

Authority *NNDP 9023*
By *KD* NARA Date *8/13*



Def 15 Ind - US
Department of State

TELEGRAM

4/2 Def 15 Ind - UK

CONFIDENTIAL 946

PAGE 01 LONDON 01456 190956Z

19

ACTION: PM-05

INFO: OCT-01 AF-12 EUR-20 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00

NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 NEA-13 RSR-01

/113 W

127744

R 190923Z FEB 71
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3265
INFO DOD
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 1456

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA - UK/GOM NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LONDON 1445

1. ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN TOUCHED UPON IN OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING, WE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ONE ASPECT OF UK/GOM RELOCATION NEGOTIATIONS WHICH FCO THINKS COULD BE A REAL "SLEEPER" AND COULD CONCEIVABLY UNDERMINE UK'S NEGOTIATING POSITION. THIS CONCERNS LEGAL AND CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF ILOIS, AND OF CHILDREN BORN IN CHAGOS SINCE MAURITIAN INDEPENDENCE.

2. A MINORITY OF THE PRESENT CHAGOS POPULATION WERE BORN IN MAURITIUS AND HAVE ONLY MAURITIAN CITIZENSHIP. THEY ARE DUBBED "MONO-MAURITIANS" BY FCO, AND HAVE NO CLAIM TO UK CITIZENSHIP NOR ANY PERMANENT LEGAL TIES TO CHAGOS. LEGAL STATUS OF "ILOIS, I.E., PEOPLE OF MAURITIAN EXTRACTION BORN IN CHAGOS, IS LESS CLEAR BUT IN VIEW OF FCO LAWYERS THEY PROBABLY HAVE VALID CLAIM TO DUAL CITIZENSHIP OF MAURITIUS AND UK. THOSE CHILDREN OF EITHER MONO-MAURITIANS OR ILOIS WHO WERE BORN IN CHAGOS AFTER BIOT WAS DETACHED, ARE CITIZENS OF UK ONLY. SO FAR AS FCO AWARE, MAURITIANS HAVE NOT FOCUSED ON THIS DISTINCTION OR ITS IMPLICATIONS REGARDING HMG'S RESPONSIBILITIES, AND BRITISH HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO KEEP IT OUT OF SIGHT. IF SEIZED UPON, HOWEVER, EITHER BY GOM OR BY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, IT WOULD BE POWERFUL ARGUMENT THAT UK HAS

CONFIDENTIAL

London - 1456
2-19-71

No 2nd p