Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /087 W

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R 191130Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1174
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, XO
SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES PRESS CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BIG POWER
MILITARY FORCES FROM INDIAN OCEAN REGION

REF: VICTORIA 946 (NOTAL)

1. IN LEAD EDITORIAL SEPT 15, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BIG POWER MILITARY FORCES FROM INDIAN OCEAN. EDITORIAL MAKES REFERENCE TO RECENT COMMENTS IN MOSCOW BY INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE, TO EFFECT THAT SOVIETS DESIRE RESUME BILATERAL TALKS ON REDUCTION OF FORCES IN INDIAN OCEAN, WHICH WERE SUSPENDED BY U.S. SIDE IN FEBRUARY. VAJPAYEE QUOTED AS ADVOCATING INDIAN OCEAN FREE OF FOREIGN BASES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING DIEGO GARCIA. USING VAJPAYEE'S REPORTED COMMENTS AS POINT OF DEPARTURE, EDITORIAL CITES COMMENTS MADE FOUR YEARS AGO BY PRESIDENT RENE CRITICIZING BIG POWER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITARY BUILD-UP IN REGION. IT ASSERTS THAT RENE'S VIEWS EXPRESSED THEN REMAIN VALID TODAY AS MADE CLEAR RECENTLY WHEN HE (RENE) ANNOUNCED SEYCHELLES WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH MILITARY BASE IN ITS TERRITORY. (SEE REFTEL) EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY ASSERTING THAT SEYCHELLES SAYS "NO" TO BIG POWER RIVALRY NOW GOING ON, AND CALLS NOT ONLY FOR REDUCTION OF MILITARY FORCES, BUT FOR THEIR COMPLETE

WITHDRAWAL FROM REGION.

2. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN COURSE NEXT CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS TO BRIEF FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. POSITION RE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS PER STATE 184776. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DO THIS. FELDER

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Disposition Event:
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