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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	NP-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	USNW-00	DS-00
	EUR-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	PM-00	SA-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/006W		
				-----DAAEAD	190839Z	/38	

R 161310Z AUG 02 ZDS
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8335
INFO SADC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5
CNO WASHINGTON DC//N3/N5
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY RIYADH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 PORT LOUIS 000977

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADDING DECL/CLASSIFY BY INFO

DEPT FOR AF/E, H, PM/ISA; NAIROBI PLEASE PASS TO CODEL
SHELBY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/16/2012
TAGS: OREP, KTIA, MARR, PREL, MP, UK, XF
SUBJECT: CODEL SHELBY'S MEETING WITH DPM BERENGER

CLASSIFIED BY DCM BISA WILLIAMS FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. (C) SUMMARY: CODEL SHELBY VISITED MAURITIUS AUGUST
11-13 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH
AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAUL BERENGER ON BILATERAL AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS, AND TOURING A TEXTILE
MANUFACTURING PLANT. IN THEIR MEETINGS, THE TWO
MINISTERS ADVISED CODEL SHELBY THAT THE GOM WOULD

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CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ENTIRE CHAGOS
ARCHIPELAGO, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SEPTTEL REPORTED CODEL
SHELBY'S MEETING WITH PM JUGNAUTH. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS
ON THE MEETING WITH DPM PAUL BERENGER. BERENGER
REITERATED HIS FAITH IN THE GOM'S NEW FIVE-YEAR BUDGET
PLAN, EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE SENATE'S
PASSAGE OF "AGOA II" LEGISLATION, AND OPTIMISM ABOUT
DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. HE PRAISED SECRETARY
POWELL'S EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
END SUMMARY.

FRAGILE, RAINBOW NATION

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2. (C) AFTER INTRODUCTORY PLEASANTRIES DURING WHICH DPM
BERENGER RECOUNTED THAT HE WAS A DESCENDANT OF FRENCH
SETTLERS WHO IMMIGRATED TO MAURITIUS IN THE EARLY 1800'S,
BERENGER EXPLAINED THAT MAURITIUS WAS A "RAINBOW NATION,
BUT STILL FRAGILE." MAURITIANS HAD TO WORK HARD TO
PRESERVE UNITY AMONG THEM, AND HE BELIEVED THEY WERE
BEING SUCCESSFUL. ALLUDING TO THE RECENTLY PASSED FIVE-
YEAR BUDGET, BERENGER TOLD THE SENATORS THAT THE GOM
DECIDED TO TAKE THE "TOUGH DECISIONS" THAT NEEDED TO BE
TAKEN, AND ANTICIPATED TWO DIFFICULT YEARS AHEAD. HE WAS
CONVINCED THE GOM WOULD SUCCEED, HOWEVER, AND THAT THE
COUNTRY WOULD BENEFIT OVER THE LONG-TERM. THE GOM
INTENDED TO MAKE A "MASSIVE INVESTMENT" IN EDUCATION AND
TO BRING THE 6.5 PER CENT BUDGET DEFICIT DOWN TO 3.5 PER
CENT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. RESPONDING TO SEN.
SHELBY'S QUESTION, BERENGER SAID THAT THE GOM INTENDED TO
HELP GROW THE ECONOMY WITHOUT DEPRIVING THE PUBLIC OF
NEEDED SERVICES BY INCREASING ITS VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT).
MAURITIANS PREFERRED AN INDIRECT TAXATION SYSTEM, AND THE
GOM SOUGHT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

3. (C) BERENGER CONFIRMED THAT CRITICS IN THE OPPOSITION
CLAIMED THAT THE GOM WAS NOT DOING ENOUGH, BUT SAID THAT
THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDED TO STAY THE COURSE AND TO
PREACH PERSEVERANCE THROUGH THE NEXT TWO YEARS. ASKED
WHETHER SCANDALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SECTOR
HAD A RIPPLE EFFECT ON MAURITIUS, BERENGER REPLIED IN THE
NEGATIVE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE CHECKS AND
BALANCES WITHIN MAURITIUS' FINANCIAL SERVICES AND BANKING
SECTORS, CITING SEVERAL COMMISSIONS THE GOM HAS

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 ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE THEIR SYSTEM STAYS CLEAN. HE
 BOASTED THAT MAURITIUS WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE "FEW
 COUNTRIES ON EARTH" WHOSE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION WAS
 SUPERVISED BY A BOARD COMPOSED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
 REPUBLIC, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF THE
 OPPOSITION. THE MAURITIAN CONSTITUTION REQUIRED THAT BI-
 PARTISAN COMPOSITION AND ALSO REQUIRED THAT REMOVAL OF
 ANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD BE MADE BY UNANIMOUS
 DECISION.

