

Authority *IND 909023*By *ND* NARA Date *8/13*

Department of State

TELEGRAM

Def 15 IND-US
XR LAB 13 MAURITIUS

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53.

ACTION: PM-05:

INFO: OCT-01 AF-12 EUR-20 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-08.

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-04 E-15 RSR-01 Z097:W
046993:

R 311350Z MAR 71
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS:
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 2185:
INFO: CINCNVCOMM:
CINCUSNAVEUR:
AMEMBASSY LONDON:
CINCLANTFLT:
COMCBLANT:
COMIDEASTFOR:

CONFIDENTIAL A L: PORT LOUIS: 0302.

REF: PORT LOUIS: 0289.

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

1. SAW PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM MARCH 31 TO EXPLAIN REASONS BEHIND USG DECISION NOT RPT NOT HIRE MAURITIAN OR ILOIS LABOR ON DIEGO PROJECT. REFERRING BRITHICOM CARTER'S TALK WITH HIM MARCH 29 (REFTEL). I EXPLAINED USG RELUCTANT BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY WHERE NO LOCAL ECONOMY EXISTED. UNWILLING OPEN FACILITY, WHICH WOULD COMPRISE WHOLE ISLAND TO NON-OFFICIAL PERSONNEL, AND ANXIOUS CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE WITH OUR OWN PERSONNEL, THUS AVOIDING EXPENSES EVEN A FEW ADDITIONAL HIRINGS.

2. PRIMIN LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, OBSERVING AT END: "WHAT CAN I SAY?" EXPLAINED HIS COMMENTS TO CARTER HAD BEEN IN CONTEXT PRESSING BRITISH TO REDUCE DIMENSIONS OF RELOCATION ISSUE.

3. PRIMIN THEN REFERRED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS CURRENT GOM RESIDUAL MINERAL AND CIVIL AVIATION RIGHTS CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO (FOR BACKGROUND SEE OUR A-32). WHEN I NOTED CONTRARY BRITISH POSITION, PRIMIN SAID WITH LAUGH THAT HE WOULD SCARCELY HAVE TROUBLED RESERVE RIGHTS FOR MAURITIUS IF THIS HAD NOT PRODUCED SOME BENEFIT FOR GOM. HE PREPARED FOR BRITISH OR OURSELVES

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OVERSEE ALL ASPECTS OIL ACTIVITIES SO LONG AS MAURITIUS RECEIVED
WHATEVER INCOME MIGHT ENSUE ON BASIS EXPERIENCE IN NEAR EAST.
TOLD RAM PERSONALLY I VERY MUCH DOUBTED CHAGOS LIKELY PETROLEUM
AREA. RAM COUNTERED THAT TEXACO SOMETIME AGO HAD INDICATED
OIL MIGHT BE FOUND THERE AND EXPLAINED VAGUELY THAT CHAGOS
LIES IN "BELT" OF LAND AROUND THE WORLD IN WHICH OIL OCCURS.

4. COMMENT: IN ACCORDANCE HIS SOMEWHAT UNIQUE PERSONAL STYLE,
RAM MAY STILL REFER EMPLOYMENT ISSUE WITH BRITISH AGAIN IN
CONTEXT RELOCATION PROBLEM BUT AS FAR AS WE CONCERNED BELIEVE
HE RECOGNIZES AND ACCEPTS THIS AS NON-STARTER. AS TO OIL
EXPLORATION, HE APPARENTLY STILL HOPING GET SOMETHING OUT OF
HMG. WILL BRIEF CARTER IN LOW KEY BUT WILL AVOID WHAT MAY BE
RAM'S GAME OF SEEKING INDIRECTLY AGITATE BRITISH ON THIS ONE.
WE NEED NOT TAKE THIS TOO SERIOUSLY. GP-3.
BREWER.

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