

PREM 19/1310

SECRET

PART ONE

Confidential Filing

The visits of the PM of Mauritius, Mr
Rangoolam / Mr Anand Jugnauth.

MAURITIUS

PM's message to Sir S. Rangoolam
on his 80th birthday on

18 September 1980.

PTI:

January 1980

briefs in folders at back of file

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
18.1.80		19.10.82					
9.1.80		28.10.82					
2.1.80		26.11.82					
5.1.80		7.12.82					
2.2.80		21.2.84					
30.6.80		6.7.84					
3.7.80		17.7.84					
13.7.80		26.7.84					
11.9.80		27.7.84					
6.10.80		8.8.84					
6.1.81		24.8.84					
9.1.81		7.9.84					
4.2.81							
10.2.81		PTI					
12.2.81		GNDS					
17.2.81							
29.7.82							
2.8.82							
7.10.82							
14.10.82							
15.10.82							

PART 1 ends:-

PM JUGNAUTH to PM 7.9.84

PART 2 begins:-

CDP to PM. 5.2.88



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 August, 1984

In the Prime Minister's absence on holiday,
I am writing to thank you for sending the
photographs which I am sure she will be interested
to see.

(Caroline Ryder)

His Excellency Mr. C.L. Obeegadoo

da



With the Compliments
of the

High Commissioner for Mauritius

12/18

01-581 0294/5

32/33 ELVASTON PLACE
LONDON S.W.7.



1706



2709



④

Prime Minister
CDP
18/9

Prime Minister
Mauritius

CDP
24/1

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No: T156A/86**

a MASTER
ops

7th September, 1984

Madam Prime Minister,

I am writing to thank you for your kind letter of the 8th August and for having decided to allocate another £ 20,000 for additional awards to Mauritian students in 1984/85.

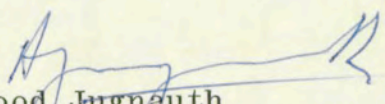
I am also very pleased that if additional funds become available in 1985/86, you will make every effort to accommodate one or two more of our laureate scholars. It is my hope that this will materialise.

My wife and I enjoyed our stay in U.K. and shall treasure the happy moments spent at 10, Downing Street.

I am confident that my visit, on your kind invitation, has strengthened our traditionally close ties.

With warmest regards.

Yours sincerely,


Anerood Jugnauth
Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
United Kingdom

ms

Mauritius - Visit of the PM of Mauritius Jan 80

18 SEP 1984





Je
CPG

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

8 August, 1984

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 144/84

u MASTER OPS

Dear Prime Minister,

When we met on 25 July I agreed to look further into two specific points you had raised with me: the question of a London-based British Council presence in Mauritius and the scope for further assistance of our scholarships to students from Mauritius.

As the Deputy Director General will have told you himself, the British Council's withdrawal of their representation from Mauritius was one of several measures introduced as a result of public expenditure economies. These economies form an essential part of the British Government's economic strategy. Following your representations, the British Council have reconsidered the question afresh, but have reluctantly come to the conclusion that for the time being they will have to continue to run their programme in Mauritius through the British High Commission rather than send their own representative back. They, and I, regret this very much.

I have a little better news on scholarships. As you know, Mauritius already benefits from a number of award schemes funded with public money from here. However, we recognise that Mauritius has special problems and in recognition of this we shall be allocating another £20,000 for additional awards to Mauritian students in 1984/85. Moreover, if any additional funds become available in 1985/86 we will make every effort to accommodate one or two more of your Laureate scholars then, though I obviously

sc

cannot make any firm promises at this stage.

We very much enjoyed having you and Mrs. Jugnauth here again. It is always good to see old friends. I feel sure your visit will have further strengthened the traditionally close relations between our two countries.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Deltor

The Hon. Anerood Jugnauth, Q.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

Cell



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 August, 1984

GR
Proc type for PM

ans
8/8

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Meeting with the Prime Minister of Mauritius:

25 July

In your letter of 25 July you asked us to reconsider the question of a London-based British Council presence in Mauritius and the scope for further assistance over scholarships to students from Mauritius.

The British Council discussed the first question with Mr Jugnauth when he called on them later in his visit. The withdrawal of their representation from Mauritius was one of several cutbacks introduced as a result of public expenditure economics. Having now looked at the matter again in the light of their other priorities they have reluctantly concluded that for the present they do not have the resources to send a representative back to Mauritius and their programme in Mauritius will have to continue to be run by the British High Commission.

Mauritius already benefits from a number of scholarship award schemes funded by HMG. However, in recognition of its special problems we would be able to make available another £20,000 for additional FCO awards to Mauritian students in 1984/85. Moreover if any funds beyond that become available in 1985/86 we will make every effort to accommodate one or two more Mauritian scholars then, though we obviously cannot make any firm promises.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should write to the Prime Minister of Mauritius on the lines of the attached draft letter.

Yr ever,
Pete Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Votes of Mr Mauritius : MAURITIUS JAN 80

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 1AA



- 8 AUG 1984



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: The Hon Anerood Jugnauth QC
Prime Minister of Mauritius

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

ACW

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

When we met on 25 July I agreed to look further into two specific points you had raised with me: the question of a London-based British Council presence in Mauritius and the scope for further assistance of our scholarships to students from Mauritius.

CAVEAT.....

As the Deputy Director General will have told you himself, the British Council's withdrawal of their representation from Mauritius was one of several measures introduced as a result of public expenditure economies. These economies form an essential part of the British Government's economic strategy. Following your representations the British Council have reconsidered the question afresh, but have reluctantly come to the conclusion that for the time being they will have to continue to run their programme in Mauritius through the British High Commission rather than send their own representative back. They, and I, regret this very much.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

I have a little better news on scholarships. As you know, Mauritius already benefits from a

number of award schemes funded with public money from here. However, we recognise that Mauritius has special problems and in recognition of this we shall be allocating another £20,000 for additional awards to Mauritian students in 1984/85. Moreover, if any additional funds become available in 1985/86 we will make every effort to accommodate one or two more of your Laureate scholars then, though I obviously cannot make any firm promises at this stage.

We very much enjoyed having you and Mrs Jugnauth here again. It is always good to see old friends. I feel sure your visit will have further strengthened the traditionally close relations between our two countries.

Office Ops
CC MASTER

cc 720 =
DTI
Lady Young -
OBA

Prime Minister (4)
CJP
3577.



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T136

Prime Minister
Mauritius

P.9.
CJP 6/2

London,
27th July 1984

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.

MF

Madam Prime Minister,

At the end of my official visit to the United Kingdom, I should like, on behalf of my delegation, and in my own name, to convey to you personally, and to your Government, our deepest appreciation of the very warm hospitality and of the numerous courtesies so kindly extended to us during our very useful stay.

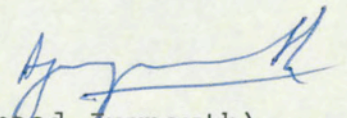
The talks I have had the great pleasure of having with you, and the talks held with the Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, M.P., Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and the Rt. Hon. Timothy Raison, M.P., Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, will, I am confident, bring about positive results for the mutual benefit of our two peoples, and go a long way towards strengthening our ties of friendship.

I shall treasure for many years to come the memorable moments of our visit.

It gives me the greatest pleasure, on behalf of the Government and people of Mauritius, and in my own name, to reiterate to you our invitation to visit our country at a time convenient to you. This invitation extends to Mr Thatcher.

With warmest personal regards and
my very best wishes for your personal well-being.

Yours sincerely,



(Anerood Jugnauth)
Prime Minister



FILE

cc: fco 67

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 July, 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 136A/84 cc MASTER OPS

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to thank you again for the delightful gift which you were kind enough to leave me. It will be a happy memento of your visit and keep alight the hope that one day I shall be able to take up your kind invitation to visit Mauritius.

I found our talk very useful. I hope that you enjoyed the remainder of your visit.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Rajiv Gandhi

The Hon. Aneerood Jugnauth, QC

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LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER
AND MR. DENIS THATCHER IN HONOUR OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS
AND MRS. JUGNAUTH ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 1984 AT 1.00 PM FOR 1.15 PM

The Prime Minister
and Mr. Denis Thatcher

Mauritius Suite

The Honourable Anerood Jugnauth, QC
and Mrs. Jugnauth

Prime Minister of
Mauritius

Dr. The Honourable Beergoonath Ghurburrun
and Mrs. Ghurburrun

Minister of Economic
Planning and Development

The Honourable Anil Kumarsingh Gayan
and Mrs. Gayan

Minister of External
Affairs, Trade and
Tourism

Mr. Bhinod Bacha

Permanent Secretary,
Office of the Prime
Minister

His Excellency the High Commissioner for Mauritius
and Mrs. Nath

Mr. Harris Mungroosing

Deputy Director-General,
National Intelligence
Unit

HM Government

Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Havers, MP

Rt. Hon. Timothy Raison, MP

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Rt. Hon. Paul Channon, MP
and Mrs. Channon

Mrs. Lynda Chalker, MP
and Mr. Clive Landa

Paid Ministerial Visit to
Mauritius as a PUSS
DHSS in April 1981

Conservative MPs

Mr. Harry Greenway, MP
and Mrs. Greenway

Chairman, Anglo-
Mauritius Parliamentary
Group

Mr. Jack Aspinwall, MP
and Mrs. Aspinwall

Vice Chairman, Anglo
Mauritius Parliamentary
Group

Sir William Clark, MP
and Lady Clark

Mr. Anthony Steen, MP
and Mrs. Steen

Labour MPs

Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP

Alliance MPs

Rt. Hon. David Steel, MP

Industry

Mr. Robert Haslam
and Mrs. Haslam

Chairman, Tate & Lyle and
Chairman, British Steel

Sir Emmanuel Kaye

Founder and Chairman of The Kaye
Organisation. Governing Director of
Lansing Bagnall Ltd.

Mr. D.S. Collier
and Mrs. Collier

Managing Director, Plessey Airports

Press

Mr. Michael Holman

Africa Editor, Financial Times

Others

Mr. K.A. Bradshaw

Clerk of the House of Commons

Mr. J.H. Leslie
and Mrs. Leslie

Chairman, East Africa Association

Sir Eric Norris
and Lady Norris

Chairman, Royal Commonwealth
Society

Mr. Jeffrey Archer

author and politician

Officials

Sir John Leahy
and Lady Leahy

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr. James Allan
and Mrs. Allan

HM High Commissioner, Mauritius

Mr. Peter Gregson

Cabinet Office

10 Downing Street

Mr. Charles Powell

Mr. Tim Flesher

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS AND MRS JUGNAUTH
21 - 27 JULY 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN
(to be read in conjunction with the programme)

Saturday 21 July

Arrival

When the aircraft has landed a representative of the British Airports Authority will accompany the Mauritius High Commissioner to the aircraft, and escort the Prime Minister and Mrs Jugnauth to the greeting party where the High Commissioner will present (in order):-

Sir Donald Logan, Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mrs Chitra Nath
Mr J N Allan, British High Commissioner, Port Louis
Mrs Allan
Brigadier Alan Cowan, Secretary, Government Hospitality Fund
Group Captain Robert Thomson, Government Hospitality Escort Officer

Transport

Transport will be provided throughout the programme. Car plans are at Annex 1.

Participation of the Official Suite in the Prime Minister's Programme

Separate arrangements for the ladies are shown in the printed programme. Only two members of the official suite will accompany the Prime Minister to the talks at 10 Downing Street. Mr Mungrossing will not be present at the calls on Mr Tebbit or Mr Raison. Otherwise all members of the official suite including the High Commissioner and Mr Allan accompany the Prime Minister throughout.

Departure

The Prime Minister will now depart on Monday 30 July on flight CX 200 from Gatwick (North Suite) at 1100. Sir Donald Logan will bid farewell.

June H. W. Rens

+ B C Burrough
Protocol Department

19 July 1984

BCFACH

Mauritius High Commission (15)

10 Downing Street

PS (2)
Press Office (2)
Mr Joce (2)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Private Secretary (2)
PS/Lady Young (2)
PS/PUS (2)
Sir John Leahy (1)
Mr J R Johnson (1)
Mr Wenban-Smith (1)
EAD (Mr Hunt) (10)
News Room (5)
Resident Clerk (1)
Protocol (6)
GHF (20)
Heads of Mission (2)

DTI

Private Secretary (2)

ODA

Private Secretary (2)

Airport

ANNEX 1

Stratford to London
Hotel to H. of Commons
Hotel Abbey
Hotel High Comm.
Hotel to Tower

VISIT OF

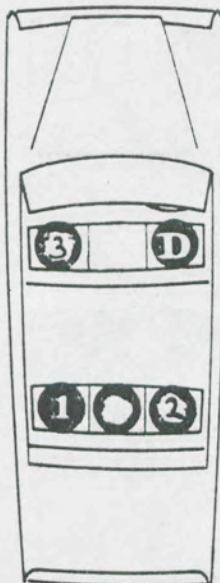
GHF A

VEHICLE SEATING ARRANGEMENT

Car No. 1

- 1 PM
- 2 Mrs Jugnauth
- 3 Special Branch
- 4 His Excellency
Mr Nath

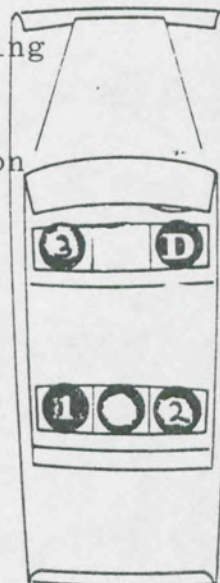
Driver _____



Car No. 2

- 1 Min Econ Planning
- 2 Mrs Ghurburran
- 3 Grp Capt Thomson
- 4 Mr Allan

Driver _____



Car No. _____

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Driver _____



Car No. 3

- 1 Min External Aff
- 2 Mrs Gayan
- 3 Mrs Nath
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 Mrs Paterson

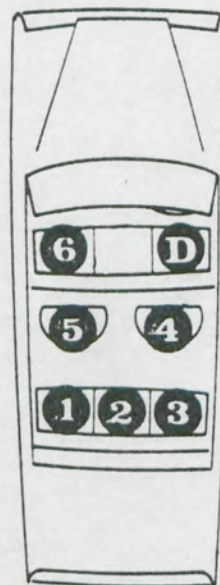
Driver _____



Car No. _____

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- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

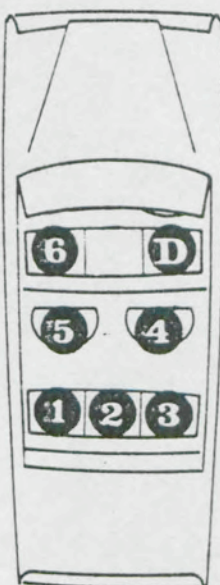
Driver _____



Car No. 4

- 1 Mr Bacha
- 2 Mr Mungroosing
- 3 Mrs Allan
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

Driver _____



Mrs Jugnauth

DIRECT TO STRATFORD

Hotel to Stratford
Abbey to No.10 (+ Mr Mungroosing)
No.10 to Hotel
Westminster Pier to Hotel

GHF A

VEHICLE SEATING ARRANGEMENT

Car No. 2

1 Mrs Jugnauth

2 _____

3 Mrs Allan

4 _____

5 _____

6 Mrs Paterson

Driver _____



Car No. 4

1 Mrs Ghurburran

2 Mrs Gayan

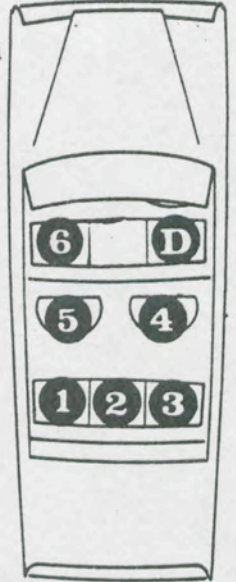
3 Mrs Nath

4 _____

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Driver _____



Car No. _____

1 _____

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Driver _____



Car No. _____

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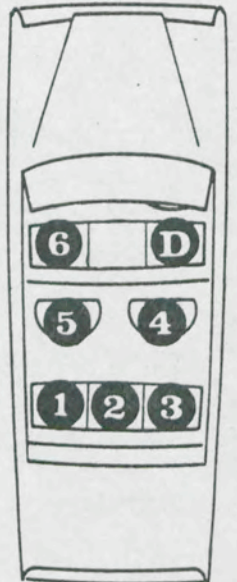
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4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

Driver _____



Car No. _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

Driver _____



Car No. _____

1 _____

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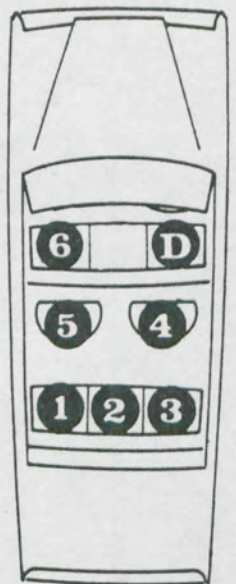
3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

Driver _____



Hotel to Reading
 Abbey to No.10 (except Mr Mungroosing)
 No.10 to DTI
 DTI to Lincoln's Inn
 Hotel to Tate & Lyle
 Hotel to ODA
 Westminster Pier to ODA

READING

GHF A

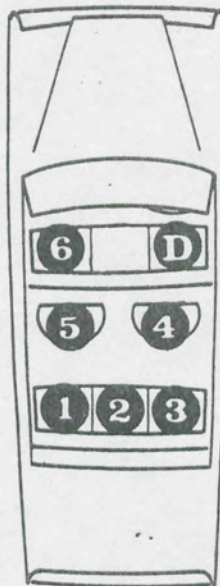
VISIT OF

VEHICLE SEATING ARRANGEMENT

Car No 1

1 P M
 2 Mr Allan
 3 Mr Nath
 4 _____
 5 _____
 6 Special Branch

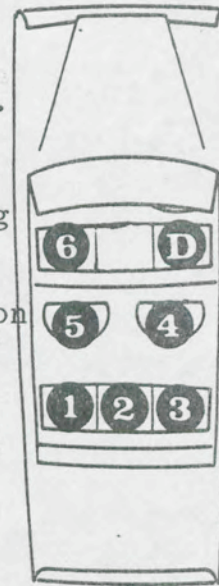
 Driver _____



Car No 3

1 M.E.A.
 2 Min Econ Plan.
 3 Mr Bacha
 4 Mr Mungroosing
 5 _____
 6 Grp Capt Thomson

 Driver _____



Car No _____

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 2 _____
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 4 _____
 5 _____
 6 _____

 Driver _____



Car No _____

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 Driver _____



Car No _____

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 Driver _____



Car No _____

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 Driver _____



CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT
cc Master.



