

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00339 181238Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 /081 W
-----043306 191110Z /14

R 171019Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7387
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
CINRUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0339

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS PGOV PDIP PEPR SOPN EAID IN FR JA UR CU US MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MARCH 17 - SUMMARY

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0305 (DTG 100932Z MAR 78)
(B) PORT LOUIS A-23, MARCH 17, 1978

1. SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE COUNTRY'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER MOVED ON MARCH 10 TO END THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WHICH HAD BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE DECEMBER 1971. THOUGH ALMOST ALL OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS WERE RESTORED IN DECEMBER 1973, FOLLOWED BY THE ENDING OF PRESS CENSORSHIP AND THE REMOVAL OF BANS ON PUBLIC MEETINGS IN OCTOBER 1976, THE STATE OF EMERGENCY HAD BEEN A LEGAL REALITY AND THE SUBJECT OF CRITICISM FROM THE OPPOSITION MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT L 00339 181238Z

2. THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS WERE MARKED BY THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL OFFICIAL FOREIGN GUESTS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHOM WAS THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, VAJPAYEE. THE U.S. RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE AND FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE WITH THE VISIT OF THE FOUR-SHIP U.S. NAVY TASK GROUP, COMMANDED BY REAR ADMIRAL COUNTS. THE PRESENTATION TO A MAURITIAN

CHILDREN'S CLINIC OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES BROUGHT BY THE SHIPS WAS POPULARLY RECEIVED, AS WAS THE TRANSPORT BY ONE OF THE SHIPS OF 3,200 COCONUTS FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO RODRIGUES FOR A REFORESTATION PROJECT. TWO FRENCH NAVY SHIPS AND A JAPANESE ICEBREAKER WERE ALSO IN PORT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS.

3. A PUBLIC OPINION POLL CONDUCTED IN EARLY MARCH BY THE NEWSPAPER LE MAURICIEN REVEALED THAT WHILE PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM IS STILL THE MOST POPULAR POLITICIAN ON THE ISLAND, HE AROUSES MORE ANTIPATHY THAN DOES MMMM LEADER BERENGER, AND, IN ADDITION, RAM'S POPULARITY HAS DROPPED BY 8 POINTS SINCE A SIMILAR POLL IN MAY 1977. BERENGER'S POPULARITY HAS RISEN 10 POINTS IN THE PAST YEAR. AS FOR THE THREE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, THE POLL INDICATED THAT THE MMM HAS HELD ITS OWN. THE LABOR PARTY AND THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) APPEAR TO HAVE LOST, TOGETHER, A GOOD MANY OF THEIR FORMER VOTERS, WITH ANET SLIPPAGE OF 9.5 PERCENT FROM THESE TWO PARTIES TOWARD THE MMM. THE IMAGE OF CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES REMAINED SIMILAR TO THE FINDINGS OF THE MAY 1977 POLL. THE U.K., FRANCE, INDIA, THE SYCHELLES, AND THE U.S. HAVE THE MOST FAVORABLE IMAGES, WITH CHINA, LIBYA, CUBA AND THE USSR BEING VIEWED UNFAVORABLY BY A MAJORITY OF THOSE POLLED.
KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT L 00339 181238Z

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTL00339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-1046
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780354/aaaabtrw.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c68817c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT LOUIS 305, 78 PORT LOUIS A-23
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3290399
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MARCH 17 - SUMMARY
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, PDIP, PEPR, SOPN, EAID, IN, FR, JA, UR, CU, US, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c68817c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014