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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-12 EUR-20 SS-20 NSC-10 L-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-08 NSAE-00 P-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 NEA-13

RSR-01 1126W

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R 311200Z DEC 70 ZEL  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1987  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
CINCLANT  
COMIDEASTFOR  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 1152

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR REFERENCE AND PARA. 2

REF: PORT LOUIS 1150, STATE 208826 NC

1. BRITISH HICOM CARTER CALLED DECEMBER 31 TO DISCUSS DECEMBER 29 FCO RPT FCO TELEGRAM ON DIEGO GARCIA, ACCORDING CARTER, FCO BELIEVES ANY US "RE-VICTUALLING" SHOULD BE BASED SEYCHELLES AND NOT RPT NOT MAURITIUS. FCO REASONING APPARENTLY THAT ANY AMERICAN REPLENISHMENT EXERCISE (PARA 2 STATE REFTEL) HERE WOULD FOCUS GOM ATTENTION ON DIEGO GARCIA OPERATION, THUS COMPLICATING BRITISH EFFORTS WORK OUT ILOIS ISSUE WITH GOM. TOLD CARTER THAT, ON CONTRARY, ANY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH PROVIDED AT LEAST SOME EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME FOR MAURITIUS WOULD SEEM LIKELY MAKE DIEGO EXERCISE MORE PALATABLE HERE, PARTICULARLY VIEW USG INABILITY USE MAURITIANS PN CONSTRUCTION. CARTER SAID HE AGREED, NOTING IT WOULD HARDLY BE POSSIBLE AVOID KINDLING ON INTEREST HERE IN PROJECT AS CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES. HE INDICATED WOULD SO REPLY TO FCO.

2. CARTER REFERRED POSSIBILITY FIRST SHIP ARRIVING HERE MIDDLE MARCH AND I EXPLAINED DETAILS ALONG LINES PARA 2

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STATE REFTEL. CARTER AGREED THAT TRANSIT AMERICAN SAILORS FROM AIRPORT TO SHIP WOULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC NOTICE AND WOULD SOMEWHAT WEAKEN GOM CASE IN REFUSING ANY SIMILAR REQUEST BY SOVIETS. HOWEVER, HE COMMENTED JOKINGLY THAT ONLY REAL MAURITIAN CONCERN WOULD BE THAT SAILORS NOT STAYING HERE. CARTER WHINED GOM LIKELY RESIST ANY SIMILAR SOVIET REQUEST WHETHER OR NOT PROPOSED AMERICAN FLY-IN TAKES PLACE.

3. FCO HAS ASKED CARTER PROPOSE DEVELOPMENT AID SCHEME WHICH WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE ILOIS ABSORPTION MAURITIUS. HIGH COMMISSION NOW MAKING SOME PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES COSTS INVOLVED, BUT CARTER INTENDS POINT OUT TO LONDON IT DIFFICULT MAKE ANY FIRM ASSESSMENT UNMRRHE AUTHORIZED DISCUSS WITH GOM. MOREOVER, WHILE GOVERNOR SEYCHELLES HAS REPORTED HIS AREA UNABLE ABSORB ANY BEYOND LEGITIMATE SEYCHELLOIS, IT STILL UNCLEAR HOW MANY ILOIS MIGHT BE ABSORBED AGALEGA. CARTER NOTED SOME POLITICAL PLAY ALREADY MADE BY OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMAN OLLIVRY OF FACT 300 ILOIS HAVE RETURNED HERE. I RECALLED OLLIVRY IS DEPUTY FOR RODRIGUES AND SUGGESTED PORTION ILOIS, AT LEAST, MIGHT HAVE ROOTS THERE. IF SO, MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT LESS DIFFICULT REINTEGRATE GROUP RODRIGUES THAN MAURITIUS PROPER. CARTER SEEMED INTERESTED.

COMMENT: CARTER CLEARLY SHARES VIEWS EXPRESSED PORT LOUIS REFTEL RE DESIRABILITY USG SEEKING INVOLVE MAURITIUS IN DIEGO REPLENISHMENT. THIS PARTICULARLY USEFUL VIEW POSSIBILITY THIS MIGHT EVOLVE INTO LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS (PARA 4 STATE REFTEL) WHICH WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE CURRENT MAURITIAN ECONOMIC WOEF. ACCORDINGLY HOPE WE MAY BE AUTHORIZED TAKE INITIAL SOUNDINGS HERE SHORTLY (CF CANBERRA 6566). IF SO, WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MEMBER BRIEFING TEAM VISIT HERE WHILE IN AREA (PORT LOUIS 1135). GP-3.  
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