File VSCAEG
cc PC ✓
RM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

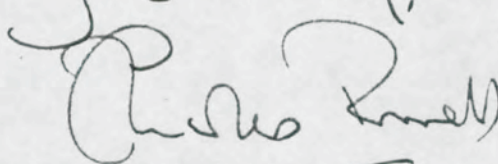
25 July, 1984

Dear Colin,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF
MAURITIUS

BF | I enclose a record of the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr. Jugnauth today. There are two specific points on which follow-up is required. Under some pressure from Mr. Jugnauth, the Prime Minister agreed to look again at the question of a London based British Council presence in Mauritius. She also undertook to see whether there was any scope for further assistance in the way of scholarships to students from Mauritius. I should be grateful if both these points could be considered and you could let me have recommendations to put to the Prime Minister in due course.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry), David Peretz (HM Treasury), Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Department of Education and Science), and Michael McCulloch (Overseas Development Administration).

Yours sincerely,

(C.D. Powell)

C. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS AT 10 DOWNING STREET ON 25 JULY
1984 AT 1200 HOURS

Present:

Prime Minister

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Mr. J.N. Allan, High Commissioner, Port Louis

Mr. C.D. Powell

The Honourable Anerood Jugnauth, QC

Dr. The Honourable Beergoonath Ghurburrun

The Honourable Anil Kumarsingh Gayan

His Excellency the High Commissioner for Mauritius

Mr. Bhinod Bacha

The Prime Minister welcomed Mr. Jugnauth on his official visit to Britain. Mr. Jugnauth thanked the Prime Minister for the Government's invitation and hospitality and extended an invitation to her to pay a visit to Mauritius.

Mauritian Economy

The Prime Minister congratulated Mr. Jugnauth on his election success last year and invited him to tell her about developments in Mauritius. Mr. Jugnauth said that Mauritius enjoyed strong and stable government. Democracy had proved itself by permitting peaceful change to take place even in difficult circumstances. But to maintain democracy it was vital that the government should succeed in its economic programme. He was ready to face up to difficult decisions but could not risk imposing too severe restraints. There were examples of countries where the IMF had imposed such stringent conditions that the result had been instability.

CONFIDENTIAL

Aid

Mr. Jugnauth continued that, while welcoming the line of credit which HMG had recently established for Mauritius, additional help was needed, particularly to tide Mauritius over the next difficult year or so. His preference would be for a soft loan. The Prime Minister said that much as she sympathised with Mr. Jugnauth's problems, she could not encourage him to expect additional aid. The UK already did well by Mauritius; most importantly by importing its sugar. Mr. Jugnauth said that, if it were possible to increase the line of credit, this would lead to further purchases from the UK. The Prime Minister said that it might be possible to convert some project aid to programme aid. Mr. Jugnauth said that aid was also needed to enable Mauritius to purchase raw materials and equipment for its free zone. Mr. Rifkind asked whether Mauritius had quantified its requirement. Mr Ghurburrun said that some £25m was needed over and above the £12m which HMG had already extended to Mauritius.

Cable and Wireless

The Prime Minister said that the Mauritian Government's decision not to renew Cable and Wireless' licence had had a very unfortunate impact in the United Kingdom. Mr. Jugnauth said that his Government's action should not be regarded as something exceptional. The contract was a renewable one and the company should have realised that there was a risk that one day it would not be renewed. His Government was in negotiation with Cable and Wireless and would pay them for their equipment. Provided these negotiations could be concluded amicably, Mauritius would still need Cable and Wireless as consultants. The Prime Minister repeated that the Mauritian decision and the way in which the matter had been handled had come as quite a shock. Cable and Wireless were an excellent company and were expanding worldwide.

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

Terminating their licence without prior consultation was likely to make other British firms think twice before investing in Mauritius.

Investment Protection

The Prime Minister asked about progress towards concluding an investment promotion and protection agreement. Mr. Jugnauth said that Mauritius wanted such an agreement and thought negotiations were close to a conclusion.

Airport Contract

Mr. Jugnauth said that the Mauritian Government wanted Plessey to do major work at the new airport and hoped that a contract would be concluded soon. But he wanted to be sure first that Mauritius would be getting good value for money. The Prime Minister said that she had noticed that the Mauritian Government had called for a value for money audit. Plessey's were a first rate company. She shared Mr. Jugnauth's hope that the contract would be concluded very soon. Mr. Ghurburrun claimed that the Plessey contract would absorb a substantial proportion of the line of credit extended by the UK leaving little for other purchases. Mr. Allan pointed out that an ATP offer had been made in support of Plessey's proposals which was separate from the line of credit.

Sugar

The Prime Minister asked about the prospects for sugar. Mr. Jugnauth said that this year's crop would be only average, probably no more than 580,000 tonnes. This was the result of two consecutive years of drought.

British Council

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

Mr. Jugnauth said that Mauritius had much regretted the withdrawal of the British Council's London based representative. Although there were still local staff employed on British Council work the British Council were not as active as formerly. Mr. Allan confirmed that only a librarian and some locally engaged staff remained. One result was that the High Commission had to put a lot of work into education matters. The suggestion had been made by the Mauritian Government that the UK- based post should be re-instated to provide regional coverage. The Prime Minister undertook to look into the problem.

Student Fees

Mr. Jugnauth said that he also wished to raise the question of student fees. It was more and more difficult for Mauritian students to come to the UK. They went to France instead where they could receive education more cheaply. The Prime Minister said that it was cheaper because it was not so good. Mr. Gayan said that there was a particular problem over Mauritian Government laureates. The Mauritian Government had previously financed this scheme which enabled 16 scholars to study in the UK but had abandoned it for financial reasons. The Prime Minister asked how many Mauritian students came to the UK. The Mauritian High Commissioner said that some 300 were here. Mr. Rifkind said that the High Commission in Port Louis could draw on some £20,000 under the FCO scholarships and awards scheme. The Prime Minister said that this seemed small in relation to Mauritius' needs. The UK could not have afforded to go on supporting overseas students on the scale which it had previously. But she would look at the figures for Mauritius and see whether anything further could be done.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

South Africa

-5-

The Prime Minister asked whether Mr. Jugnauth had any particular problems to raise in the foreign affairs field. Mr. Jugnauth said that Mauritius maintained trading links with South Africa. They had appointed a trade commissioner and welcomed South African investment. He recognised the difficulties of getting rid of discrimination but could never accept that discrimination should be institutionalised. The Prime Minister gave Mr. Jugnauth a brief account of Mr. Botha's recent visit. His Government had had some success in coming to terms with its neighbours.

Namibia

Mr. Jugnauth asked the Prime Minister's views on the prospects in Namibia. The Prime Minister said that Namibia represented an enormous drain upon South Africa and she was certain that Mr. Botha wanted to get out. But some link had to be established with the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. One could not just rely on the Cubans to go when a settlement had been achieved. But it was clear that the Cubans would not leave while Angola's internal problems remained unsolved. There was therefore a stalemate. She was not optimistic about the chances for early progress.

Soviet role

Mr. Gayan asked how the Prime Minister saw the Soviet role in the Indian Ocean. The Prime Minister said that the Soviet Union would stir up trouble wherever it could. Mr. Rifkind commented that there was a substantial Soviet presence in the Seychelles which he had recently visited.

Diego Garcia

Mr. Jugnauth said that there was a final point which he wished to mention for form's sake, that of Diego Garcia. He had to be able to say that he had raised it. The Prime

Minister commented that she understood Mr. Jugnauth's political needs very well and the answer was, as he must expect, that there had been no change in our position.

The meeting finished at 1305.

C.D.P.

25 July 1985



File RAMABQ
C.D.P. Cadock

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 July, 1984

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

When Peter Ricketts was about to send me over the briefing for this visit, he telephoned to say that it was rather voluminous. It was indeed: seventy-three pages. The Prime Minister has not complained. But that may be because I distilled it for her.

Nonetheless I do think that amount of briefing for an hour's talk with the Prime Minister of a relatively small country is overdoing it. Looking through the briefing, two things were apparent. First it was not tailored to the Prime Minister's particular requirements. It was a mass of briefing provided for all those who would be seeing Mr. Jugnauth during his visit. I quite see that this is labour-saving for those who produce briefs: a bit less for those who consume them. Secondly, it seemed to me that some of the briefs were repetitive and overlapping, that is to say the same points and information appeared in the background sections of more than one brief.

Few of the Prime Minister's meetings with foreign heads of government last more than an hour. She certainly likes to be fully informed for them. But one has also to make a realistic assessment of the number of subjects likely to come up and the depth in which they will be addressed, as well as of the time likely to be available to the Prime Minister to absorb the necessary information. Most briefs meet this need and there have been some very good ones. But this one, and perhaps also that for Prime Minister Seaga's visit some weeks ago, seemed to me excessively long.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Jay (FCO).

(C.D. Powell)

C. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS
AND MRS JUGNAUTH - 25 JULY 1984

SPEAKING NOTES

1. We first met when you were last in London in October 1982. Now my pleasure to welcome you as guest of British Government. Hope you have enjoyed your programme so far [will have included visits to University of Reading, Stratford-upon-Avon (attending a performance of Richard III), the House of Commons and Westminster Abbey].
2. Our two countries tied by history and traditional friendship. Both our countries are proud of our democratic traditions and institutions and we are both active members of the Commonwealth.
3. Trade has played a key part in our bilateral relations. At present the balance of trade between our two countries is heavily in Mauritius' favour but we hope that projects will soon be identified under the Line of Credit which we have offered which will help correct this imbalance.
4. Both our countries are working hard to overcome the problems of unemployment. We admire the energetic way in which your Government has sought to attract investment and find work for your people both in Mauritius and abroad. Your Deputy Prime Minister headed an Inward Investment Mission here in May as part of a visit to Europe. We wish you well in your efforts.
5. We are well pleased at state of relations between our two countries and hope that this visit will play its part in deepening our existing bonds of friendship. Only regret is that I cannot be with you for your visit later this afternoon to Lincoln's Inn.

[Toast - The Queen is Head of State of Mauritius].

PRIME MINISTER

Talks with the Prime Minister of Mauritius: 25 July

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Jugnauth, is coming for talks tomorrow at 1200 followed by lunch. He will be accompanied by:

Dr. Ghurburrun - Minister of Planning and Development

Mr. Gayan - Minister of External Affairs

Mr. Bacha - Perm. Sec. in the Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Rifkind will be present from the FCO: he will just have returned from a visit to Ethiopia and the Seychelles.

Mr. Jugnauth will also be seeing Mr. Tebbit and Lady Young.

Some very elaborate briefs (73 pages) are attached with personality notes. I suggest you read only the steering brief and underlined passages elsewhere. Main points boiled down onto a card are attached.

Notes for a toast also attached.

CDP
24 July 1984

CCPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 July 1984

Dear Charles,

Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius: Talks with
the Prime Minister at 1200 on Wednesday 25 July

The Prime Minister will be holding talks with Mr Anerood Jugnauth QC, Prime Minister of Mauritius, at 1200 hrs on Wednesday 25 July, as part of his official visit to Britain as a guest of Government. Mr Jugnauth previously called on the Prime Minister on 11 October 1982. On this occasion he will be accompanied at the talks by two members of the Mauritian delegation (we do not know who as yet), which comprises:

The Minister of Economic Planning and Development.
Dr Beergoonath Ghurburrun;

The Minister of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration,
Mr Kumarsingh Gayan;

The Prime Minister's Permanent Secretary,
Mr Bninod Bacha.

Mr Rifkind will also attend the talks.

I enclose a set of briefs. Mr Jugnauth will also be calling on the Secretary of State for Trade at 1445 on Wednesday 25 July, and on the Minister for Overseas Development at 1630 on Thursday 26 July. Lady Young will be calling on Mr Jugnauth at his hotel at the beginning of his official programme on Monday 23 July.

Our High Commissioner has told us that Mr Jugnauth is greatly looking forward to his visit. In spite of his Government's emphasis on economic rather than political matters, Mr Jugnauth is likely to raise the issue of Mauritius's claim to the British Indian Ocean Territory, for internal political reasons, but has also said that he accepts that the Prime Minister will reiterate what she told him in their talks in October 1982. He may also raise the subject of British Council representation in Mauritius, and ask for more development aid; defensive points for these are covered in the enclosed briefing.

Yr ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984

TALKS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, THE HON. ANEROOD JUGNAUTH QC. 1200 25 JULY 1984

INDEX OF BRIEFING

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2. Leading Personality Reports
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15. Security of Small States
16. Port Louis, Mauritius, New High Commission Offices

East African Department

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

July 1984

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK:

JULY 1984

STEERING BRIEF

1. Mauritius, with a population just short of a million, occupies a position in the Indian Ocean of potential strategic importance. The island was ceded to Britain by France in 1814 and remained a British colony until becoming independence from Britain as a Commonwealth realm in 1968. Mauritius' historical antecedents are reflected in her languages; English is the official language but French is widely spoken. India has also had close traditional ties with Mauritius and almost half the total population are Hindu Indo-Mauritians.

2. The last official visit by a Mauritian Prime Minister was by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (now Governor General) in August 1981. Mr Jugnauth became Prime Minister of an MMM (Mouvement Militant Mauricien) Government in June 1982 and in this capacity he called on the Prime Minister in London on 11 October 1982. Following a Cabinet split in March last year, Mr Jugnauth formed a new party (Mouvement Socialiste Mauricien) and, in alliance with the Labour Party and Social Democrats, won a convincing victory in new elections held last August.

3. Predictions that the Alliance would quickly split up have not been fulfilled, and although the new Government showed early signs of being heavy-handed, they have also shown that they can be flexible (eg over the proposed Newspapers and Periodicals

/Amendment Bill).



Amendment Bill). Jugnauth has largely spent the last year in Mauritius, keeping the Alliance together, and is now confident that his Government will last the full term until the 1988 elections.

4. Mr Jugnauth's new Administration has proved pro-Western, and moderate in the manner in which it has pursued the Mauritian claim to the British Indian Ocean Territory (in contrast to the stridency of his first 6 months in power). Mauritius could exercise a moderating influence on other governments in the Indian Ocean, notably the Seychelles, which has been more amenable to Soviet influence. Notwithstanding underlying communal rivalries, the democratic manner in which Mauritius has accomplished two dramatic changes of political power has been exemplary. The Government are following orthodox economic policies and have given precedence to economic realities rather than political aspirations.

5. We are trying to capitalise on this change of emphasis. When Mr Alex Fletcher visited Mauritius last September he concluded an agreement to provide a line of mixed credit worth £12.3 million (£3.0 million ATP) to be spent on British exports over the next three years. Plessey still expect to win a sizable portion of the Plaisance Airport contract (with a UK content value of up to £17.6 million). Although Mauritius has considerable economic problems, mainly on account of the poor price for sugar on the world market, she is protected to some

/extent



extent by her substantial EC quota under the Lomé agreements (we import the bulk of this).

6. Our High Commissioner has told us that Mr Jugnauth is greatly looking forward to the visit. He has also told our High Commissioner that he will, for internal political reasons, raise the issue of Mauritius' claim to the British Indian Ocean Territory but accepts that the Prime Minister will reiterate what she told him at their talks in October 1982. Mr Jugnauth is also likely to express his wish to see a British Council representative reinstated in Port Louis and ask for more help on scholarships. No funds are available to meet either request at present. Defensive points are in Brief nos 7 and 8 respectively. If he asks for more development aid, it should be explained that our Mixed Credit Line has not yet been utilised. Our most serious concern is over the cavalier and high handed way in which the Mauritians have, on the basis of incomplete information, decided to terminate the Cable and Wireless' franchise. The Prime Minister has been briefed to raise this issue (Brief No 5). The Mauritian behaviour is particularly surprising in that Cable and Wireless is the biggest British investment in Mauritius and also in view of the Mauritians desire to promote inward investment from the UK. A Mission led by the Deputy Prime Minister visited Britain in May to promote inward investment, and it is hoped to sign an Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement during the visit, if the Mauritians can let us have in

/time



time the answers to questions which we have put to them.

7. Against this background, our objectives for this visit are:
- (i) to consolidate the pro-Western pragmatism of the present Mauritius Government
 - (ii) to keep the dispute over BIOT sovereignty in cold storage
 - (iii) to deflect any requests involving additional expenditure
 - (iv) to promote our commercial interests in Mauritius.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
July 1984



The Hon Anerood JUGNAUTH MLA QC

Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security,
Minister of Information, Minister of Reform Institutions and
Minister of External Communications.

Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Piton-Riviere du
Rempart. Hindu. Vaish caste.

Born 1930. A lawyer (attended Lincoln's Inn) who was appointed
a Queen's Counsel in 1980. A former President of the Mauritius
Family Planning Association.

Jugnauth's political career began with the Independent Forward
Bloc (IFB), a radical populist party with support amongst lower-
caste rural Hindus, which he joined in the early 1950's. First
elected MLA for his present constituency in 1963, on an IFB ticket.
He was in London for the Mauritian Constitutional Conference of
September 1965 as Deputy Leader of the IFB and served in the pre-
independence government as Minister of State in the Finance Min-
istry (November 1965 to 1967) and Minister of Labour (1967-8).
He was made Attorney-General after Mauritian independence in 1968
but walked out of the Cabinet the following year together with
four other IFB members.