4. (C) COMMENTING THAT STRIKING THE BALANCE BETWEEN
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WAS A BIG
 CHALLENGE FOR GOVERNMENT, BERENGER THEN THANKED SENATORS
 FOR PASSING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AFRICA GROWTH AND
 OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA II) CONTAINED IN THE RECENTLY
 PASSED TRADE BILL (H.R. 3009). HE SAID THAT AGOA II WAS
 "VERY IMPORTANT" TO MAURITIUS, ESPECIALLY SINCE EUROPE'S
 MARKETS WERE OPENING UP, AND BECAUSE THE BILL ENCOURAGED
 REGIONAL COOPERATION, A TENET OF MAURITIAN TRADE POLICY.

DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA

5. (C) BERENGER WAS UPBEAT ABOUT EVENTS ON THE AFRICAN
 CONTINENT. STARTING WITH MADAGASCAR, WHERE MAURITIANS
 HAD INVESTED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND HAD SUFFERED
 SEVERELY DURING THE RATSIRAKA/RAVALOMANANA CRISIS,
 BERENGER REPORTED THAT MAURITIAN BUSINESSES AND THE GOM
 WERE GLAD THAT THE CRISIS WAS OVER AND WERE CONFIDENT
 THAT MADAGASCAR WOULD PULL THROUGH. HE SAID THAT THE GOM

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INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	NP-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	USNW-00	DS-00
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	NEA-00	DCP-01	PM-00	SA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/006W				

-----DAAEF2 190839Z /38

R 161310Z AUG 02 ZDS
 FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8336

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INFO SADC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADDING DECL/CLASSIFY BY INFO

DEPT FOR AF/E, H, PM/ISA; NAIROBI PLEASE PASS TO CODEL
SHELBY

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HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT TENSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT
OF TANZANIA AND THE PEOPLE IN ZANZIBAR, BUT VERY POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENTS IN ZANZIBAR BODED WELL FOR PEACE THERE, AS
WELL. ANGOLA'S GELLING PEACE WAS PROMISING AS WERE
REPORTS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DROC).
HE PRAISED SECRETARY POWELL'S EFFORTS IN SUDAN, NOTING
THAT SUDAN AND MAURITIUS HAVE NOT BEEN ON THE SAME TRACK
FOR OVER A DECADE.

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CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO AND DIEGO GARCIA

7. (C) EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOM FULLY SUPPORTS USG POLICIES, BERENGER REMARKED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RE-READ THE LETTER FROM PM JUGNAUTH TO PRESIDENT BUSH IN WHICH JUGNAUTH RE-COMMITTED THE GOM IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE USG ON MARITIME INTERDICTIONS, IF EVER ASKED. HE CONCLUDED, "IN MAURITIUS, THE U.S. IS MORE THAN A FRIEND."

8. (C) IN THAT CONTEXT, HE STATED THAT THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO WAS "VERY IMPORTANT" TO MAURITIUS. HE REVIEWED THE GOM'S POSITION ON CHAGOS, RECOUNTING THAT THE GOM CONSIDERED THE UK DECISION TO "DETACH" THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO FROM THE OTHER ISLANDS AFFILIATED WITH MAURITIUS, WRONG, AND THAT MAURITIUS CLAIMED SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ENTIRE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. HE STRESSED THAT THE GOM WANTED "NO CHANGE" IN THE USG BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA, AND THAT THE GOM HAD TRIED TO "MOVE THINGS FORWARD SINCE THE BRITISH HIGH COURT JUDGMENTS IN 2000 WHICH GAVE CHAGOS ISLAND DESCENDANTS THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE ISLANDS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DIEGO GARCIA, AND THE RIGHT TO BRITISH PASSPORTS. BERENGER THEN DESCRIBED THE GOM PROPOSAL FOR RESOLVING THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE.

PROPOSAL FOR SOVEREIGNTY OVER CHAGOS

9. (C) BERENGER EXPLAINED THAT THE GOM PROPOSAL ON
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SOVEREIGNTY WAS PREMISED ON THE HMG AND THE GOM MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE "OTHER ISLANDS" AND DIEGO GARCIA. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE TO RETURN SOVEREIGNTY TO MAURITIUS OVER THE "OTHER ISLANDS" AND "AGREE TO DISAGREE" ON THE STATUS OF DIEGO GARCIA. THE STATUS OF DIEGO GARCIA COULD BE LEFT AS UNRESOLVED. BERENGER SAID THAT THE GOM UNDERSTOOD THAT AS A RESULT OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF 9/11, THE USG WAS IN NO MOOD TO CONSIDER A CHANGE IN STATUS OF DIEGO GARCIA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOM WANTS THE USG TO FEEL THAT MAURITIUS AND THE U.S. ARE TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, AND THAT THE GOM IS WILLING TO TAKE ITS TIME MAKING ITS CASE TO WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES.

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11. (C) SEN. SHELBY RESPONDED THAT DIEGO GARCIA WAS
IMPORTANT TO THE USG TO PRESERVE PEACE, AND THAT THE USG
WAS THERE BECAUSE OF OUR LEASE, WHICH WENT TO 2016 WITH A
TWENTY-YEAR EXTENSION OPTION. HE ENCOURAGED BERENGER TO
ADOPT A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE ON THE QUESTION,

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	NP-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	USNW-00	DS-00
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	L-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	PM-00	SA-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/006W		
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R 161310Z AUG 02 ZDS
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8337
INFO SADC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 PORT LOUIS 000977

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADDING DECL/CLASSIFY BY INFO.

