

Authority 11N10969023
 By 11 NARA Date 8/13



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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-12 EUR-20 L-04 CIAE-00 INR-08 NSAEM-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0289

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA - UKYGM NEGOTS ON RELOCATION

REF: PORT LOUIS 0279 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING BRIT HICOM CARTER, INITIAL TALK WITH PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM MARCH 29 ON RELOCATION ISSUE WENT OFF RELATIVELY WELL. PRIMIN APPARENTLY RAISED LITTLE OBJECTION BRITISH PROPOSALS, THOUGH, QUERIED DESIRABILITY RELOCATING 50 FAMILIES AGALEGA. CARTER TOLD RAM HMG PREPARED BEAR COSTS ANY USEFUL RELOCATION SCHEME AND READY SEND RESETTLEMENT EXPERT TO FACILITATE PREPARATION APPROPRIATE PLANS. PRIMIN APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT VAGUE BUT RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY WHEN ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER HE AGREED. RAM SAID WOULD HAVE TO "MENTION" BRITISH PROPOSAL TO CABINET COLLEAGUES BUT WOULD NOT HAVE TO "CONSULT". (FYI AS PARA TWO SUGGESTS, ON RELATED ISSUE, ABOVE RAM REACTION NOT NECESSARILY CONCLUSIVE END FYI.)

2. CONTRARY HOPES EXPRESSED PORT LOUIS 0274, RAM PRESSED CARTER RE: USG INABILITY HIRE LOCAL WORKERS. OBSERVING THAT "HMS MAURITIUS" HERE EMPLOYS LOCAL LABOR, PRIMIN REPORTEDLY SAID COULD NOT BELIEVE DIEGO FACILITY WOULD NOT NEED SIMILAR MAINTENANCE MEN WHO COULD BE RECRUITED FROM THAT ISLAND'S INHABITANTS. CARTER TELLS ME HE REITERATED USG POSITION AS HE

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UNDERSTOOD IT BUT DID AGREE REPORT RAM'S COMMENTS TO LONDON TO
SEE WHETHER FURTHER APPROACH TO WASHINGTON MIGHT BE MADE

3. TOLD CARTER I WISHED RAM HAD VOICED ABOVE RESERVATIONS WHEN I
WAS WITH HIM, AS I HAD HAD NUMBER ARGUMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS
READY. MOREOVER, MY VAGUE RECOLLECTION WAS THAT PART OF INITIAL
ATTRACTIVENESS DIEGO TO US HAD BEEN THAT THERE DID NOT SEEM TO
BE ANYONE THERE. CARTER ADMITTED BRITISH HAD PROBABLY BEEN
UNCLEAR ON THIS ONE.

3. COMMENT: WILL TRY SEE PRIMIN LATER IN WEEK TO EXPLAIN REASONS
BEHIND USG DECISION, DRAWING ON PARA TWO STATE 048577 AND OTHER
USEFUL GUIDANCE. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, WISH POINT OUT PRIMIN'S
CONCERN ON RELOCATION ISSUE PERSONAL AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN.
HE NERVOUS RE WHOLE DIEGO QUESTION AND MUST DEVOUTLY HOPE
RELOCATION ASPECT WILL NOT RISE TO PLAGUE HIM. PRIMIN WOULD
CLEARLY LIKE TO SEE HARD-CORE RELOCATION NUMBER REDUCED BY
ALL POSSIBLE EXPEDIENTS. PRESUMABLY WE DO NOT DISAGREE WITH HIM
ON THESE POINTS BUT FEEL WE CANNOT HELP SOLVE PROBLEM THROUGH
LOCAL HIRING. GP-3.
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