After leaving Government he was employed in the Crown Law Office
as Senior Crown Counsel, a post he resigned with effect from
February 1972 to join the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM),
a more dynamic and radical force than the declining IFB. He
became President of the MMM in 1974 and Official Leader of the
Opposition following the general election of December 1976. Prime
Minister Ramgoolam included him in his delegation to the CHOGM
meeting in London in June 1977, and is rumoured to have (unsuccess-
fully) urged Jugnauth to join with him in a Government of National
Unity. With the victory of the MMM/Parti Socialiste Mauricien
(PSM) alliance at the general election of June 1982 the Prime
Ministership went to Jugnauth. However following a Cabinet crisis



and his expulsion from the MMM, Prime Minister Jugnauth formed his own political party, the Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM), and in alliance with the Labour Party and the Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrate (PMSD) won the subsequent general election of August 1983.

Married. His wife is an inspector of primary schools. Has a son and a daughter, both in the UK. His son studied law at Buckingham, his daughter has a degree in bio-chemistry and is married to an Indian doctor trained at Cambridge.

East African Department
July 1984



DR BEERGOONATH GHURBURRUN

Hindu (low caste)

Minister of Economic Planning and Development

Born 1928. Studied medicine in Bordeaux 1952-55 and in Paris 1955-56.

Practised as doctor in France and Morocco.

1963 nominated to Legislative Council. Minister of Social Security 1965-58, Commerce and Industry 68-69, Communications 69-71, Labour and Industrial Relations 71-76, Minister of Health 1980-82. Defeated with rest of Labour Party in 1982 election. August, re-elected Minister of Health in MSM/Labour Party/PMSD Alliance. 1984 succeeded Sir S Boolell as Minister of Economic Planning and Development. Leader of the Labour Party in Legislative Assembly. Married to a Doctor who trained in Ireland and Britain. 1 daughter.

East African Department
July 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

GAYAN, Anil Kumarsingh

Minister of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration

Born 22 October 1948. Hindu. Nephew of Sir S Boolell

Educated Royal College, Curepipe, London School of Economics (LLB); called to the Bar (Inner Temple 1973). Crown Counsel in 1974, Senior Crown Counsel in 1977. From 1974-82 was Mauritian representative to the 3rd UN Conference of the Law of the Sea. In 1982 he was a member of the prosecution team which represented Seychelles in the mercenaries trial. Elected to the Assembly and to Curepipe Town Council in 1982. A confident and self-contained individual who is well disposed towards the UK but works hard at a non-aligned image.

Married with 2 children. His wife has a BSc (Hons) from the LSE and a MSc (Hons) from SOAS, London.

CONFIDENTIAL



BACHA, Bhinod

Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Born 8 July 1941. High caste Hindu.

Educated at Royal College, Port Louis, Durham University (BA Hons, 1966). Joined Civil Service in 1969 as Administrative Assistant to the Prime Minister's Office, rising swiftly to Permanent Secretary by 1982. Was also concurrently Secretary for Defence 1980-82. Was also for short while Private Secretary to the Governor General. Has had courses in Langley, Virginia and London as background for his overall supervision of the National Intelligence Unit (formerly State Security Service). Originally Ramgoolam's chosen "flier", he survived the MMM/PSM Government successfully and seems a potential Cabinet Secretary - almost the only post open to him which would not signify demotion. An efficient civil servant and a likeable individual. Somewhat nervy manner and a chain-smoker.

Widower with one child; his wife died in tragic circumstances early in 1984.

*Lunch only*

H.E. MR DURMA GIAN NATH

Mauritius High Commissioner to London since November 1983.

Born 29 May 1934 at Triolet, Mauritius. Obtained a BA, (Hons) Delhi and an MA, Delhi. Also followed courses in International Affairs and Diplomacy in New Delhi, Berne and London.

From 1963-66 he was an education officer in Mauritius followed by a period spent in the Prime Minister's office (1967-68). Thereafter he was seconded to the Mauritius High Commission in London for four years until 1972 when he was made First Secretary. In 1976 he was made Deputy High Commissioner in London before his promotion as Ambassador of Mauritius to the Arab Republic of Egypt in March 1982.

Our High Commissioner in Port Louis considers that Mr Nath's appointment as High Commissioner in London could be seen as a gesture towards the low-caste Hindus who, despite early fears rallied to the alliance during the general election (21 August) and as recognition that there is a role for career members of the Diplomatic Service as Heads of Mission and of Mr Nath's undoubted hard work while Deputy High Commissioner in London.

Mr Nath who is married with three children, is a small, rather portly man.

East African Department
July 1984



Lunch only

Mr Harris MUNGROOSING

Deputy Director of the National Intelligence Unit and Head of the Anti-Drug Squad.

Mr Mungroosing has been attending the Second Commonwealth Symposium on Commercial Crime at Jesus College Cambridge.

He forms part of the Mauritius Delegation at the request of the Prime Minister's Office, but will not be taking an active part in meetings during the visit.



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK:
JULY 1984

BRIEF No 3: POLITICAL

POINTS TO MAKE

Threats to stability in the Indian Ocean

1. Interested in Mauritian views, especially on political developments in Seychelles, just visited by Mr Rifkind, and Madagascar.

Anglo-Mauritian Relations

2. Political relations now in good repair. We must keep them so.

Indian Peace Zone (if raised)

3. Still no agreement on what IOPZ would mean in practice. Until greater agreement and in view of Soviet presence in Afghanistan and Horn of Africa, we believe it premature to set date for conference on IOPZ.

Mauritian Claim to Sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago (if raised)

4. The position is clear and well known we have sovereignty over these islands. We have, however, undertaken to cede them to Mauritius when no longer required for defence purposes. The Non Alignment Movement's declaration has no legal force.

Mauritian Access to the Outer Islands of the BIOT (if raised)

5. We have agreed to permit Mauritian vessels to have access to the outer islands of the BIOT and its territorial sea. We have informed the owners of those vessels most likely to be concerned and they have welcomed the arrangement. We have
/authorised



authorised two vessels to fish in Chagos waters and a third request is under consideration. The licensing system is designed to ensure that:

- a) we know who in advance is going there on legitimate business;
- b) there is no over-exploitation whether of coconuts or fish; our concern is not to build up new industries but to facilitate activities of a traditional character.

Will we support Mauritian aims to obtain labour and food supply contracts for Diego Garcia (if raised)

6. In principle, we do support these objectives, if Mauritian bids are competitive and if contracts are available, and we have made these views known to the United States Government. Understand that some 150 Mauritians have been recruited to work on Diego Garcia.

Dismissal of two Mauritian Contract Workers (if raised)

7. Matter of dismissal of the two contract workers employed by the US company FEBROE is a matter between employer and employee in which HMG is not involved.

The Republic Question (if raised)

8. Mauritius' constitutional development is for Mauritius to decide. Any change need not affect bilateral relations.

More Money for the Ilois? (if raised)

9. The £4 m ex-gratia payment which HMG paid to the Government of Mauritius on 28 October 1982 was a full and final payment and we do not envisage making a further payment.



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO: 3 POLITICAL

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. In June 1982, Paul Berenger's Movement Militant Mauricien (MMM), in alliance with Harish Boodhoo's Parti Socialiste Mauricien (PSM), landslide victory in the elections thus breaking the hold which Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's Labour Party had had on power since Mauritius became independent in 1968. The MMM were themselves roundly defeated in a general election, held on 21 August 1983, by a new alliance between Anerood Jugnauth's Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM), incorporating the PSM, and the Labour Party, together with Sir Gaetan Duval's Parti Mauricien Socialiste Democrate (PMSD). Of the sixty directly elected seats in Mauritius, the alliance obtained 38 seats, the PMSD 3 and the MMM 19. The Organisation du Peuple Rodrigues (OPR) retained both seats in the island of Rodrigues and under 'the best loser' system 3 members of the MMM (including Berenger), one member of the PMSD and 4 members of the MSM alliance were also declared elected.

2. The short duration of the previous Government was caused essentially by disagreement between Berenger, then Minister of Finance, and Boodhoo's PSM over economic measures. When Jugnauth sided with Boodhoo it became only a question of time before a break came as friction increased. On 22 March 1983, Berenger and ten of his Ministers resigned. Jugnauth, isolated from the MMM, formed his own party, the MSM and in May, Boodhoo's PSM became incorporated in the MSM. Berenger took on the role of leader of the opposition, and with continued uncertainty about Jugnauth's ability to command a majority in the Legislative Assembly, he dissolved Parliament on 17 June and called a general election. Victory for Jugnauth reflected Hindu solidarity and nervousness about Berenger, a white of French descent.

3. Given the disparate nature of the personalities who now hold office in the Cabinet, there are still doubts about whether the

/Coalition



Coalition can survive, although the Alliance did survive the sacking of Sir Satcam Boolell, the Labour Party leader and then Minister of Economic Planning and Development, in February.

4. There have been signs of an increasing toughness in the government's domestic policy. For example, after negotiations with the IMF, inevitably unpopular rice and flour price increases were announced. In addition, there has also been pressure within the Alliance to exercise overall control over Sugar production as the key sector of the economy. In April, the government passed the Newspapers and Periodicals (Amendment) Bill which required all publications to lodge a bank guarantee of Rs 250,000 (£13,800) to cover compensation for libel. The effect of this would have been to put many of the smaller newspapers out of business. It was claimed that this was an infringement of press freedom and that the government was seeking to put the Opposition newspaper, 'Militant', and others critical of it out of business. However earlier this month, the government reneged and accepted the findings of a Joint government-press Committee Report and agreed that newspapers would not now be required to deposit a bond as a security. Additionally charges against 44 journalists, who were arrested for protesting against the proposed Bill, have been dropped.

5. Thus while the government has not always shown a sure touch domestically, Jugnauth has thus far managed to keep his team together but the defeated MMM will be hoping that the Alliance will not hold together and that there will again be a need for fresh elections within the next two years.

EXTERNAL POLITICAL

6. The Alliance Government has remained non-aligned but has shown in its external policies that it is prepared to put economic issues, such as solving its unemployment problems, before political posturing. The Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Gaetan Duval, has set the pace on this by leading Investment Missions to the Far East (including Hong Kong) and Europe. Mr Jugnauth is reportedly disillusioned

/with



with the Soviet Union and the Government now looks to its traditional friends (the UK, USA and France) for aid and economic support. We can however expect a continuation of policy of strict non-alignment and support for Third World interests (eg support for ANC, SWAPO and PLO). The Government will continue to work towards the demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean and return to Mauritius of the Chagos Archipelago (Diego Garcia) and Tromelin Island. India, mainly for communal reasons (Mauritius is 54% Hindu), has a great deal of influence in Mauritius. Mr Jugnauth closed down the Libyan Mission in Port Louis in January and expelled its members for alleged interference in Mauritian internal affairs.

ANGLO-MAURITIUS RELATIONS

7. Our interests in Mauritius are principally political and strategic: to limit opportunities for Soviet influence in the area. We are important to the Mauritians because we take the major part of Mauritius' principal export, sugar (we took 72.4% in 1982) under Lome arrangements, and because we are a significant aid donor (£1.78m is allocated in the Framework to Mauritius for 1983/4). We hope to be able to offset our balance of payments deficit if Plessey win a share of the Plaisance Airport Contract with ATP support (UK content £17.6m), and we have been able to offer the Mauritians a mixed credit line of £12.3m (ATP content £3m) to be used for British exports. We are somewhat concerned however about the Mauritian decision to end the Cable and Wireless franchise and replace it with a nationalised telecommunications company. Our relations with Mauritius have traditionally been good, apart from minor irritants (eg over student fees and cultural efforts); the major political irritant in our relations being the issue of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago (Diego Garcia)

VISITS

8. The last official visit by a Mauritian Prime Minister was by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (now Governor-General) in August 1981. Mr Jugnauth became Prime Minister of an MMM government in June 1982 and in this capacity he called on the Prime Minister in London

/on



on 11 October 1982. He and his delegation will be leaving London for South Korea on Monday 30 July.

9. Relations have been enhanced by the heightened level of diplomatic activity over the past eighteen months with several Ministers visiting Britain including the Deputy Prime Minister Sir Gaetan Duval. He called on the Secretary of State as part of an official visit on 7 December 1983 and again on 16 May of this year when he was in Britain leading an Investment Mission from Mauritius. The Minister of External Affairs, Mr Gayan, also called on the Secretary of State on 23 September 1983. Other Ministers to have visited in the last year or so are the Finance Minister, Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo (May 1983) who call on Mr Squire, and Mrs Bappoo, Minister of Women's Rights and Family Affairs (May 1984) came to Britain on a sponsored visit, accompanied by the Prime Minister's wife Mrs Juganth. Mr Boodhoo, former Deputy Prime Minister and now Government Chief whip will be visiting Britain as a sponsored visitor for about 10 days from the beginning of August. Ministerial visits from Britain to Mauritius have included one by Mr Alex Fletcher MP, PUSS (28 September - 3 October 1983) and Mrs Linda Chalker MP then PUSS at the DHSS, (April 1981), Mr Squire, Assistant Under-Secretary at the FCO, visited Mauritius in September 1983 .

DIEGO GARCIA

10. Mauritius is publicly hostile to military use of Diego Garcia, the main island in the British Indian Ocean Territory. In 1966 the British Government agreed on grounds of broad national interest to make the British Indian Ocean Territory available for the defence purposes of the United Kingdom and the United States. A US naval support facility has been constructed on Diego Garcia, which is the largest island of the Chagos Archipelago. The Chagos Archipelago was ceded along with Mauritius and Seychelles to Britain by France in 1814. For reasons of administrative convenience it was then administered from Mauritius until it was detached to form part of the British Indian Ocean Territory.

/11. Despite



11. Despite the fact that the Mauritian Council of Ministers agreed to its detachment in 1965 and the fact that the British Government have agreed to cede the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes, the previous Jugnauth Government of Mauritius (1982-83) pursued their claim to the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago in international fora, most recently at the NAM Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Delhi in March 1983. In the final communique, the Mauritian claim was endorsed and Diego Garcia singled out as the only military base, while Soviet facilities in the Indian Ocean (at Aden and Socotra in the PDRY and at Dhalak in Ethiopia) were ignored. There was also a call for the early return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.

12. This NAM communique was disappointing and unhelpful. The issue is now a non-aligned issue for others such as India and the Soviet Union to promote and make mischief of. The Mauritians, however, changed their tune on the claim after Jugnauth reconstituted his Cabinet on 28 March, 1983, following the resignation of Berenger and other Ministers. We were then told that issue would forwith be played in a low key.

13. The Mauritians have so far been as good as their word. At the UN General Assembly in September last year the Mauritian Prime Minister asserted the Mauritian claim to Diego Garcia in moderate and measured terms. This was the minimum consistent with maintenance of their claim and was in keeping with their new low-key approach to the problem. Surprisingly and gratifyingly, the issue of the Mauritian claim was not mentioned in the NAM communique at the end of their meeting at the UNGA from the 4th to 7th October 1983, and the Mauritians have since accepted that is an issue on which we have agreed to disagree and maintained a low-key approach.

MAURITIUS ACCESS TO THE BIOT

14. In July and August last year we discovered that there were two Mauritian fishing vessels, the Romaya and the Nazareth, in

/BIOT



BIOT territorial waters. The Romaya was illegally collecting coconuts on Peros Banhos and there was evidence of landings there by crew members of the Nazareth. They were asked to leave by the Royal Naval Liaison Officer (BIOT), and complied with the request (there were contingency arrangements to ensure that the Romaya would do so). The question of coconut collection is an issue upon which the Mauritians feel strongly. The issue was raised with us by a number of Mauritian ministers including the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. We, accordingly, reviewed our policy on access to the Outer Islands of the BIOT. The Secretary of State agreed to the introduction of a licensing system to control access by Mauritian Vessels and a senior FCO official, Mr Squire, informed Mauritian Ministers of this change during his visit to Mauritius (28 September - 3 October 1983). The owners of the vessels most likely to be involved have been informed by our High Commissioner and they have welcomed the news. So far the owners of two fishing vessels have sought, and obtained, permission to fish in Chagos waters.

MAURITIAN CONTRACT WORKERS ON DIEGO GARCIA

15. As part of the Mauritian Government's low-key approach to Diego Garcia and their need to solve their unemployment problems, the Mauritian government decided last year to lift its ban on the recruitment of Mauritian contract labour to work there. They sought our help and we informed the Americans that we were in principle in favour of this if it could be arranged. We understand that up to 150 Mauritian contract workers have been recruited. The first party of 75 Mauritian workers are due to arrive soon.

16. This new move to recruit contract workers from Mauritius as well as from the Philippines which is the main source of labour, has had one or two recent teething problems. The contractors Febroe sacked two members of the three-person advance party from Mauritius which arrived at the end of May for breach of contract for participating in political activity. The two men wrote a letter to the Prime Minister enclosing a newsletter complaining about

/conditions



conditions for the contract workers on Diego Garcia, which they copied to the Deputy-Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition. As dismissal for breach of contract is a matter for Febroe and their employees we do not want to be drawn in. However, there is the possibility that Jugnauth may be tempted to raise the matter during his visit here. This possibility is balanced by the fact that the Mauritian government will probably wish to play the issue in a low key to avoid jeopardising the agreement with Febroe to employ Mauritian contract workers.

17. The Mauritians are also concerned to obtain the contract to provide the Facility on Diego Garcia with fresh fruit and vegetables, although at present these are supplied from another source. When the next opportunity for tender comes up, the Mauritians would be free to apply for the contract along with their competitors.

THE ILOIS

18. In January of this year, a delegation from the Ilois Trust Fund presented a letter to the US Embassy in Port Louis, which petitioned for £4 million to be paid to the Trust Fund by the US government. In October 1982 the British Government made an ex gratia payment of £4 million to the Mauritian Government for the Ilois Trust fund. This payment was made with the express purpose of assisting with the resettlement of the Ilois in Mauritius. During the negotiations the Ilois claimed £8 million should be paid to them. However the amount finally agreed in 1982 was warmly welcomed by the government of Mauritius, and both they and the Ilois community were fully associated with it.

19. This new claim does not receive the backing of the Mauritius government who continue to take a tough line against any extravagant demands by the Ilois. The response of the US Embassy to the Ilois claim has been to say that they cannot consider it, as the Chagos Archipelago is the responsibility of the British government. Our view continues to be that the payment of £4 million in 1982 represented a generous full and final settlement of Ilois claims adequate to achieve its purpose.