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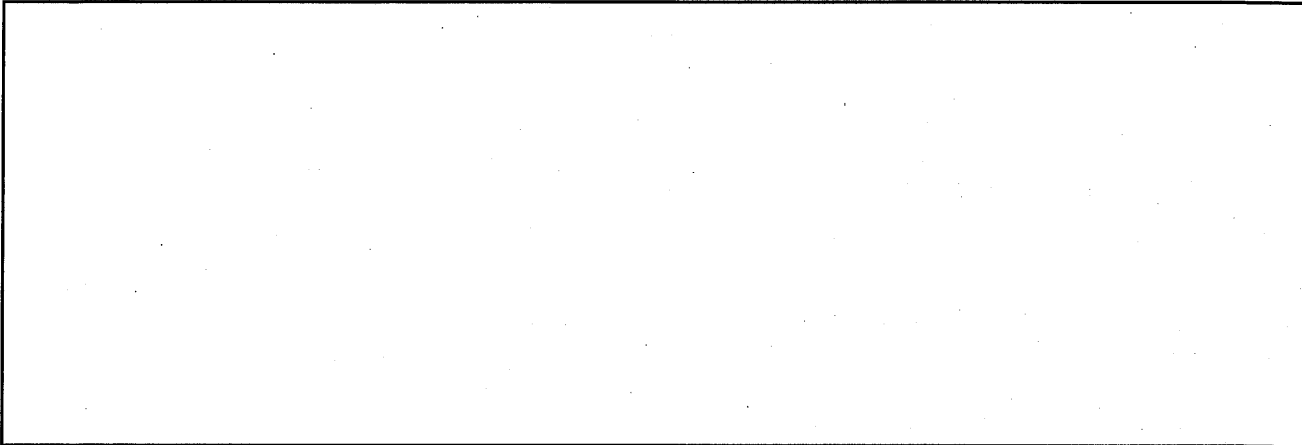
DEPT FOR AF/E, H, PM/ISA; NAIROBI PLEASE PASS TO CODEL
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UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USG BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA WAS
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOT ONLY FOR THE USG, BUT FOR THE
FREE WORLD.

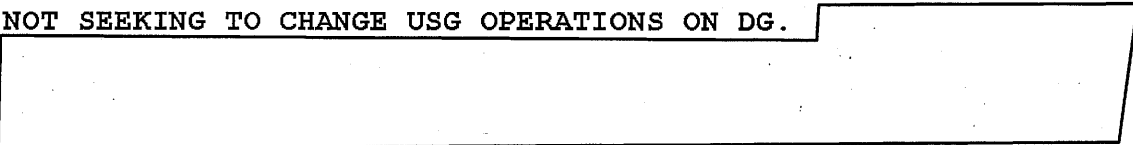


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13. (C) BERENGER ALSO REPORTED THAT HMG PREVIOUSLY PASSED
AN ORDINANCE PREVENTING CHAGOSSIAN TO RETURN TO THE
ISLANDS, BUT THE ORDINANCE WAS RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY
THE BRITISH HIGH COURT, AND THE A NEW ORDINANCE WAS
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PASSED ALLOWING TRAVEL TO ALL THE ISLANDS EXCEPT DIEGO
GARCIA. HE STRESSED THAT THE TRAVEL ORDINANCE APPLIED
EQUALLY TO MAURITIAN CREWS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE
HMG DECISION TO GRANT BRITISH CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS
TO CHAGOSSIAN DESCENDANTS WAS IN RESPONSE TO LEGISLATION
RELATING TO ALL BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES AND HAD NOT
BEEN DONE SPECIALLY FOR THE CHAGOSSIAN SITUATION.

14. (C) BERENGER EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT HE AND THE
GOM WANTED TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR TO THE USG THAT THEY ARE
NOT SEEKING TO CHANGE USG OPERATIONS ON DG.



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15. (C) BERENGER COMMENDED SECRETARY POWELL'S WORK TO
RESOLVE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AND THE
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, [REDACTED]

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	NP-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	USNW-00	DS-00
	EUR-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	PM-00	SA-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/006W		

-----DAEB18 190840Z /38

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8338
INFO SADC COLLECTIVE
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21. (C) SEN. SHELBY SUMMED UP THE DISCUSSION NOTING THE
CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES FOR STABILITY, PEACE AND AN END TO
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TERRORISM.

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22. (U) IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADOR, SENATOR SHELBY AND
SENATOR SPECTER WERE ACCOMPANIED BY ANNE CALDWELL,
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO SENATOR SHELBY, MARK HEILBRUN,
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR FOR SENATOR SPECTER, CHRISTOPHER
FORD, SSCI PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER, LTC. EDWARD PUSEY,
USARMY, DR. ANNETTE SHELBY, AND THE DCM (NOTETAKER).
PRICE

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