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Adams, Martin P

~~DENIED IN FULL~~ 230.

From: Cruze, Gregory S
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 1999 3:07 PM
To: Newsom, Eric D
Cc: Beecroft, Robert M (PM/DAS); Raphael, Victor G; Adams, Martin P; Tidball, Alyce J
Subject: The Brits and Diego Garcia - 5 minutes of reading.

~~B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)~~

Eric,

I attended (and participated in) a meeting very late yesterday between Joe McMillan (Alina Romanowski's deputy) and Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office). We had a U.S. only meeting in advance.

The subject was the ongoing case in the British courts in which a former resident of Diego Garcia - an Ilois Indian as they call themselves - has sued HMG for the right to return. As you may recall, we talked about this several weeks ago, and I have mentioned DGAR issues in the TWAR a couple of times.. The essence of the background is:

- Since 1966, the U.S. and U.K. have entered into a series of agreements regarding the use of Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) for defense purposes. The 1966 agreement states that all the islands of the Chagos chain - DGAR is the largest - would be set aside for the exclusive use of the US and UK for defense purposes. These agreements resulted in today's strategically important Naval Support Facility and airfield.

- DGAR and the outer islands were made available for 50 years (2016), with a provision for an extension of 20 additional years in the absence of notice of termination by either party.

- BIOT, including DGAR is to remain under U.K. sovereignty.

- In the 7 years following the 1966 initial agreement, the U.K. responded to U.S. wishes and systematically emptied DGAR and all the outer island in the Chagos chain of the 2000 or so natives. These are the Ilois, mixed blood descendants of African slaves from Madagascar. The Ilois were never consulted. They were compensated to some extent (about \$4000 each) in the mid 80's, but the press nevertheless refers to this as "one of the most shameful chapters in Britain's colonial history." The process of removing the Ilois apparently included some soon-to-be-released abject racism on the part of U.S. and U.K. officials.

BI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/ISS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK H PEREZ
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 4 OCT 2024
DATE/CASE ID: 01 DEC 2006 200503422

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASE
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(A), 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
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