/VISIT



VISIT OF SIMON WINCHESTER TO THE BIOT

20. Simon Winchester, a Sunday Times Journalist recently visited the Salomon Islands aboard an Australian yacht and attempted to gain access to Diego Garcia earlier this month. Mr Winchester had written to the FCO in January 1983 asking if he could visit and had been told at that time that this was not possible as access to the islands was limited to those with an operational need to visit. He chose to ignore this advice and went out to Diego Garcia by yacht but was not granted permission to land. He left Diego Garcia on 9 July intending to sail to Mauritius.

21. Having been thwarted in his plans to visit Diego Garcia, we suspect that on return to Mauritius (he is likely to arrive there about 23 July) he may be tempted to write up a story about the Ilois and it would be embarrassing if a hostile story were to be published about the BIOT or the Ilois during Mr Jugnauth's visit here.

THE MOVE TO A REPUBLIC

22. In December 1983 the Constitution of Mauritius (Amendment No 2) Bill, designed to make Mauritius a Republic was debated in the Legislative Assembly. The Opposition added 12 amendments to the bill which were not acceptable to the government and the bill was voted down. In spite of the failure of their bill, Jugnauth's MSM/Labour Alliance remains committed to giving Mauritius Republic status, while remaining within the Commonwealth. The Government then said that they had no plans to reintroduce the Bill during the Governments life-time. Earlier this month, however, in his winding-up speech before Parliament recessed, Jugnauth said that his Government 'cannot give up this solemn commitment (ie to introduce a republic) but it still seems unlikely that he will reintroduce a bill before the next general election which on present timing is not due until 1988.

East African Department
July 1984



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK:

JULY 1984

BRIEF No 4: ECONOMIC

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Mauritian Economy

Understand that you, like we, are concerned to solve your unemployment problems. Greatful if you could tell me what the prospects are for Mauritius overcoming its economic difficulties.

2. Grateful, in particular, to know what benefits have occurred from the Inward Investment Promotion visits led by Sir Gaetan Duval to the Gulf, the Far East and Europe.

Indian Ocean Commission

3. Understand that formal Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Commission met in Seychelles in January. What progress towards integration do you see being made in the near future.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
July 1984



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF No 4: ECONOMIC

ESSENTIAL FACTS

REVIEW OF THE ECONOMY

1. Since 1979, Mauritius has achieved significant progress in reducing external and internal financial imbalances under four consecutive IMF stand-by arrangements. The external current account deficit and the overall fiscal deficit have been reduced, and the inflation rate has declined sharply. Despite the progress made in the financial sphere, the underlying growth rate has been rather low and the rate of unemployment has risen to an unacceptably high 20 percent. The slow growth has been due in large part to the effects of adverse weather on sugar output (on which the economy is largely dependent) and a lack of buoyancy in the export manufacturing sector, which has been constrained by world recession.

2. Real GDP increased by 7 percent in 1982/83, mainly as a result of the recovery of sugar production to a normal level (688,000 tons) after two years of adverse weather conditions. Economic growth in 1983/84 was originally forecast to be about 3 percent, slightly higher than the average rate for the previous four years, but revised projections indicate that the rise in real GDP was less than 2 percent. Due mainly to protracted drought in 1983, sugar production fell to 605,000 tons, down 12 percent from 1982/83 and this year's harvest is forecast to be still less at 580,000 tons. Nonsugar agricultural production, which was heavily damaged by a cyclone in late December 1983, is expected to show a decline in 1983/84, but both the manufacturing sector and tourism are projected to begin to show strong growth. The recovery in these sectors reflects the increase in activity abroad as well as the improvement in competitiveness of Mauritius over the past year.

3. The average rate of inflation, which was 11 1/2 percent in 1982, eased markedly in 1983 reflecting the slackening off in import prices and the moderation in wage increases. Price increases are

/projected



projected to be rather greater in the first half of 1984 as a result of the depreciation of the rupee against its major trading partners, upward adjustments in many administered prices, and a general easing of price controls. Present projections indicate that the rate of inflation in 1983/84 would be around 7 1/2 percent, compared with the programme target of 9 percent.

4. The level of unemployment, estimated at nearly 20 percent in 1983, continues to be of major concern to the authorities. A decline in manufacturing employment since mid-1982 was halted in late-1983 and an increase in employment in the EPZ (Export Processing Zones) has been evident in the early months of 1984. However, the sugar industry has continued to shed labour over the past year and employment in Government has stagnated because of financial constraints. With the labour force estimated to be increasing by about 2 percent a year, Mauritius needs rapid growth in manufacturing and services to reduce the unemployment rate to a more tolerable level.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

5. The new Alliance Government has given primacy to solving Mauritius' unemployment problems. They have embarked on a policy of finding jobs for Mauritians both abroad, and through investment, at home. Sir Gaetan Duval, the Deputy Prime Minister, has led investment missions to the Gulf (2,000 Mauritians work in the Gulf States) and the Far East, including Hong Kong. In May Sir Gaetan Duval led missions to France, FRG and the UK, Dr Ghurburrun was also part of the delegation. The desire to secure jobs for Mauritians abroad has led the Alliance Government to reverse an earlier ban on Mauritians being employed on Diego Garcia. This has been partially successful: 150 Mauritians have secured jobs on the Island. The Deputy Prime Minister is also known to favour closer trade links with South Africa (negotiations are, we believe, in progress for a line of credit) but has yet to carry the rest of the Cabinet on the issue.

/6. The



6. The Alliance Government's first Budget last Autumn was clearly designed to allay fears about the possible content of the new government's economic policies by renewing its commitment to tackle unemployment, improving the existing Social Welfare System, and not increasing income tax. At the same time it explicitly reaffirmed the government's commitment to continuing with the stabilisation programme agreed with the IMF. A second Budget, introduced last month followed the same trend of improving the Social Welfare System and not increasing income tax. With the exception of 10% surcharge on all imported goods, the Budget is widely considered to be generous and will result in a deficit of about one billion rupees.

7. Efforts are being made to boost tourism and the fishing industry with Mauritius looking mainly to France to exploit their maritime reserves (mainly tuna-fishing). The government are also concerned to increase their control over the sugar industry upon which most of their export receipts depend. The prospects for income from this year's crop are not helped by low prices on the world market and the two cyclones which struck the island at the end of last year resulting in a poor crop estimated at 580,000 tons. The Government is also relying on companies in the Exports Processing Zones (EPZs) to increase export earnings from manufactures (Mauritius is currently the world's largest exporter of knitted sweaters).

THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION (IOC).

8. A meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Commission met in Seychelles in January. The Government of Mauritius is looking to the Indian Ocean Commission, of which it is a founder member along with Seychelles and Madagascar, to advance common regional objectives, but progress has been slow so far and is likely to continue to be slow in the immediate future. There is also likely to be friction between Mauritius which is the most pro-western in outlook, and its more radical fellow members. Sir Gaetan Duval, the Deputy Prime Minister is known to favour the inclusion of South Africa and Reunion in the IOC and one concern of the Government is the admission of Mauritian /goods



goods into Réunion under ACP arrangements although this had not, up to now, been considered in the context of the IOC. The Mauritian government continues to take a pragmatic view and does not appear to want to see the Commission being politicised. Our hope is that the IOC will have a moderating and stabilising effect upon its members. Mauritius hopes that it will be able to play a part in the future economic development of Madagascar. Mr Jugnough has intimated to us that in his view the Government of Madagascar had recently become noticeably easier to deal with. Mauritian consultants have already won one contract to carry out a study for the IOC.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
July 1984



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984
BRIEF NO.5: UK/MAURITIAN TRADE

POINTS TO MAKE
GENERAL

1. Have been concerned for some time at the imbalance of trade between the UK and Mauritius. Hope that our Line of Credit will go some way towards compensating for this and that projects will be identified and disbursements start promptly.

AIRPORT PROJECT

2. Pleased that agreement has been reached between Mauritius Government and Plessey Airports over the basic scope for works they wish Plessey to undertake in the development of Plaisance Airport.

3. Assure Mr Jugnauth that HMG has commitment to the project (demonstrated by our ATP offer) and is working as speedily as possible towards final contract signature.

4. (Defensive Line). Appreciate that Mr Jugnauth will be disappointed that the contract has not yet been concluded but explain the value for money check currently being undertaken (at the Mauritians' request) is an essential requirement for both our Governments.

CABLE AND WIRELESS

5. Point out that we are not happy about action of this sort being taken against a British firm particularly when there appears to be a lack of candour and of prior consultation.

Ensure that Mr Jugnauth is aware that we will be vigilant in ensuring that C & W gets proper and prompt payment for its assets if no more satisfactory resolution can be found.



7. Underline our scepticism about the substitution of the public sector for the private sector in telecommunications services which is against the international trend.

8. Point out that the decision not to renew C & W's licence may well have serious repercussions amongst other potential UK investors who were considering setting up in Mauritius.

Department of Trade and Industry

July 1984



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984
BRIEF NO.5: UK/MAURITIUS TRADE

ESSENTIAL FACTS

UK/MAURITIUS TRADE

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Jan-May</u>		<u>£ millions</u>
					<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	
UK exports to Mauritius	24.7	21.6	20.9	22.5	8.4	9.3	
UK imports from Mauritius	145.2	97.5	114.5	128.4	49.5	60.8	

UK exports to Mauritius in 1983 consisted mainly of food and live animals (£5.6m), machine and transport equipment (£4.4m), manufactured goods (£5.1m) and chemicals and related products (£3.1m). In the same period Mauritian exports to the UK were principally sugar (£107.7m), together with articles of apparel and clothing accessories (£8.0m), fish products and preparations (£3.5m) and textile yarns and fabrics (£2.4m).

In 1982 (the latest year for which figures are available) the UK took 33.2% of Mauritius' exports with France taking 21.7%, the United States 7.8% and West Germany 4.0%. Bahrain (oil) was the leading supplier to Mauritius with 14.9% of the market, followed by France with 10.13%, South Africa with 8.9% and the UK with 8.8%.

The balance of trade between the UK and Mauritius is heavily weighted in the latter's favour principally because of our obligations under the Lome Agreement to import sugar from Mauritius. In the late 70s the UK experienced some problems with the import of Mauritian jerseys and T-shirts which were adversely affecting UK manufacturers. As a result a Voluntary Restraint Agreement was signed with Mauritius, and although the Agreement has now lapsed Mauritian textile exports to the UK have diminished considerably suggesting that Mauritian manufacturers are diversifying their export efforts.

ECGD COVER

ECGD credit insurance cover for short-term business is available without limit.



Section I medium term cover is limited to £5m, Section II medium term cover for general business is limited to £30m (including Line of Credit commitments). These amounts have so far proved adequate.

UK LINE OF CREDIT

Last October Mr Alex Fletcher, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the DTI visited Mauritius and signed a Memorandum of Understanding offering the Mauritian Government a concessional Line of Credit to be used for projects and business to be agreed between the two Governments.

The essential characteristics of the package are:-

- (i) an ATP input of not less than 20% of the UK element in connection with each of the projects selected up to a maximum overall grant of £3m;
- (ii) in association with (i) above an ECGD-backed Line of Credit up to £9.25m.

Project appraisal discussions have been taking place between officials of the two Governments and the bulk of the funds are likely to be used to assist the private sector in Mauritius. Proposals which have come forward for utilising the funds include new investment for the sugar industry, a deep sea tug, computer equipment and an HS 748 aircraft.

PLESSEY AIRPORT PROJECT

Plessey Airports are close to finalising a contract with the Mauritian Government for the second phase development of Plaisance Airport. The project which Plessey have been pursuing for over 6 years is worth £10-14m to the UK and involves the installation of airfield lighting, nav aids, power distribution and telecommunications equipment. An ATP offer has been made in support of Plessey's proposals. The French were awarded the contract for the initial phase of the development, including preparation of a master plan, and the Chinese will be constructing a new terminal building.



At the request of the Mauritians for an independent consultant, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) have been appointed by ODA to ensure value for money and advise on the proposed contract terms. British Airports Authority (BAA) will be appointed for the second phase of the consultancy to assist the Mauritian Airport Project Unit in overseeing the Plessey contract and with overall co-ordination on work to be performed by other foreign contractors involved. ODA had hoped that CAA would have produced their report in time to enable contract signature to take place during Prime Minister Jugnauth's visit. It is now apparent following a recent visit to Mauritius by CAA representatives, that their final report will not be produced until mid-August.

Prime Minister Jugnauth may well be disappointed that we are not yet in a position to finalise the contract. It should be explained that we are working urgently towards it. However, it is in the Mauritian Government's interest that a proper value for money check is undertaken as well as being necessary for the UK Government to be satisfied for public accounting purposes.

At a London reception in May hosted by Mr Fletcher for the Mauritian Deputy Prime Minister, the latter expressed concern at the delay in finalising the contract (which had been agreed in draft between the Mauritians and Plessey Airports). Mr Fletcher subsequently exchanged correspondence with Mr Raison who assured him that ODA were doing all they could to conclude an acceptable contract. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Jugnauth also exchanged letters about this project some 18 months ago (copies attached).

CABLE AND WIRELESS

Cable & Wireless (C & W) have been seeking a renewal from the end of this year of their licence to operate the external communications of Mauritius. The revenue from this operation is worth approximately £3m pa. They provide similar facilities in about 40 countries. They have up to now been the largest UK investor in Mauritius which is actively encouraging foreign investment to set up there in order to stimulate export-orientated industry.

In March, without any previous consultation, C & W were informed by the Mauritian Government that they did not intend to renew C & W's licence. They had apparently



reached this decision some months earlier on the advice of an Indian expert.

There will inevitably now be a rundown of C & W's services during the year in the light of their imminent withdrawal. The Mauritian Government have not yet made their position clear on compensation for C & W or on whether they will seek to take over C & W's assets in Mauritius. A new company, Overseas Telecommunications Services, has been set up in Mauritius to take over C & W's responsibilities and is under the direction of the Prime Minister's Office.

In early May C & W representatives visited Mauritius and established contacts with both the Prime Minister and his Deputy. At the time the Mauritian Government appeared outwardly receptive to the points made to them by C & W in respect of the implication of their decisions and the responsibilities which the new company should have to face. In essence, these cover the pressing requirements for major capital development projects and their funding, together with the requirements for the appropriate support services for the new company's operations.

It has now become apparent that the Mauritian Government's decision regarding C & W had been based on an incorrect assessment of the situation and had failed to appreciate therefore all the implications. In May the Mauritian Prime Minister undertook to have the matter reviewed but C & W now believe that this is merely a facade to keep them at bay. Despite an assurance from the Deputy Prime Minister to C & W that the report on which the decision to remove C & W would be made available to them so that C & W could contribute to the possible Government review, this has so far not been received despite representations from the British High Commission. Nor, despite full co-operation from C & W have they been consulted by representatives of the new company. In addition C & W are concerned that the Mauritian Government have made inaccurate public statements about Commonwealth countries' decreasing involvement with C & W and supposed world-wide trends to greater Government participation and regulation of telecommunications, when in fact the converse is true. These statements, an attempt to place their own decision in a wider context, are potentially damaging to C & W's international position.



*Prime Minister
Mauritius*

10th December 1982

your excellency,

It was indeed a pleasure to meet you during my short stay in London in October last and to exchange with you views on issues of mutual interest to our two countries. I should like to thank you in particular for your prompt attention to my request for the release of funds for the Ilois.

During our discussions, we touched upon the subject of the possible involvement of your Government in the financing of the Plaisance Airport Redevelopment Project. We deeply appreciate the interest of your Government in participating in this important infrastructure project. We feel that British financial assistance would be useful in procuring equipment and services of British origin for this project.

It will be possible to determine the nature and extent of the involvement of your Government once the Master Plan which has been commissioned becomes available in mid-March 1983. We also need to finalise negotiations with the Chinese Government on the project components which can be implemented using the very soft loan of UK £13.0 million with the Chinese Government is making available for this project. Once these are finalised, we will be in a position to indicate the specific components in which your Government can participate.

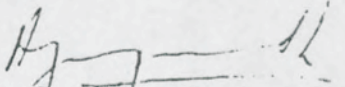
Meanwhile, we have been given to understand by the representatives of Plessey Airports Ltd that your Government would be prepared to give us a grant of UK £5 million, in addition to an ECGD loan for the various components of the project. It was brought to our attention that prevailing ECGD rates will be revised upward as from January 1983, in particular the interest rate chargeable would be increased in line with the OECD consensus. We would be grateful if your Government could consider freezing these terms for Mauritius as far as the Plaisance Airport Redevelopment Project is concerned.

I take/

Her Excellency Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10, Downing Street
London

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance which your Government has been providing to help us in our development efforts. I hope that the friendly relations, which exist between our two countries, will be strengthened further in the years to come.

With warm personal regards.


Anerood Jugnauth
Prime Minister



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

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20 January, 1983

Dear Mr. Sigmund,

JEM 02612

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 1982. I too much enjoyed our meeting and was glad to have the opportunity to discuss with you matters of mutual concern to our countries. I was pleased to be able to meet your request for help in speeding up the payment of the ex-gratia sum which we had agreed to make to your Government to assist with the resettlement of the Ilois in Mauritius.

I would like to assure you of our interest in the opportunities you envisage for the United Kingdom in connection with the development of Plaisance Airport. As you point out, you will not be able to determine the nature and the extent of any UK involvement until Aeroports de Paris have produced their master plan and until you have conducted further negotiations with the Chinese. I know that Plessey have keenly pursued the project over a number of years and I am confident of their ability to produce results of the highest standard.

We for our part will need to consider afresh the question of aid in relation to whatever revised proposals are put to us, but I hope that we would be able to respond positively at the appropriate stage. It would therefore be particularly helpful if you could arrange for our High Commissioner to receive a copy of the master plan as soon as it becomes available.

Regarding the ECGD terms that would apply, I can say that provided the business we are asked to support represents a major order for UK capital equipment, maximum credit terms repayable

/ over

over 10 years can continue to be considered. However, because the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development were unable to give a firm commitment to place the business with Plessey before 31 December 1982 the interest rate applicable will be that obtaining under the OECD consensus when a firm commitment is made.

