HER ANNUAL VISITS TO THE CONTINENT AND HER STATEMENTS ON THE CURRENT TRIP THAT OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH AFRICA MUST BE A PERMANENT ONE. THE SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS FRUSTRATION OVER DELAYS IN AGOA'S IMPLEMENTATION, BUT STATED THAT IT SHOULD BE FULLY IN PLACE BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

17. (U) PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE, AS MAURITIUS IS PLACING A LOT OF FAITH IN AGOA AS A KEY TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC FUTURE. MAURITIUS WELCOMES PRIVATE INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR, WANTS TO FINALIZE A POSSIBLE USD 500,000 TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (TDA) STUDY FOR CYBERPARKS, AND HOPES TO ENTER INTO A DOUBLE-TAXATION AVOIDANCE TREATY WITH THE U.S. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BERENGER STATED

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THAT THERE WAS CONCERN THAT MAURITIUS COULD "SUFFER FOR
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ITS SUCCESS," AS AGOA'S PROVISIONS AUTHORIZING DUTY-
FREE IMPORTS FROM LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDC'S)
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.

18. (U) THE SECRETARY SAID THAT AGOA WAS DRAFTED TO
HELP ALL ELIGIBLE AFRICAN COUNTRIES BENEFIT FROM
INCREASED TRADE AND INVESTMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES
AND WAS NOT AIMED AT DISADVANTAGING MAURITIUS. SHE
PRAISED MAURITIUS' ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE AND
EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IT WOULD SUCCEED IN PROFITING
FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY AGOA. AMBASSADOR
ERWIN ADDED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS PROMOTING
MAURITIUS TO AMERICAN COMPANIES THROUGH THE AMERICAN

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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
INTENDS TO SUBMIT A WAIVER REQUEST, BUT IN THE MEANTIME
WILL GO AHEAD WITH FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF AGOA.

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WTO WAIVER FOR EU/ACP AGREEMENT

19. (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

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SUCCEED THE LOME ACCORD. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
BERENGER ADDED THAT THERE IS 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 EU-U.S. SUMMIT.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

20. (U) 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 IS PROVIDING
USD 940,000 ANNUALLY IN ASSISTANCE.

21. (SBU) [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE HAD
JUST RETURNED FROM THE COMESA BUDGET MEETING IN LUSAKA,
AND THAT THE USG ASSISTANCE WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY
COMESA'S MEMBERSHIP. [REDACTED]

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STATED THAT MAURITIUS WAS CONCERNED THAT POLITICAL
PROBLEMS AND CIVIL STRIFE IN SADC MEMBER COUNTRIES LIKE
ZIMBABWE, ANGOLA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND
SWAZILAND WERE DAMAGING THE ORGANIZATION'S IMAGE.

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[REDACTED] ADDED THAT MAURITIUS WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SOUTH
AFRICA'S TENDENCY TO ACT UNILATERALLY, CITING PRESIDENT
MBEKI'S PLANNED TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA TO DISCUSS A
BILATERAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA) WITH MERCOSUR,

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RATHER THAN TRYING TO WORK FOR A SADC-MERCOSUR FTA.

22. (U) THE SECRETARY REITERATED THE USG'S SUPPORT
FOR SADC. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM
WAS STILL DEVELOPING, AND AS A POLITICAL SCIENTIST SHE
FOUND IT FASCINATING TO SEE HOW DIFFERENT REGIONAL

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GROUPINGS ARE FORMING INTERLOCKING RELATIONSHIPS. IT WAS IMPORTANT, SHE EMPHASIZED, THAT REGIONAL GROUPS SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIPS, AND THAT THEY SHOULD FUNCTION WITH EACH OTHER SO AS TO INCREASE WORLD TRADE.

CHAGOS ISLANDS - DIEGO GARCIA

23. (S) THE SECRETARY DECLARED THAT THE U.S. BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA SERVES VITAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY INTERESTS FOR 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 THIS WAS A MATTER BETWEEN THE PLAINTIFFS AND THE UK, AND DID NOT INVOLVE THE U.S. LIKEWISE, SHE EMPHASIZED, THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY IS A PURELY BILATERAL ISSUE BETWEEN MAURITIUS AND THE UK.

24. (S) PRIME MINISTER JUGNAUTH REPLIED THAT MAURITIUS UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. POSITION.



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25. (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, IS NOT IN A POSITION
TO DISCUSS OR DISPUTE THE QUESTION OF BRITAIN'S
SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CHAGOS ISLANDS. NOR WOULD IT BE
APPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. TO DO SO. THE SECRETARY
CONCLUDED THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD THE MAURITIAN POSITION

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AND WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH OTHER CONCERNED USG AGENCIES
IN WASHINGTON.
ERWIN

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