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By *KD* NARA Date *8/13*



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Department of State **TELEGRAM**
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ACTION: PM-05

INFO: OCT-01 AF-12 EUR-20 IO-13 NEA-13 E-15 SIL-01 LAB-06

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 RSR-01 /148 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3256
INFO DOD WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA - UK/GOM NEGOTIATIONS ON RELOCATION

1. FCO IS GEARING UP TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOM AT EARLY DATE REGARDING RELOCATION OF MAURITIAN AND ILOIS WORKERS NOW ON DIEGO GARCIA. WE DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING NEGOTS FEB. 17 WITH FCO'S WATT, RECENTLY INSTALLED AS HEAD OF NEWLY ORGANIZED GIBRALTAR, SOUTHERN ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN DEPT, WHICH WILL HENCEFORTH HAVE ACTION RESPONSIBILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA.

2. WATT SAID NEGOTIATING BRIEF HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY MINISTERS AND RETURNED WITH NUMBER OF COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS. WHEN THESE HAVE BEEN STAFFED AND PAPERS APPROVED FCO WILL INSTRUCT HICOM CARTER TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM. LOCUS OF NEGOTIATIONS, AT LEAST INITIALLY, WILL BE PORT LOUIS. AT OUTSET, HMG WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD CHAGOS FAMILIES TO BE RESETTLED IN MAURITIUS, AS WELL AS APPROXIMATELY 100 FAMILIES FROM CHAGOS ALREADY THERE. HMG WILL OFFER TO SEND BRITISH RESETTLEMENT OFFICER TO ASSIST GOM IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS, AND BE PREPARED TO ASSIST FINANCIALLY. CRUX OF NEGOTIATION WILL BE MONEY, AND FCO WILL SHOOT FOR TARGET OF UNDER HALF MILLION POUNDS TOTAL, TO BE SPENT ON ACCOMMODATION, PENSIONS, CASH GRANTS, AND ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC AID.

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