I am grateful for your expression of appreciation for the assistance we have given in helping with your country's development. I too look forward to maintaining and deepening the bonds of friendship between our two countries.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Nargant Datta



The Hon. Aneerood Jugnauth, Q.C.



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO 6: AID

POINTS TO MAKE

1. What progress is being made with programme of adjustment following agreement on second Structural Adjustment Loan with IBRD?
2. We hope changes in type of aid, from project to programme aid, were helpful. (Defensive: let us see how present arrangements work out before considering further aid.)
3. We hope recent agreement on Aid and Trade provision and commercial credit will be helpful.

(DEFENSIVE: PRIMARILY FOR MR RAISON.)
4. Expect good progress to be made with Plaisance Airport but it is important that Government of Mauritius gets good value-for-money. We await report from the Civil Aviation Authority.
5. Hope to maintain technical cooperation at the present level.
6. Cannot consider request for new loans or projects for capital aid at present.
7. British assistance includes our £2.3 million share of EC aid under Lome II.
8. Sorry we cannot give help from aid programme for the Indian Ocean Games. (British taxpayers might not think such aid essential!)
9. We hope to issue contract very shortly for consultants on energy planning.




VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1983

BRIEF NO 6: AID

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Structural Adjustment

1. Mauritius is in receipt of a \$40 million Structural Adjustment Loan from the IBRD. The Bank imposed a condition that there should also be a \$5 million Technical Assistance Loan indicating their concern that the resources be put to good use. Agreement with the Bank was reached in December 1983.

Requests for Aid

2. During an official visit to Britain in 1982 Mr Jugnauth put requests to the Prime Minister for a new £6 million project loan and a new £2 million programme loan. After further discussion it was agreed that £1.2 million of uncommitted funds for an existing project loan be converted from project to programme aid. Up to £3 million from the Aid and Trade provision, linked with up to £9.25 million of commercial credit, was offered for the purchase of UK goods and services. A further mixed credit offer was made in support of a bid by Plessey Airports Limited. The proposed aid framework contains no provision for any new capital aid pledge to Mauritius but ATP will be continued and we envisage maintaining TC at the present level.

ATP: Mixed Credit

3. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in September 1983, by Mr Alex Fletcher, PUS, DTI, on a trade promotional visit to Mauritius for offer of up to £3 million from ATP linked with up to £9.25 million of commercial credit for the purchase of UK goods and services. A developmental and economic assessment of various project proposals is being undertaken. Possibilities include: Sugar Industry; Computerisation (Unified Revenue Board); Vehicles; Berthing Tug; Marine Equipment; Vehicles for Police and Bedford Buses; an HS 748 aircraft for Air Mauritius.

Plaisance Airport: ATP: Plessey's

4. An offer of up to £4.4 million ATP plus £13.2 million credit covered by ECGD was made in September 1983 in support of a bid by Plessey Airports Limited subject to a value-for-money check by British consultants. Subsequent discussion



showed some Mauritian officials unhappy with Plessey's expensive turnkey proposals and use of South African contractors. We think there were disagreements within Mauritian Government which have been resolved by our offer of ATP/TC to finance a consultancy to provide the value-for-money check before the Government of Mauritius signs a contract with Plessey and to provide professional advice in monitoring and supervising the work.

Difficulties with Plessey's, who did not want British Airports Authority as consultants for the first phase, have been resolved by appointing the Civil Aviation Authority. We expect the CAA report mid-August.

Computers

5. Mr Raison agreed in principle that ODA could undertake a study, without any commitment on capital aid, of computer requirements for Mauritius Ministry of Finance. Mauritian Minister of Finance hoped for CCTA input which cannot now be significant. Terms of Reference for the proposed study have taken into account a World Bank study and loan for an integrated computer system in the Government sector. Proposals from consultants for ODA financed study have been put to Government of Mauritius with our recommendations on which should be accepted.

Technical Cooperation

6. Our manpower input is currently 6 long-term technical cooperation posts in a variety of spheres, and one KELT*Officer who will be in post at the Mauritius Institute of Education, during this year. The annual cost of this programme for 1984/85 will be around £200,000. The training programme for 1984/85 has a budget of £323,000 which should provide for about 57 new awards and the continuation of 6 current awards.

7. We are providing equipment to the value of £67,000 for UNFPA project on Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning, on Rodrigues, 400 miles from the mainland.

Capital Aid

8. The capital aid programme is running down. Present loans could be fully used within about 2 years. Our major projects are the Northern Plains Irrigation Scheme, towards which we are providing £3 million (and the CDC £2 million), and the associated Vacoas Aqueduct project (cost £250,000).

*Key English Language Teaching

/On the



On the island of Rodrigues we are assisting with the civil works and the installation of a Radio Booster Station at a capital cost of around £320,000 plus consultants fees.

EC Aid

9. Mauritius receives under Lome II up to 21.5 million ECU (approximately £13 million), of which we are paying 17.76% (£2.3 million). To date 11.5 million ECU have been committed to project aid. In addition, loans of 4 million ECU from EIB's own resources have been sanctioned.

Indian Ocean Games

10. In July 1983 a circular was sent from the Ministry of External Affairs, Tourism and Immigration to all Diplomatic missions accredited to Mauritius, seeking financial and technical assistance for the Games which are to be held in August 1985. We replied that we could not support the use of aid funds in this way. A further approach was made in December 1983 but our response was unchanged. It appears that Britain and the USA are the only countries not prepared to assist.

Energy Planner

11. In August 1982 ODA agreed to meet the costs of a long-term energy planner to assist the Government of Mauritius in strengthening the technical capabilities of the Energy Planning and Development. TCO recruitment proved unsuccessful so it was agreed to engage consultants. Complexity of the GOM's exact requirements caused delay. However the Technical Proposal submitted by PA International Management has been accepted and a contractual letter will issue shortly.

Eastern and Western Africa Department
Overseas Development Administration
18 July 1984



UK AID PROGRAMME FOR MAURITIUS

Aid Framework Allocation

<u>1984/85</u>	<u>1985/86</u>	<u>1986/87</u>	<u>1987/88</u>
£2.080m	£2.000m	£2.000m	£1.300m (to be confirmed)

Capital Aid

Disbursements in recent years have been as follows:

<u>1981/82</u>	<u>1982/83</u>	<u>1983/84</u>	<u>1984/85</u> (estimate)
£1.089m	£0.857m	£0.240m	£1.400m

2. The Mauritian Prime Minister may raise the question of whether or not we can provide more "scholarships". We are however already providing a great deal of support. The question of scholarships is dealt with in Brief No. 8. This makes clear that in 1983/4, HMG funded 33 Mauritius students under a variety of scholarship schemes. If any additional funds become available in 1985/6 every effort will be made to accommodate at least one or two of the Laureate scholars within FCO scholarships and awards schemes. In addition, under ODA's Technical Co-operation Programme for 1984/5 the Mauritians will receive 57 new training awards and 6 current awards will be continued.

FCO/ODA

July 1984



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM:
JULY 1984

BRIEF NO: 7. BRITISH COUNCIL

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Will the British Council reinstate the London Appointed Post?
(Defensive).

Regret that at present the British Council do not have sufficient funds to reinstate the London Appointed Post. Nevertheless we are pleased that the Council are able to continue some of their activities: they have maintained their Library with its sizeable stock of books and are able to fund a sizeable Books Presentation Programme. They also maintain a Technical Cooperation Training Programme and have funds for visits and exchanges between institutes of Higher Education.

CULTURAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

July 1984



RESTRICTED

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM :
JULY 1984

BRIEF NO : 7. BRITISH COUNCIL

ESSENTIAL FACTS

GENERAL

1. The British Council was established in Mauritius in 1950. In 1980 due to cuts in the Council's budget the one London Appointed office was withdrawn, and the British High Commission took over responsibility for the Council's programme. Senior Mauritians and the British High Commissioner are keen to have the London Appointed post re-instated. It does not however rate high on the Council's list of priorities and could only be re-established at the expense of cuts elsewhere. In the absence of a British Council presence the High Commission spends a fair amount of its time on education and cultural work.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

2. The Library is run by six locally engaged staff. It has a stock of 13,500 volumes and a membership of 3,732. There is also a Books Presentation Programme totalling £8,000 for 1984/85 which is administered by the British High Commission.
3. The Technical Cooperation Training Programme has an allocation of £323,000 for 1984/85. Three ODA funded Seminars are also planned for 1984/85.
4. It is hoped to have a KELT Officer in post in September. The Council also has funds for visits and exchanges between Institutes of Higher Education.
5. There are occasional cultural manifestations. The British High Commission receives Council films and exhibitions.

CULTURAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

July 1984

RESTRICTED

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO. 8

OVERSEAS STUDENTS: MAURITIUS

POINTS TO MAKE

1. HMG particularly welcomes students from the Commonwealth. New measures of support reflect this. Of £46 million available over three years rather more than half is being spent on Commonwealth students.

2. Mauritius benefits from a number of HMG-funded award schemes: limits to what we can do.

(If raised)

Home Fee Status

3. Cannot afford to grant home fee status to all Commonwealth students. Cost would be so high as to be unacceptable.

(If raised)

Lomé Renegotiations: ACP Students in the Community

4. Student fees are not actually covered by Lomé. However, the Member States confirm that questions relating to the situation of ACP students and their access to education in the UK may be examined within the appropriate bilateral framework. We will continue to encourage the training of ACP students in their country of origin or in another ACP state, wherever possible or practicable.

(If raised)

Help for Government of Mauritius Laureates

5. We recognise that Mauritius has a special problem, and will continue to support students from Mauritius where possible. Our High Commission in Port Louis is already in receipt of £20,000 under the FCO Scholarships and Awards Scheme and is aware of the additional strain on scholarship funds caused by the ending of the Laureate awards. If any additional funds become available in 1985/86 every effort will be made to accommodate at least one or two of the Laureate scholars within FCO Scholarships and Awards Scheme.

/ESSENTIAL

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Mauritius benefits from the following HMG-funded award schemes:-
 - (a) ODA's Technical Cooperation Training Programme
In 1983/84 Mauritius received £305,000 under this scheme and will continue to benefit in 1984/85.
 - (b) FCO Scholarships and Awards Scheme
In 1983/84 five awards were made and in 1984/85 £20,000 has been allocated to Mauritius for new awards.
 - (c) Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan
In 1983/84 there were 16 students from Mauritius in Britain under this scheme.
 - (d) Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme
8 students succeeded in winning awards in 1983/84 under this globally competitive scheme.
 - (e) British Council Scholarships
There were 4 British Council scholars in the UK in 1983/84.
2. The full cost fees policy was introduced in 1979 and replaced the indiscriminate subsidy given to all overseas students by a more selective policy of targetted support.
3. HMG announced in February 1983 that it would increase its measures of support (£65 million a year) for overseas students by £46 million over the three years 1983/84 - 1985/86.
4. There have been no previous Mauritian ministerial representations on overseas students, during meetings with UK ministers.
5. Laureates
In the past the 8 boys and 8 girls who obtained the best results in the Cambridge HSC were given awards by the Government of Mauritius, but in March this year it was decided that this state scholarship

/system



system should be brought to an end, and that the Laureates should be encouraged to use scholarships available from donor countries. In view of this the Ambassador has requested more FCO SAS funds in 1985/86 to absorb 2 of the Laureates. Unfortunately, funds are so limited we are unlikely to be able to increase any country's allocations in 1985/86.

6. There is a University of Mauritius.

10 July 1984

Cultural Relations Department



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO 9

INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENT (IPPA)

Points to Make

1. Regret that it was not possible to agree a text so that signature could take place during present visit. Keen to sign an Agreement and look forward to signature in near future.

Essential Facts

1. IPPAs are intended to stimulate the flow of investment between the two signatory States. They provide for the protection of existing and future investment under the law of the host country; for the payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation in the event of expropriation; and for the independent settlement of investment disputes. We have IPPAs with 22 countries, 16 of which have been ratified (attached).

UK/Mauritius IPPA

2. Our model text was handed over to the Mauritians in 1981. The new Government responded favourably in 1983, but it was not until our further approach in March 1984 that the Mauritians took some action. A week before a Mauritian investment mission led by Deputy Prime Minister Duval arrived in the UK in May, we received the text approved by the Mauritian Cabinet. This followed our model closely except for two major differences: -

- (i) it excluded existing investment from cover of the Agreement; and
- (ii) it excluded the Article providing for independent international arbitration.

These are fundamental elements of our IPPAs. The Mauritian text was therefore unacceptable to us.

/ 3. The



3. The position was explained at the time to Mr Duval by FCO officials. Mr Duval foresaw no difficulty in meeting our requirements but said that the necessary amendments would have to be approved by the Mauritian Cabinet. The aim would be to reach agreement on a text in time for it to be signed during the visit to the UK of his Prime Minister.

4. We were hoping to receive confirmation from the Mauritians that they could accept all the amendments which we had proposed, by 20 July, in time for the documents to be prepared and the signature to go ahead. Unfortunately, we have now been notified (20 July) that despite a Cabinet meeting on 19 July, the Mauritian Government are unable to approve the final draft of the IPPA. The Foreign Minister accepts that a signature will not now be possible but the delegation will probably want to discuss this subject during their visit. We are keen to sign an IPPA with Mauritius and we will continue to work towards this.

TRADE RELATIONS AND EXPORTS DEPARMTENT

20 July 1984

UK BILATERAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENTS

Country	Date/Signature	Date of entry into force
Egypt	11 June 1975	24 February 1976
Singapore	22 July 1975	22 July 1975
Korea	4 March 1976	4 March 1976
Romania	19 March 1976	22 November 1976
Indonesia	27 April 1976	24 March 1977
Malailand	28 November 1978	11 August 1979
Jordan	10 October 1979	24 April 1980
Sri Lanka	13 February 1980	18 December 1980
Senegal	7 May 1980	9 February 1984
Bangladesh	19 June 1980	19 June 1980
Philippines	3 December 1980	2 January 1981
Lesotho	18 February 1981	18 February 1981
Papua New Guinea	14 May 1981	22 December 1981
Malaysia	21 May 1981	Not yet in force
Paraguay	4 June 1981	Not yet in force
Sierra Leone	8 December 1981	Not yet in force
Yemen Arab Republic	25 February 1982	11 November 1983
Belize	30 April 1982	30 April 1982
Cameroon	4 June 1982	Not yet in force
Costa Rica	7 September 1982	Not yet in force
St Lucia	18 January 1983	18 January 1983
Panama	7 October 1983	Early 1984



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984
BRIEF NO 10A : SUGAR

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Recognise importance which ACP producers, particularly Mauritius, attach to this issue.
2. Realise that you would like an increase in prices expressed in ECU. But important to recognise that, in practice, MCA changes will give you an increase in "real money".
3. This improvement in ACP prices must be compared with the freeze in prices to Community growers of sugar beet, sugar manufacturers and refiners of raw cane sugar which will apply in 1984/85. It is politically unrealistic to expect the Community to pay higher prices to the ACP than its own producers.
4. (If appropriate) UK supports efforts within Community to hold down sugar production. Community's decision to freeze prices to be seen in this context. If ACP producers were to receive a higher price, it would be difficult for refiners to purchase and process ACP sugar at a profit. Such a squeeze on the margins of Tate & Lyle cannot be in the interest of the ACP
5. (If appropriate) If the ACP guaranteed price were set at such a level in relation to the price for white sugar that the refiners could not afford to buy your supplies, ACP sugar would have to be purchased at the guaranteed price by the Community and would probably have to be re-exported. How long such a situation could continue is debatable. But in any event it would convert the Protocol from a trade to an aid agreement and revive ideas that the Community should finance the direct export to other markets of ACP sugar which currently supplies Community refiners. In such circumstances it is doubtful whether the Protocol or British cane sugar refining industry could survive.



ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Mauritius depends heavily on sugar exports, the bulk of which come to the EC under the Sugar Protocol to the Lome Convention. The Protocol provides guaranteed access for a fixed quantity of sugar at guaranteed prices.
2. Under the Protocol the guaranteed price has to be negotiated annually "within the range of Community prices". In practice the guaranteed price for ACP raw sugar has normally been set at the level of the EC raw sugar intervention price, which the ACP regard as the lowest point in the EC price range but which the EC regard as the highest which could be offered without infringing the principle of Community preference and harming the interests of the sugar refiners (Community producers actually receive this price minus the general production levy of 2%).
3. Negotiations for this year's price, which was due to come into force on 1 July, ought to have been concluded by 1 May but they have been difficult. Community sugar prices were frozen in terms of ecu, giving the Commission, who negotiate on behalf of the Community nothing to offer in response to the ACP claim for recoupment of their cost increases, which they claim amount to 8½%. The Commission were, however, able to point out that the ACP suppliers will benefit, by about 3½%, as a result of the changes agreed in the Community's monetary compensatory amount (MCA) system, the effect of which is to reduce positive MCAs (which the ACP pay as levies) and to increase negative MCAs (which they receive as subsidies).
4. At an ACP Ministerial level negotiation with the Commission at the end of June, the ACP rejected the 'offer' of an unchanged guaranteed price and asked for the issue to be referred to the co-chairmen of the ACP/EC Council of Ministers. We believe that this is prelude to a grudging acceptance of the offer but there is a risk that it could lead to the invocation of the arbitration procedure provided for in the Protocol. If this procedure was



invoked, we believe that the result could be damaging. If the ACP lost their case, they would have gained nothing and would be forced to accept the Community's offer. If they were to win, they would expect to get more than the refiners can afford to pay, in which case the Community itself would have to buy the sugar and re-export it onto the world market. This would mean that the ACP would have what would be effectively an aid agreement, not a trade agreement, and could well revive EC Development Commissioner Pisani's ideas that the Community should subsidise the direct export of ACP sugar onto the world market. The Sugar Protocol itself would thus be brought into question and the viability of Tate and Lyle's whole refining operation in this country would be put seriously in doubt.

