

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

Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 185

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 SS-20 NSC-10 PM-05 L-04 H-02 CIAE-00

CODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 P-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /105:W

001449

RM211235Z JUL 70
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1637
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECRET PORT LOUIS 662

SUBJ: BIOT RESETTLEMENT

REF: LONDON'S 5494

1. REGRET DELAY REPLYING REFTEL. MAURITIUS NOW RPT NOW EXPERIENCING INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMPHASIS IS ON EXPORTING POPULATION, NOT RPT NOT IMPORTING. MOREOVER, PRIN RAMGOOLAM RETURNED JULY 20 BIT OUT OF SORTS OVER WHAT HE REGARDS AS UNDUE WESTERN CRITICISM RECENT GOM/SOV FISHERIES UNDERSTANDING. THUS, ATMOSPHERE FOR ANY TALKS WITH GOM HERE AT PRESENT IS POOR AND PRICE COULD BE EXPECTED BE CORRESPONDINGLY LOFTY (CF. PARA FOUR REFTEL).

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE LONDON'S 981 (PARA FOUR REFTEL) BUT CLEARLY RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE LIKELY PROVE MORE POLITICALLY AND FINANCIALLY MANAGEABLE FROM LOCAL STANDPOINT THAN IN MAURITIUS. ALTERNATIVELY, GOM TALKS THIS SUBJECT MIGHT RUN LESS RISK LEAKAGE PROVIDED (A) TALKS HELD IN LONDON; (B) CURRENT GOM/UK FRICTION OVER SOVIET DEAL AND BRITISH ARMS

FOR SOUTH AFRICA PERMITTED SUBSIDY AND (C) PRICE WERE SUCH AS CLEARLY TO ASSIST LOCAL DOLDRUM-LIKE ECONOMY.

3. IF WE WISH PLAY IT SAFE VIS-A-VIS GOM, HOWEVER, TALKS WITH MAURITIUS SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL ASSURED.

BREWSTER

SECRET

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Port Louis 662
7/21/70