



*Def 15 Sub - U S*  
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION: AF-19

INFO: OCT-01 EUR-20 EA-15 NEA-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-12 RSR-01 1135 W

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R 141330Z DEC 70  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1957  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CONFIDENTIAL PORT LOUIS (1109)

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA POPULATION

REF: STATE 202653

1. DURING CALL TO COORDINATE CONTACTS WITH GOM (REFTEL),  
BRITISH HIGHCOM CARTER (PROTECT) EXPRESSED CONCERN AT LACK  
OF PLANNING FOR FUTURE OF 400 INHABITANTS STILL ON DIEGO  
GARCIA, REFERRING TO COMPREHENSIVE QUESTION AND ANSWER  
GUIDANCE ALREADY FURNISHED HIM BY FOREIGN OFFICE. CARTER  
SAID HE HAD ASKED THAT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO MAURITIUS AS  
POSSIBLE RESETTLEMENT LOCATION BE ELIMINATED. CARTER SAID  
STILL HOPED POPULATION MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO SEYCHELLES  
OR CONCEIVABLY MAURITIAN DEPENDENCY AGALEGA WHERE COCONUT PROD-  
UCTION AND FISHING MIGHT BE DEVELOPED WITH UK FUNDS. CARTER AND  
I AGREED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM HERE AND LOCAL FEELING  
MAURITIUS SHORT-CHANGED IN UK PURCHASE OF ISLAND, WOULD MAKE  
IT UNLIKELY GOM WOULD AGREE TRANSFER 400 PERSONS TO THIS ISLAND.  
SOME 150 NATIVES OF DIEGO GARCIA APPARENTLY ALREADY VOLUNTARILY  
SETTLED HERE OWING PHASE DOWN OF COCONUT BUSINESS. OPPOSITION  
POLITICAN (OLLIVRY) HAS PUBLICLY RAISED  
QUESTION THEIR WELFARE.

2. PRESUMABLY ON PERSONAL INITIATIVE, CARTER WONDERED WHETHER  
US NAVY MIGHT BE INTERESTED EMPLOYING SOME RESIDENTS DIEGO  
GARCIA OR WHETHER RESETTLEMENT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE ELSEWHERE IN

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*Port Louis - 1109  
12-14-70*



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CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, SUCH AS SALOMON ISLAND, WOULD APPRECIATE  
INDICATION PRESENT STATE AND DOB THINKING THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM  
AND, IF ALL INHABITANTS MUST BE EVACUATED, PRESENT PLANNING FOR  
THEIR DESTINATION. TOLD CARTER, I ASSUMED THIS BRITISH RESPON-  
SIBILITY.

3. COMMENT: BRITISH HERE MUCH CONCERNED MAURITIAN REACTION  
RESETTLEMENT ASPECT THIS PROJECT. WE ACCORDINGLY AGREED SEND  
LOW KEY WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS INFORMING COM MORNING DECEMBER 11  
15 RPT 15.  
BREWER

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