European Community Department (External)

18 July 1984



1013

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984
BRIEF NO: 1013 : LOMÉ CONVENTION

POINTS TO MAKE

1. UK looks forward to successful conclusion by the autumn to the current negotiations on a successor to the Second Lomé Convention.
2. Reasonably pleased with the outcome of the Ministerial Conference at the end of June in Luxembourg. Confident that the outstanding issues can be wrapped up at the further limited Ministerial meeting to be held (probably in October).
3. UK disappointed that our partners were not able to agree to a more substantial offer to the ACP on trade. While UK will continue to urge our partners to be more positive, realistically, there is probably not much more that can be achieved.
4. (If question of venue of signing ceremony is raised) Sorry that the host will not be Commonwealth country: we would have been happy for the next Convention to have been Port Louis I. But naturally accept ACP decision that next Convention will be signed in Lomé.
5. (If asked about the size of the next EDF) Community had only preliminary discussion about the size of the next European Development Fund (EDF). It has always been understood that a decision on this will not be taken until the end of the negotiations; and we are not there yet.
6. (If pressed about the United Kingdom position on aid) We have always said that any increase in the size of the EDF will be difficult for us. Nonetheless, we are prepared to see some increase, to take account of such factors as new ACP accessions (Angola and Mozambique). But must understand that United Kingdom aid programme is finite, and that any money which goes to the EDF will be lost to our bilateral programmes (the bulk of which go



to Commonwealth countries) and to other multilateral aid.

7. (If asked about "policy dialogue") Community's proposals for a dialogue with ACP States, to ensure that EDF projects are set in the right policy context, are important. Should not be seen as infringements of ACP sovereignty, but as joint commitment to make best use of aid resources, by combining EC money and development experience with ACP recipient's own priorities. Glad that negotiations have now got away from rhetoric and that the two sides have been able to discuss pragmatically ways in which procedures for the programming of EC aid can be improved.

8. (If human rights is raised) No question of EC wanting to interfere in internal affairs of ACP States. Merely seeking reference in next Convention (could accept preamble) to standard international texts already agreed by EC and ACP. There may be certain circumstances (eg Amin's Uganda) where it could be right to ensure that Community aid was directed specifically to population and not used in support of a Government responsible for gross violations of human rights.



ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Mauritius is one of 64 African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries which are party to the Second Lome Convention. The Convention expires at the end of February next year and negotiations on a successor are well under way. The Fourth Ministerial Negotiating Conference was held in Luxembourg on 28-30 June.
2. We are reasonably content with the outcome of the Luxembourg meeting. Although it did not take matters as far, let alone to a conclusion, as the French Presidency had hoped, useful progress was made on many of the issues. A further Ministerial Meeting will be held under the Irish Presidency (probably in October) to wrap things up before the next Convention is signed (the ACP have now decided that the signing will again be in Lomé : the Mauritians failed in their bid to get the ACP to adopt their capital, Port Louis).
3. The most disappointing aspect of the Conference was the reluctance of our partners, despite UK efforts, to make any significant concessions to the ACP in the trade field.
4. The question of the size of the aid package for the next Convention (the European Development Fund) has been discussed twice in restricted Council sessions within the Community, but no agreement has been reached and no offer has been made to the ACP. Nevertheless the UK is widely (and accurately) regarded as having the most restrictive attitude to an increase.
5. Whilst it is improbable that Mr Jugnanth will raise points of detail on the Lome negotiations, it is possible that he may mention the "policy dialogue" and/or human rights. The Community has been trying to persuade the ACP of the merits of the concept of policy dialogue (ie a dialogue on the policies pursued by ACP states in the sectors for which EC aid is requested). The ACP were at first very suspicious, fearing Community attempts to



undermine their sovereignty, and tried to reject the notion on policy dialogue out of hand. But they have now come to realise that many of their fears were unfounded and have been prepared to discuss pragmatically the scope for improvements in the programming of Community aid. This is really all the Community was ever after, and we are quite happy to abandon the phrase "policy dialogue" itself.

6. The ACP were also opposed (as they were in Lome II) to the Community's proposal that there should be a reference in the next Convention to human rights. They believed that the EC was seeking a lever to stop its aid coming to any ACP country which was in EC eyes guilty of human rights violations. There is however now a good chance that the ACP will accept the Community's modest proposal for a reference, probably preambular, which quotes from the UN charter and mentions the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The Community has already taken an internal decision which would enable it, if it so desired, to suspend any aid which was of direct benefit to a particularly repressive ACP regime.

European Community Department (External)
17 July 1984



CONFIDENTIAL

Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius to the UK: July 1984

Brief No.11: Bilateral Defence Matters

POINTS TO MAKE

MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE SCHEME (UKMTAS): (if raised)

1. Glad that we are providing military training assistance and hope this is making a useful contribution to the development of the Mauritian forces.

ROYAL NAVY SHIPS VISITS (if raised)

2. Glad that last visit by ships of the Armilla Patrol was such a success. Since then operational requirements have meant that the patrol ships must stay closer to the Gulf. When situation eases, hope that it will be possible to resume visits to Port Louis.

3. Regret that commitments elsewhere, including South Atlantic, preclude visits to Indian Ocean by other RN ships. But situation will be kept under review.

Defence Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
18 July 1984

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Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius to the UK: July 1984

Brief No.11: Bilateral Defence Matters

ESSENTIAL FACTS

MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE SCHEME (UKMTAS)

1. Mauritius does not have a standing Army but maintains para-military branches of the police: the SMF (Special Mobile Force) and GIPM (a French trained anti-terrorist/hijack unit). Subsidised military training in the UK and training assistance in-country from Loan Service Personnel (LSP) are provided under UKMTAS for the SMF. In FY 1983/84 the UKMTAS allocation was £130,000 rising to £150,000 this year. We do not reveal the size of the allocations to UKMTAS recipients.
2. Eight SMF personnel attended various Army courses at MOD establishments last year, and places have been secured for Mauritian students to attend Sandhurst and the Army Staff College in Camberley.
3. During discussions last December with members of the Directorate of Military Assistance from the MOD, Mr Jugnauth expressed his appreciation to the UK for the continued presence of a two-man (Major and WO1) advisory team with the SMF.

RN SHIPS VISITS

4. The ships then comprising the Armilla Patrol (HMS Andromeda and HMNZS Waikato) visited Mauritius from 25-29 August 1983, shortly after the election victory of the MSM Alliance. The visit gained considerable diplomatic credit and helped strengthen links with the new Government. It has not been possible to arrange further RN visits to Port Louis. For some time the Armilla Patrol has been at a maximum of 5 days steaming from the Gulf; Mauritius is at 7 days distance. A further visit will be considered when the period of notice is relaxed, but this is not likely in the near future.
5. No other RN ships are expected in the area for some time.

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VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO 12: INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE (IOPZ)

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Urge caution over proposals for a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean.
2. Still no agreement on what an IOPZ would mean in practice. Views are as far apart as ever. Until we reach a greater measure of agreement, it is premature to set a date for a conference.
3. In considering proposals for an IOPZ we cannot ignore the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, and the present conflict in the Gulf.
4. We doubt that a conference on IOPZ would help to resolve conflicts in these areas; could prejudice the legitimate defence interests of other states.
5. If all states adhered to fundamental norms and principles of international law and behaviour the political and security situation in the Indian Ocean region would be greatly improved and the economic climate enhanced.

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ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The Indian Ocean Zone of Peace (IOPZ) proposal dates from a resolution sponsored by Sri Lanka in 1971. We abstained on it in part because it could be harmful to UK interests because of possible exclusion of Western military presence in a key area; especially the Gulf approaches. The US Naval Support Facility on Diego Garcia is a prime consideration for us and the US.
2. Within the UN Ad Hoc Committee (New York), which is engaged in considering the proposal, we pursue a line of constructive criticism designed to maintain our relations with regional states while ensuring that no new constraints are put on Western naval forces.
3. Concept enjoys wide support among the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) although more as an issue on which they can demonstrate solidarity than because of any particular enthusiasm for the proposal. Mauritius is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee and follows the general NAM line. They also use the Committee to voice their claims of sovereignty over Diego Garcia. The Soviet Union and her allies give cynical support.
4. At last year's UN General Assembly the resolution on IOPZ inter alia called for the committee to make decisive efforts in 1984 to complete the preparatory work with a view to the opening of a conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in the first half of 1985. The resolution was adopted by consensus (which is the usual procedure) with the US making it clear that they were not part of the consensus, as they did not consider that full account of their views had been taken during the drafting of the resolution. They have since said that they will only remain in the committee if they can be confident that it will proceed on the basis of

/consensus.

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consensus. Their withdrawal would leave other Western participants, in particular the UK, more isolated in resisting progress towards a conference. We have repeatedly made clear our concern to the Americans. At the moment work in the Ad Hoc Committee is stalled because of the US position, which provides a useful shelter for other Western participants and prevents substantive progress. However, this situation cannot last indefinitely and the Sri Lankan Chairman is actively trying to patch up US concerns over the breach of consensus, during the present session of the Committee (New York 16-27 July).

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VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UK:
JULY 1984

BRIEF NO 13: AIR SERVICES

LINE TO TAKE

(i) We are glad that the outstanding aviation difficulties were satisfactorily resolved at last years consultations.

LINE TO TAKE (if raised)

(ii) We regretted the various restrictions which the Mauritians imposed - as a result of pressure from Air Mauritius - on the number of passengers who could be carried by British Airways and Air Mauritius. The Department of Transport would be glad to arrange talks if the Mauritians wish to propose a more liberal regime.

(iii) The Department of Transport would be prepared once again to look at the Mauritian request to operate a service between Mauritius and Hong Kong. It would, however, be difficult to make progress unless and until a British airline wishes to operate a reciprocal service on the route.

(iv) If Mauritius wishes South Africa Airways to be allowed to carry passengers between Mauritius and Hong Kong on its Johannesburg-Hong Kong service they would need to persuade the South African authorities to take the matter up with the Department of Transport. The Department would not wish to become involved in tripartite discussions on what is essentially a bilateral matter.



BACKGROUND

UK-MAURITIUS CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS

Air services between the UK and Mauritius operate under a bilateral Air Services Agreement signed in 1973 and supplemented by Confidential Understandings between the aeronautical authorities. BA operate a weekly Tri-Star service to Mauritius calling at Khartoum and Lilongwe. Air Mauritius operate a weekly B707 service to London calling at Rome and Nairobi.

2. During a meeting in London last July the aeronautical authorities agreed new arrangements giving the airlines some additional flexibility to carry "5th freedom" traffic (so that BA may now carry a limited number of passengers between Khartoum and Mauritius). The Mauritians insisted, however, on imposing limits on the number of passengers which BA could carry in and out of Mauritius - apparently under pressure from Air Mauritius (who operate a smaller aircraft on the London route but who presumably benefit under a commercial agreement from passengers who travel over Paris on one of the five weekly B707 services operated by Air France).

3. The Mauritians are anxious to develop air services with Hong Kong. The UK-Mauritius ASA makes no provision for airlines of either party to operate such services. Neither BA nor Cathay Pacific are interested in operating over the route. We have therefore declined to allow the Mauritians to operate a service to Hong Kong (although we have indicated a willingness to negotiate when a British airline wished to operate a reciprocal service).

4. Under the UK-South Africa ASA (and the corresponding arrangements between Mauritius and South Africa) South African Airways operates a Johannesburg-Mauritius-Hong Kong service on which it cannot carry passengers between Mauritius and Hong Kong. Sir Gaetan Duval has suggested that there might be tripartite discussions between Britain, Mauritius and South Africa to agree on the terms on which SAA might carry such "5th freedom" traffic. We see no advantage (and some disadvantage) in departing from the normal practice of bilateral consultations. If the South Africans wish to obtain rights for SAA between Mauritius and Hong Kong they should approach us on the matter direct. We shall then consider whether and if so what corresponding concession we should seek from them. (The South Africans would also need Mauritian agreement to the arrangement but this presumably would present no difficulty).



VISIT OF THE MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO 14

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM): NASSAU 1985

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Our preferred dates for the 1985 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting are 17/18 to 21 October.
2. The Prime Minister has confirmed her preference for these dates in letters to the Commonwealth Secretary General and to Sir Lynden Pindling.
3. The Palace have confirmed that the second half of October 1985 would suit Her Majesty.
4. We hope that Mr Jugnauth will also find these dates convenient.

Commonwealth Co-ordination Department
July 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

VISIT OF THE MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER TO THE UK: 23-27 JULY 1984

Brief No: COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM):
NASSAU 1985

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The Prime Minister has stated a preference for the next Heads of Government meeting to be in the second half of October 1985, after the Conservative Party Conference but before the opening of Parliament. She has written to Sir Lynden Pindling the Prime Minister of the Bahamas and to Mr Sonny Ramphal the Commonwealth Secretary General proposing 17-21 October 1985 as dates for the meeting.
2. The Palace have told Sir Lynden Pindling that the autumn of 1985 and in particular the second half of October would suit Her Majesty.
3. Our Missions in Commonwealth countries have been instructed to lobby their host governments seeking support for 17-21 October 1985 for the CHOGM and the High Commissioner in Port Louis has suggested that Mr Jugnauth's visit provides a suitable opportunity to consult at high level.

Commonwealth Co-ordination Department

12 July 1984

CONFIDENTIAL



VISIT OF THE MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER TO THE UK: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO 15:

SECURITY OF SMALL STATES

POINTS TO MAKE

1. We strongly support the Commonwealth initiative on the security of small states.
2. We have already submitted an initial contribution to the Commonwealth Secretary-General's preparatory work on the study.
3. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons is to carry out a wider study of the problems of small states and the Department has submitted a memorandum to the FAC towards this end.
4. Assume that Mauritius shares our concern that international community should seek and find satisfactory solution to this problem.

Commonwealth Co-ordination Department
12 July 1984

VISIT OF THE MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER TO THE UK: 23 JULY 1984

SECURITY OF SMALL STATES

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. At their meeting in New Delhi in November 1983, Commonwealth Heads of Government discussed the security problems of small states in the context of the Grenada crisis. The following passage from their communiqué highlighted their concern:

'reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for the strict observance of these principles.... Time and again in their discussion, Commonwealth leaders were recalled to the special needs of small states, not only in the Caribbean but elsewhere in the Commonwealth. They recognised that the Commonwealth itself had given some attention to these needs in the context of economic development but felt that the matter deserved consideration on a wider basis, including that of national security. Recalling the particular dangers faced in the past by small Commonwealth countries, they requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study, drawing as necessary on the resources and experience of Commonwealth countries, of the special needs of such states consonant with the right to sovereignty and territorial integrity that they shared with all nations'.

They also produced the Goa Declaration on International Security. The paragraph dealing with small states said:

'We are particularly concerned at the vulnerability of small states to external attack and interference in their affairs. These countries are members of the international community which must respect their independence and, at the very least has a moral obligation to provide effectively for their territorial integrity. We have separately agreed on an urgent study of these issues. Additionally, however, we will play our part in helping the international community to make an appropriate response to the UN Secretary-General's call for a strengthening of collective security in keeping with the Charter.'

2. The Commonwealth Secretariat have completed their background preparatory work on the study so commissioned. A non-governmental Consultative Group has been established to assist the Secretary-General in fulfilling his mandate. The Government strongly supports this study and has submitted an initial contribution



- 2 -

to the Secretary-General. An independent British representative (Sir Anthony Parsons) will participate in the Consultative Group. It is anticipated that, after meetings of the Group this summer, the Secretary-General on the advice of the Group will make a progress report to Commonwealth Senior Officials when they meet in December in Barbados. The full and final report will probably be published in mid-1985 so that it (and comments on it), may be considered by Heads of Government at their next meeting, in late 1985.

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED
KINGDOM: JULY 1984

BRIEF NO: 16

PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS: NEW HIGH COMMISSION OFFICES

POINTS TO MAKE

DEFENSIVE ONLY - if the Mauritian Prime Minister confirms recent press reports of a Mauritian Cabinet decision to create a diplomatic quarter south of Port Louis and questions the location of our new High Commission offices.

1. We needed new High Commission offices in Port Louis.
2. Most economic solution was to convert Severn Lodge, a house we own in Floreal.
3. We are in the middle of the construction stage of the project which will be completed by the end of this year ready for occupation in January 1985.
4. The new offices represent a considerable investment by HMG - £½ million.
5. We are committed to completing the construction work and moving our offices to Severn Lodge in January 1985.



ESSENTIAL FACTS

NOT
FOR USE

(Landlord
could sue
us if this
got around)

1. Following reports in 1976 that the office building swayed when heavy vehicles passed by, a PSA Structural Engineer visited Port Louis and discreetly made a structural assessment of the building. He found that the building lacked the required stability for the cyclonic conditions that occur in Mauritius and that it was not safe by British standards. The PSA recommended that we should seek alternative accommodation. An Estate Surveyor visited Port Louis in 1978 to look for new office accommodation but could find nothing suitable and a decision was eventually taken to convert and extend a surplus HMG-owned house (Severn Lodge) in Floreal into offices.

2. Plans were prepared but before proceeding early in 1983 we made a further search for offices in Port Louis. Again nothing suitable could be found. Office rental costs had in any case increased substantially and satisfactory accommodation would cost so much that it was shown to be more economic to proceed with the Floreal plan.

3. Floreal is 14 miles from the centre of town but the High Commissioner believes the location will still be operationally convenient, and that to move there would not be seen as an indication of any lessening of HMG's interest in Mauritius. The High Commissioner cleared the move with the Mauritian Prime Minister who was relaxed, saying "Mauritius is, after all, such a small place". The Mauritian Foreign Minister however expressed his disappointment about the move to Floreal when he called on the Secretary of State in September 1983.

4. On the above basis, Ministers approved the plan and work started on site in December 1983. The new offices will be completed in December 1984 ready for occupation in January 1985. Total cost is £½ million.



5. On 5 July, the Mauritian press reported that the Mauritian Cabinet had decided to create a diplomatic quarter in the south of Port Louis. Diplomatic Missions in Port Louis have not been informed officially of the alleged Cabinet decision.

checked by ER.



HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Visit of
The Prime Minister of Mauritius
and Mrs. Jugnauth

21 to 27 JULY 1984

The Honourable Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius and
Mrs. Parojini Jugnauth, will be accompanied by:

Dr. the Honourable Beergoonath Ghurburrin,
Minister of Economic Planning and Development

The Honourable Anil Kumarsingh Gayan,
Minister of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration

Mr. Bhinod Bacha,
Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. Harris Mungroosing,
Deputy Director-General, National Intelligence Unit

In attendance:

Group Captain Robert Thomson } *Government Hospitality*
Mrs. Eleanora Paterson }

Whilst in London the visitors will stay at:

Hyde Park Hotel
Knightsbridge, S.W. 1

Whilst in Stratford-upon-Avon the visitors will stay at:

Welcombe Hotel
Warwick Road

Programme

SATURDAY, 21 JULY

0720 hrs Arrive London Heathrow Airport by Flight MK 042 from
Port Louis
Hillingdon Suite

Met by the Special Representative of the Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
Sir Donald Logan

0740 Leave the Airport by car
(approx)

0830 Arrive Hyde Park Hotel
(approx) *Knightsbridge, S.W.1*

No official engagements

SUNDAY, 22 JULY

No official engagements

MONDAY, 23 JULY

(See page 7 for separate programme for Mrs. Sarojini Jugnauth)

1030 hrs The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
to The Rt. Hon. Baroness Young,
1045 will call at the hotel

1050 Leave the hotel

1145 Arrive University Farm
Sunning, Berkshire

Met by the Head of Department of Agriculture and
Horticulture, University of Reading,
Professor T. R. Morris

Coffee

Introduction given by Head of Farm Management Section,
Department of Agriculture and Horticulture,
University of Reading,
Mr. J. M. Stansfield

Tour of 300 Cow Dairy Unit given by General Manager of
Farms, Department of Agriculture and Horticulture, University
of Reading,
Mr. P. I. Cockburn

1215 Leave University Farm

1230 Arrive University of Reading
Whiteknights Park, Reading

1230 Luncheon given by the University of Reading
Host: The Vice-Chancellor,
Dr. E. S. Page
Senior Common Room

1400 Leave University of Reading

Continued on next page

MONDAY, 23 JULY (Contd.)

1420 hrs Arrive Horticultural Station
Shinfield, Berkshire

Tour of Station given by Head of Department of
Agriculture and Horticulture, University of Reading,
Professor T. R. Morris

1500 Leave Horticultural Station

1630 Arrive Welcombe Hotel
(approx) *Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon*

1735 Leave the hotel

1745 Arrive Royal Shakespeare Theatre
Stratford-upon-Avon

Private supper in the Box Tree Restaurant

1930 Attend a performance of 'Richard III'

2245 Leave Royal Shakespeare Theatre
(approx)

2255 Arrive at the hotel
(approx)

Stay overnight at Welcombe Hotel

PROGRAMME FOR MRS. SAROJINI JUGNAUTH

MONDAY, 23 JULY

No official engagements during the morning

1415 hrs *Leave the hotel*

1630 *Arrive Welcombe Hotel*
(approx) *Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon*

Programme for the evening as for the Prime Minister

TUESDAY, 24 JULY

- 0920 hrs Leave the hotel accompanied by Mrs. Jose Deer of Guide Friday Ltd.
- 0930 Arrive World of Shakespeare Audio Visual Theatre
13 Waterside
- Met by the Public Relations Officer,
Shakespeare Country Association of Tourist Attractions,
Mr. R. J. Thompson
- Presentation
- 1010 Leave World of Shakespeare Audio Visual Theatre
- 1015 Arrive Shakespeare Birthplace Museum and Archives
Henley Street
- Met by the Director of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust,
Dr. Levi Fox
- Tour of the Museum and Archives
- 1115 Leave Shakespeare Birthplace Museum and Archives
- 1125 Arrive Mary Arden's House
Wilmcote, Warwickshire
- Tour of the House
- 1150 Leave Mary Arden's House
- 1200 Arrive Shakespeare Hotel
Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
- Private luncheon
David Garrick Suite
- 1330 Leave Shakespeare Hotel
- 1600 Arrive Hyde Park Hotel
(approx) *Knightsbridge, S.W.1*

TUESDAY, 24 JULY (Contd.)

- 1645 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1700 Arrive House of Commons
Members' Entrance
- Met by Chairman of the All-Party Mauritius Group,
Mr. Harry Greenway, M.P.
- Tour of the House of Commons
- 1740 Arrive Inter-Parliamentary Union Room
- Reception given by the South-North Business Forum
Hosts: The Earl of Limerick
and Mr. Nigel Forman, M.P.
- 1800 Meeting with the South-North Business Forum
to
1900 *Jubilee Room*
- 1900 Leave House of Commons
- 1915 Arrive at the hotel
- No official engagements

Continued on next page

WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY

(See page 12 for separate programme for Mrs. Sarojini Jugnauth)

- 1100 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1115 Arrive Westminster Abbey
Great West Door
- Met by the Dean of Westminster,
The Very Reverend Dr. Edward Carpenter
- The Prime Minister of Mauritius will lay a wreath on the Grave
of the Unknown Warrior
- Tour of Westminster Abbey
- 1155 Leave Westminster Abbey
- 1200 Arrive 10 Downing Street
- Talks with the Prime Minister,
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
- 1300 Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government
for Hosts: The Prime Minister,
1315 and Mr. Denis Thatcher
- 1440 Leave 10 Downing Street
(approx)
- 1445 Arrive Department of Trade and Industry
(approx) *1 Victoria Street, S.W.1*
- Talks with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry,
The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, M.P.
- 1515 Leave Department of Trade and Industry

Continued on next page

WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY (Contd.)

- 1530 hrs Arrive Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn
Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2
- Met by a Senior Benchler,
His Honour Edward Clarke
- 1630 Leave Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn
- 1645 Arrive at the hotel
- No official engagements

PROGRAMME FOR MRS. SAROJINI JUGNAUGH

WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY

1100 hrs Leave the hotel

1115 Arrive Westminster Abbey
Great West Door

*Met by the Dean of Westminster,
The Very Reverend Dr. Edward Carpenter*

*The Prime Minister of Mauritius will lay a wreath on the Grave
of the Unknown Warrior*

Tour of Westminster Abbey

1215 Leave Westminster Abbey

Sightseeing

1305 Arrive 10 Downing Street

1300 Luncheon with the Prime Minister,
for Hosts: The Prime Minister,
1315 and Mr. Denis Thatcher

1440 Leave 10 Downing Street
(approx)

1445 Arrive at the hotel

No official engagements

THURSDAY, 26 JULY

(See page 15 for separate programme for Mrs. Sarojini Jugnaugh)

1030 hrs Leave the hotel

1100 Arrive Tate and Lyle Thames Refinery
Factory Road, Silvertown, E.16

*Met by the Chairman, UK Division, Tate and Lyle PLC,
Mr. F. Thomlinson
the Managing Director, Tate and Lyle Thames Refinery,
Mr. A. M. Derde
and the Divisional Production Director, Tate and Lyle
Thames Refinery,
Mr. P. G. Nash*

Tour of Refinery and Presentation

1300 Luncheon given by Tate and Lyle PLC,
Host: The Chairman,
Mr. R. Haslam

1430 Leave Tate and Lyle Thames Refinery
(approx)

1500 Arrive at the hotel
(approx)

1610 Leave the hotel

1625 Arrive Overseas Development Administration
Eland House, Stag Place, S.W.1

1630 Call on the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development,
The Rt. Hon. Timothy Raison, M.P.

1700 Leave Overseas Development Administration

1715 Arrive at the hotel

Continued on next page

THURSDAY, 26 JULY (Contd.)

- 1925 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1930 Arrive Mauritius High Commission
32/33 Elvaston Place, S.W.7
- 1930 Reception given by His Excellency the High Commissioner for
to Mauritius and Mrs. Nath
2100
- 2100 Leave Mauritius High Commission
- 2105 Arrive at the hotel

PROGRAMME FOR MRS. SAROJINI JUGNAUTH

THURSDAY, 26 JULY

No official engagements during the day

Programme for the evening as for the Prime Minister

FRIDAY, 27 JULY

(See page 18 for separate programme for Mrs. Sarojini Jugnauth)

- 0830 hrs Leave the hotel
- 0900 Arrive H.M. Tower of London
West Gate
- Proceed to the Jewel House
- Met by the Resident Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House,
Major General A. P. W. MacLellan
- 0935 Visit the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula
- 0950 Refreshments with the Resident Governor and Keeper of
the Jewel House and Mrs. MacLellan
Historic Council Chamber, Queen's House
- 1010 Leave H.M. Tower of London
East Gate
- 1015 Arrive Tower Pier
- Board the 'ROYAL NORE' of the Port of London Authority
- Met by Captain Ian Slater of the Port of London Authority
- 1020 Depart Tower Pier and travel down river
- 1115 Arrive Barrier Garden Pier
- Met by Chairman, Thames Barrier and Associated Land
Drainage Sub-Committee,
Mr. A. F. G. Edwards
and Manager, Thames Barrier,
Mr. J. Houndslow
- 1120 Arrive Thames Barrier Centre
- Audio Visual Presentation

FRIDAY, 27 JULY (Contd.)

- 1200 hrs Leave Thames Barrier Centre
- 1205 Arrive Thames Barrier Site
- Visit Control Tower
- Visit Barrier Piers
- 1245 Leave Thames Barrier site by car
- 1300 Arrive Trafalgar Tavern
Park Row, S.E.10
- Private luncheon
- 1440 Leave Trafalgar Tavern
(approx)
- 1445 Arrive Greenwich Pier
(approx)
- Board the 'ROYAL NORE' and travel up river
- 1530 Arrive Westminster Pier
(approx)
- Depart by car
- Sightseeing
- 1600 Arrive British Council
10 Spring Gardens, S.W.1
- Talks with the Deputy Director General,
Mr. R. Cavaliero
- 1630 Leave British Council
- 1650 Arrive at the hotel
- End of Official Visit

Continued on next page

PROGRAMME FOR MRS. SAROJINI JUGNAUTH

FRIDAY, 27 JULY

Programme for the morning as for the Prime Minister

1300 hrs *Arrive Trafalgar Tavern
Park Row, S.E.10*

Private luncheon

1440 *Leave Trafalgar Tavern*
(approx)

1445 *Arrive Greenwich Pier*
(approx)

Board the 'ROYAL NORE' and travel up river

1530 *Arrive Westminster Pier*
(approx)

Depart by car

1545 *Arrive at the hotel*
(approx)

End of Official Visit

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Jugnauth will stay privately in the United Kingdom until departure on Monday, 30 July

DIRECTORY

<i>Government Hospitality</i> 2 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1	01-214 8674
<i>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</i> Protocol Department East African Department	01-273 3586 01-233 8696
<i>Mauritius High Commission</i> 32/33 Elvaston Place, S.W.7	01-581 0294-8
<i>London Heathrow Airport</i> Hillingdon Suite	01-745 4272
<i>Hyde Park Hotel</i> Knightsbridge, S.W.1	01-235 2000
<i>University Farm</i> Sonning, Berkshire	0734 693168
<i>University of Reading</i> Whiteknights Park, Reading	0734 875234
<i>Horticultural Station</i> Shinfield, Berkshire	0734 883135
<i>Welcombe Hotel</i> Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon	0789 295252
<i>Royal Shakespeare Theatre</i> Stratford-upon-Avon	0789 296655
<i>World of Shakespeare Audio Visual Centre</i> 13 Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon	0789 294466
<i>Shakespeare Birthplace Museum</i> Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon	0789 204016
<i>Mary Arden's House</i> Wilmcote, Warwickshire	0789 293455

Continued on next page

<i>Shakespeare Hotel</i> Chichester Street, Stratford-upon-Avon	0789 294771
<i>House of Commons</i>	01-219 3000
<i>Westminster Abbey</i>	01-222 5152
<i>10 Downing Street</i>	01-233 3000 and ask for 10 Downing Street
<i>Department of Trade and Industry</i> 1 Victoria Street, S.W.1	01-215 7877
<i>Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn</i> Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2	01-405 1393
<i>Tate and Lyle Thames Refinery</i> Factory Road, Silvertown, E.16	01-476 4455
<i>Overseas Development Administration</i> Eland House, Stag Place, S.W.1	01-213 3000
<i>H.M. Tower of London</i>	01-709 0765
<i>Tower Pier (Pier Master)</i>	01-481 3800
<i>Barrier Garden Pier (Pier Master)</i>	01-854 5555
<i>Thames Barrier Centre</i>	01-854 3980
<i>Thames Barrier Site</i>	01-858 4741
<i>Thames Barrier Control Tower</i>	01-853 4081
<i>Trafalgar Tavern</i> Park Row, S.E.10	01-858 2437
<i>Westminster Pier (Pier Master)</i>	01-930 8294
<i>British Council</i> 10 Spring Gardens, S.W.1	01-930 8466

NOTES

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be l.c. JP

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 July 1984

VISIT OF MR. JUGNAUTH: PRIME
MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

Thank you for your letter of 17 July about arrangements for the talks with the Prime Minister of Mauritius.

I agree that both Mr. Rifkind and Sir John Leahy should attend.

(C.D. POWELL)

C.R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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RESTRICTED



ccpc
SG
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 July 1984

Dear Charles,

Visit of Mr Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius
Talks with the Prime Minister at 1200 on Wednesday, 25 July

As you are aware, the Secretary of State is now planning to leave for Hong Kong on the morning of 25 July and therefore will not now be able to attend the Prime Minister's talks and lunch that day for the Prime Minister of Mauritius. Mr Rifkind will return from his visit to Ethiopia, Somalia and Seychelles on the morning of 25 July and it is hoped that he will be able to attend the talks and the lunch (without his wife) in place of the Secretary of State.

We think that it would be appropriate for Sir John Leahy also to attend the talks so that in the unlikely event of Mr Rifkind's not returning on time there would be a senior official present. (As you will be aware, Sir John and Lady Leahy are already invited to the Prime Minister's lunch.)

I would be grateful if you could tell me if these arrangements are acceptable.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C. R. Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

MR. POWELL

Yes
COP 577

CF file

Talks with the Prime Minister of Mauritius
Wednesday, 25 July

East African Department of the FCO have been on the 'phone about the talks. They say that the following members of the Mauritius suite are assuming that they will be attending the talks:

The Prime Minister

The Hon. Anil Kumarsingh Gayan Minister of External Affairs,
Tourism and Trade

Dr. The Hon. Beergoonath Ghurburrin Minister of Economic Planning
and Development

His Excellency the High Commissioner for Mauritius

Mr. Bhinod Bacha Permanent Secretary in the
Prime Minister's Office

May they confirm this?

Sue Goodchild

confirmed with FCO
5/27/84 SE.

5 July 1984

BF

FILE
da



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 April 1984

Prime Minister of Mauritius

Thank you for your letter of 3 April.

The Prime Minister could offer Mr. Jugnauth talks at 12 o'clock and lunch at 1 o'clock on Wednesday, 25 July.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR



10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

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Asc. $\frac{4}{4}$.

12-00 Talks
13-00 lunch
wednesday 25-
July. UK

4/4-



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 April 1984

John Bone

Official Visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius

Your letter of 21 February recorded the Prime Minister's agreement to our inviting the Prime Minister of Mauritius to visit Britain as a guest of the government. We have now consulted our High Commissioner in Port Louis to ask whether Mr Jugnauth would be free to undertake a visit in the latter half of July. We understand from Mr Allan that Mr Jugnauth would be free to accept any period in the last two weeks of July; but the week beginning 23 July is likely to be the most convenient to him. I should be grateful therefore to learn whether there is a day in this period on which the Prime Minister could, as proposed in your letter, offer Mr Jugnauth talks and lunch.

Yours sincerely
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Mauritius : Visits of the PM of Mauritius Jan '80

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 1AA



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 February 1984

Official Visit of Prime Minister
of Mauritius

Thank you for your letter of 17 February.

The Prime Minister agrees that Mr. Jugnauth should be invited to pay an official visit to Britain as guest of the Government. We should like to aim at suitable dates in July when the Prime Minister could offer talks and lunch.

A.J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sl



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

You could do talks and

London SW1A 2AH

level in July. Agree that

17 February 1984

Mr. Jugnauth should be invited

to pay an official visit there?

for John.

A. & C. 207/2.

Yes not

Official Visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius to the UK

We have been considering how we might best consolidate the pro-Western pragmatism of the present Mauritius Government and our own better bilateral relations with it since Mr Jugnauth decided to turn down, if not extinguish, the heat on his claim to Diego Garcia. The Secretary of State believes that one effective move we could make would be to invite Mr Jugnauth to pay an official visit to Britain as a guest of the Government. Mr Jugnauth's Deputy, Sir Gaetan Duval, has intimated that such an invitation would be greatly appreciated.

The last official visit by a Mauritian Prime Minister was by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (now Governor General) in August 1981. Mr Jugnauth became Prime Minister of an MMM (Mouvement Militant Mauricien) Government in June 1982, and in this capacity he called on the Prime Minister in London on 11 October 1982. Following a Cabinet split in March last year, Mr Jugnauth formed a new party (Mouvement Socialiste Mauricien) and, in alliance with the Labour Party and Social Democrats, won a convincing victory in new elections held in August.

The new government have shown themselves to be pro-Western, and moderate in the manner in which they have pursued their claim to the British Indian Ocean Territory. They could exercise a moderating influence on other governments in the Indian Ocean, notably the Seychelles, which has at times been more exposed to Soviet influence. Notwithstanding underlying communal rivalries, the democratic manner in which Mauritius has accomplished two dramatic changes of political power has been exemplary. The Government are following orthodox economic policies and have given precedence to economic realities rather than political aspirations. We are trying to capitalise on this change of emphasis. When

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



Mr Alex Fletcher visited Mauritius last September he concluded an agreement to provide a line of mixed credit worth £12.3 million (£3.0 million ATP) to be spent on British exports over the next three years. Plessey still expect to win a sizeable portion of the Plaisance Airport contract (with a UK content value of up to £17.6 million). Mr Rifkind hopes to visit Mauritius in the late spring.

Although Mauritius has considerable economic problems, mainly on account of the poor price for sugar on the world market, she is protected to some extent by her substantial EC quota under the Lome agreements (we import the bulk of this). We do not believe that the proposed visit will give rise to significant pressure for an increase in British aid, which currently runs at around £2 million per year.

Sir Geoffrey Howe hopes that, if the Prime Minister agrees in principle to the issue of an invitation, the visit might take place before the summer holidays, with the exact date to be worked out in the light of the Prime Minister's and Mr Jugnauth's existing commitments.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

File

089
Mauritius

7 December 1982

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your letter of 3 December in which you explain that it is not the case that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a £10 million fund for overseas students.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

[Handwritten signature]

Prime Minister



I thought it best to get
this cleared up.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Neither the F./C.O. nor any other
dept. now has a £10m. fund
for overseas students.

3 December 1982

A.S.C. 5/12

Dear John,

Overseas Students

In your letter of 26 November, you told us that the Prime Minister had again referred to a £10 million fund held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for overseas students. We have considered a number of possible sources which might have given rise to the impression that such a fund existed. I do not think I can do better than set these out.

The brief on overseas students' fees prepared for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne in 1981 said in paragraph 10 that 'Resultant saving [from the withdrawal of the subsidy on overseas students' fees] of some £90 million a year out of the original subsidy in excess of £100 million is part of overall government financial policy'. This could be interpreted as leaving a subsidy of £10 million for overseas students but in fact this balance was already fully committed for the concession to students from European Community countries and launching the Overseas Research Students Fee Support Scheme (ORSFSS). (The cost of the concession alone now amounts to over £14 m).

Earlier in the brief (paragraph 6) it was stated that assistance to overseas students was 'extended via the Aid Programme, British Council scholarships and the Department of Education and Science's bursary scheme for postgraduate students ... By 1982 - 83 it will cover some 1,500 students at an annual cost of some £3 million. Earlier this year, £6 million of aid money was reallocated to restore the number of new awards in 1981-82 under government to government programmes to approximately the levels of the peak year 1978 - 79'.

This paragraph may have suggested that around £10 million was available for overseas students but the £6 million was a one-off allocation of additional aid funds to training programmes (Roger Bone's letter of 26 October).

Another possibility is the new programme of bursaries for overseas students generally launched earlier this year by Cambridge University. Recently, we learnt that the University itself has £10 million of which the income could be used for overseas students. Mr Callaghan and Lord Carrington are among the sponsors of this Cambridge University initiative and may have mentioned it to the Prime Minister.

/You will



You will see that we have not been able to identify a simple explanation of how the Prime Minister came to think that a £10 million fund for overseas students was available. No such fund exists at present. We have confirmed this with DES and ODA.

*Yours ever
for Holmes*

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



Mauritius

HL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 November 1982

Overseas Students

The Prime Minister has recently referred again to her understanding that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has available a £10 million fund for overseas students. You may recall that she also referred to this fund in her recent conversation with the Prime Minister of Mauritius (see Roger Bone's letter of 26 October).

It would be helpful if you could let me know the precise facts. The letter from Roger Bone suggests that the sum in question was available only in the financial year 1981/82 and that there is no money for this financial year. Is this interpretation correct?

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mauritius

HL

28 October 1982

Visit by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your letter of 26 October about the question of scholarships for Mauritius students in this country.

JOHN COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1982

See below

Visit by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

In your letter of 11 October you asked us to follow up two points arising from the Prime Minister's conversation with Mr Jugnauth. The question of the Ilois claims has been followed up separately. I am sorry that we have been a little slower in responding to the question about scholarships in this country.

The number of training awards offered to Mauritius under our government to government aid programmes varies from year to year depending on the money available within the country programme, and the demands on it by 'continuers', that is existing award-holders who continue on to second or later years of courses. The awards also vary in value according to the length of the courses they cover. The 1982-83 allocation of £200,000 enabled 34 new awards to be offered to Mauritius; there were three continuers. For 1983-84 a sum of £225,000 has been earmarked for Mauritius which should enable 25 new awards to be offered. In addition the British Council, who administer the ODA training programme, offer Mauritius one scholarship from their own resources (the funds have stretched to two scholarships in 1981-82 and 1982-83).

When the Prime Minister mentioned to Mr Jugnauth a £10 million fund for overseas students she perhaps had in mind the additional aid funds (rather less than £10 million in fact) which were allocated to training programmes in 1981-82 and which were intended to restore the numbers of new awards for that year under certain schemes to approximately the levels of 1978 and 1979. Mauritius did not, in the event, draw from these extra funds. This was because the Mauritian Government were slow in taking up all the 33 awards which had been offered to them in 1981-82 under the existing allocation. Indeed, at the end of that financial year, the programme was £10,000 underspent.

I should perhaps add that Mr Jugnauth may have been referring to difficulties faced by undergraduate students from overseas, to whom of course these training awards under government to government aid programmes do not apply.

See below

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Mauritius *DSS*

File

Mauritius

19 October 1982

MAURITIUS: DIEGO GARCIA AND THE ILOIS

Thank you for your letter of 18 October.

The Prime Minister agrees that we should now proceed to conclude the Agreement relating to the Ilois.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

U



Prime Minister

Pl. see also the attached
telegram.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 October 1982

Do you agree, especially in view of
(c) below that we should now
include the agreement on the Ilois?

Yes

A.J.C. 18/10

Yes

Mauritius: Diego Garcia and the Ilois

The Prime Minister's message of 14 October to Mr Jugnauth allowed for the possibility of holding up implementation of the Ilois Agreement, should Mr Jugnauth have spoken in unacceptable terms about Diego Garcia when he addressed the UN General Assembly on 15 October.

UKMis telegram 1662, which you have seen, contained the relevant passage from Jugnauth's speech. In our view these remarks, though colourful, do not justify holding matters up:

- a. Jugnauth said nothing at all about the Ilois; and it is the invidious comparisons between them and the Falkland Islanders which have attracted interest at the Assembly. It would have been perfectly possible for Jugnauth to have sought Latin American support for his views on the Indian Ocean by drawing attention to the plight of the Ilois. It is helpful that he remained silent;
- b. his claim to Diego Garcia is not new, and it was to be expected that Jugnauth should state it in his speech. But he said nothing about the timing of its return. The most critical element in his remarks - the allegation that Diego Garcia has become a 'horrendous nuclear base' - is by implication directed at the United States rather than ourselves;
- c. most important, our main objective in hastening implementation of the Ilois Agreement is not to help Jugnauth, but to get the issue out of the way without further incidents in Mauritius which would attract fresh attention to the plight of these people, with consequent repercussions both here and, perhaps, in New York.

I should be grateful for your confirmation that we may now go ahead with the Agreement, which we would hope to conclude within the next few days.

Yes

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

GRS..640

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FM U K MISSION NEW YORK 152245Z OCT'82

TO IMMEDIATE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELEGRAM NO. 1662 OF 15 OCTOBER 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE PORT LOUIS

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON

MIPT : UNGA 37 : GENERAL DEBATE : STATEMENT BY THE PRIME
MINISTER OF MAURITIUS.

1. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT ON DIEGO GARCIA FROM JUGNAUTH'S STATEMENT:

BEGINS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS, IN ITS PURSUIT OF ITS POLICY OF STRICT NON-ALIGNMENT AND IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE, WILL WORK ALONG WITH OTHER PEACE-LOVING MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR THE DEMILITARISATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. DURING THE YEARS WHICH HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION, WE HAVE WITNESSED THE EXPANSION OF THE OCEAN'S GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSIONS AND THE CONVERSION OF THIS INTENDED ZONE OF PEACE INTO A ZONE OF WAR AND MOBILISATION FOR WAR, WITH ALL THE ATTENDANT DANGERS FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. THE OCEAN HAS GRADUALLY EXPANDED BEYOND ITS OWN WATERS. IT IS NOW LINKED TO THE STATES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA, TO DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SO-CALLED MODEST COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IN DIEGO GARCIA HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO THE FORMIDABLE AND HORRENDOUS NUCLEAR BASE WHICH THREATENS THE SECURITY OF ALL INDIAN OCEAN STATES, AND THERE HAS BEEN A SCRAMBLE FOR THE SECURING OF PORT FACILITIES ALONG THE SO-CALLED 'ARC OF CRISIS', THAT IS THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND THE SAUDI ARABIAN PENINSULAR AND THE VITAL AREA OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

WITH THE ALARMING INCREASE OF FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS RECEDED THE FERVENT HOPE OF THE STATES OF THE REGION TO SEE THE HOLDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. MAURITIUS AND THE OTHER STATES OF THE REGION ARE NOT HOODWINKED BY THE TACTICS AND PLOYS ADOPTED BY SOME STATES AND DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO CAUSE CONFUSION AND TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY THE HOLDING OF SUCH CONFERENCE, THUS CREATING A PROPITIOUS SMOKESCREEN TO HIDE THEIR WARLIKE DESIGNS. WE SOLEMNLY APPEAL TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SO THAT THE CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, AND WE ALSO CALL UPON THE FOREIGN MILITARY POWERS PRESENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN TO EXERCISE MUTUAL RESTRAINT AND TO INITIATE A GRADUAL AND BALANCED WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES FROM THE REGION WHICH WOULD THEN BE OPEN EXCLUSIVELY TO COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION. IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT THE SECURITY OF THE SEA LANES IN THE OCEAN WILL BEST BE PROTECTED BY THE STATES OF THE REGION.

/AT

AT THIS JUNCTION I WOULD LIKE, MR PRESIDENT, TO DWELL ON AN ISSUE WHICH AFFECTS THE VITAL INTERESTS OF MAURITIUS, I MEAN THE MAURITIAN CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, WHICH WAS EXCISED BY THE THEN COLONIAL POWER FROM THE TERRITORY OF MAURITIUS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 1514 AND 2066. THIS DISMEMBERMENT OF THE MAURITIUS TERRITORY, THE VIOLATION OF OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, HAS BEEN MADE ALL THE MORE UNACCEPTABLE BY THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE ISLANDS OF THIS VERY ARCHIPELAGO, DIEGO GARCIA, IS NOW A FULL-FLEDGED NUCLEAR BASE WHICH POSES A CONSTANT THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF MAURITIUS AND OF ALL THE LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE VERY OCEAN DECLARED TO A ZONE OF PEACE BY THIS ASSEMBLY IN 1971.

I SOLEMNLY APPEAL TO THE PEACE-LOVING MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANISATION TO EXTEND ALL THEIR SUPPORT TO THE LEGITIMATE MAURITIAN CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. IN HELPING MAURITIUS TO COME INTO ITS NATIONAL HERITAGE, THE UNITED NATIONS WILL BE LIVING UP TO ITS OWN PRINCIPLES AND PROCLAIMING LOUD AND CLEAR THAT IT EXPECTS ITS RESOLUTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY ITS MEMBERS. AS THE DIEGO ISSUE INVOLVED TWO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NAMELY RESPECT BY THE ADMINISTERING POWER OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ITS COLONY AND THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY. I VENTURE TO SAY THAT THE RETURN OF THE ARCHIPELAGO TO MAURITIUS WILL BRING TO THE ORGANISATION THE RESPECT SO INDISPENSABLE TO ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

ENDS.

THOMSON
MINIMAL
EAD
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- 2 -

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 194/82

CONFIDENTIAL

GR 270

CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 160800Z
FM UKMIS NEW YORK 152215Z OCT 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1656 OF 15 OCTOBER 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE PORT LOUIS.

pl. master set
ops.

YOUR TELNO 862: PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

1. THE MAURITIAN MISSION TELEPHONED THIS EVENING (15 OCTOBER) TO SAY THAT JUGNAUTH WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE NEW YORK FOR LONDON, AND WISHED TO SEND THE FOLLOWING REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE:

BEGINS

I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED TO RECEIVED YOUR KIND MESSAGE AND WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR HAVING RECEIVED ME AND FOR INFORMING ME THAT YOU ARE LOOKING INTO THE VARIOUS POINTS WHICH I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF RAISING WITH YOU.

I ALSO WISH TO THANK YOU FOR HAVING GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION TO THE ILOIS CASE AND TO ADVISE YOU THAT MY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WILL EXCHANGE LETTERS AS PROPOSED. FINALLY, MAY I ASSURE YOU ALSO OF YOUR HONEST DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WITH BEST WISHES,
ANEEROOD JUGNAUTH

ENDS

2. AS REPORTED SEPARATELY, JUGNAUTH SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE ILOIS IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THOMSON

LIMITED
EAD
FIN. D.
LEGAL ADVISERS
PS
PS/ MR HARTEN
PS/ MR ONSLOW
SIR J LEAHY
MR SQUIRE

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EWAD/ODA
MR BEASTEL TREASURY

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NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CONFIDENTIAL



FILE

Mauritius

RWJ

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 October, 1982

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF

MAURITIUS

Thank you for your letter of 14 October. As I told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister agrees that the proposed message to Mr Jugnauth should be despatched, subject to the following amendments:-

- (a) line 21 - substitute "could" for "will".
- (b) line 2 on the second page - substitute "would" for "will". and insert "possibly" before "on 20 October".

The Prime Minister has made these changes because in her view our willingness to help Mr Jugnauth must depend to some extent on the nature of his speech to the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow.

A. L. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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SW

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister
You may like to make your message more conditional in case he makes an unhelpful speech in the U.S. tomorrow. → Yes

14 October 1982

John Stan Agree to despatch as amended?
A.F.C. ⁴⁴/₁₀. Yes

Visit by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

In your letter of 11 October enclosing the record of the Prime Minister's discussion with Mr Jugnauth you reported the Prime Minister's undertaking to attempt to resolve the delay in paying the sum due under the Ilois Agreement.

The Agreement with Mauritius stipulated that an interval of 28 days should elapse between the time each government has informed the other that its internal procedures (to make good its commitments) have been completed and entry into force of the agreement. It would obviously be imprudent to pay over the £4m before the agreement comes into force. We are therefore proposing an amendment to the relevant Article of the agreement, eliminating the 28 day delay. The only remaining constraint will then be the need to inform Parliament first that we are implementing the agreement and drawing on the Contingencies Fund for the £4 million payment. This will be done by means of an arranged Written Question, which will be answered on 19 October. The way will then be clear to bring the agreement into force by an exchange of letters on 20 October.

We believe that this procedure will meet Mr Jugnauth's political requirement. In doing so we risk giving some offence to Parliament here. First, because in not laying this Agreement before the House prior to implementation we shall be conforming to the letter rather than the spirit of the Ponsonby rule. Second, because Mr Jugnauth may, despite his assurance to our High Commissioner that his General Assembly speech would not be 'fiery', refer to Diego Garcia and the Ilois in terms that give comfort to Argentina. Mr Pym believes that these risks should be accepted, but considers that the second of them would be reduced if the Prime Minister were to send a personal message to Mr Jugnauth on the lines of the attached draft. This needs to be despatched before close of play on 14 October if we are to be certain of it reaching Mr Jugnauth before he addresses the General Assembly on 15 October.

Yours ever,
Robert Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	AND REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO IMMEDIATE PORT LOUIS
	10	1. Please transmit following message from the Prime Minister to
	11	the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr Jugnauth, as soon as possible,
	12	and in any case before he addresses the Assembly on 15 October.
	13	BEGINS: 'I much appreciated the opportunity of meeting you again and
	14	hearing from you of your government's desire to strengthen the
	15	already cordial relations between our two countries. We warmly
	16	reciprocate that wish and are looking into the various points
	17	which you raised.
	18	Immediately, I undertook to let you know what we could do to
	19	bring our agreement concerning the Ilois into effect without
	20	further delay. I am glad to say that we can do this as soon
	21	as we have informed Parliament here, a step which we ^{would} will take
///	22	on 19 October, immediately after its reassembly. In the meanwhile
//	23	we have instructed Mr Allan, our High Commissioner in Port Louis,
/	24	to propose to Mr de L'Estrac an exchange of notes which would
	25	amend the agreement by removing the twenty-eight day provision.

NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword This
File number	Dept PRIVATE OFFICE	Distribution EAD FINANCE DEPT LEGAL ADVISERS EWAD/ODA	
Drafted by (Block capitals) R B BONE		CC: PS PS/MR ONSLOW SIR J LEAHY MR SQUIRE MR BEASTEL, TREASURY PS/MR MARTEN	
Telephone number			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	↓	Classification and Caveats	Page
		CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE 2.

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<<<< *would*
This ~~will~~ clear the way for a further exchange, *possibly* on 20 October,
bringing the agreement into effect at once, including the
payment of £4 million to your government for the Ilois
Trust Fund.

With best wishes' ENDS

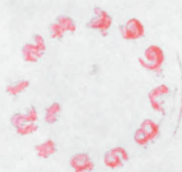
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14 OCT 1951





Mauritius file IMP

Bf 15/10/82

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 October 1982

Dear Roger,

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

Mr. Jugnauth called on the Prime Minister today. I enclose a copy of the record of conversation.

Two points need to be followed up:

(a) The Prime Minister would like to know how many scholarships are provided for Mauritius each year. She mentioned to Mr. Jugnauth that there is a £10 million fund for students who wish to come to this country, but she was not sure to what extent Mauritius benefited from this money.

(b) Mrs. Thatcher undertook that before Mr. Jugnauth left for New York, or at the latest before he returned to Mauritius on 18 October, we would attempt to resolve the delay in the final payment of the due sum in full settlement of the Ilois claims.

Yours ever
John Gles.

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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SUBJECT ce Hastes

RECORD OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS AT 1515 HOURS ON MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER, 1982 AT NO. 10 DOWNING STREET.

PRESENT

Prime Minister
Mr. Squire
Mr. Coles

Mr. Jugnauth
Mr. Bacha
Mr. Joypaul

* * * * *

The Prime Minister observed that Mr. Jugnauth had, like she herself, studied at Lincolns Inn and been called to the Bar in 1954. She offered congratulations on his success in the recent Elections. Mr. Jugnauth recalled his last meeting with Mrs. Thatcher in 1977 when they were both in Opposition.

The Prime Minister enquired about the situation in Mauritius. Mr. Jugnauth said that his Government faced awkward problems because it was difficult to satisfy expectations aroused by his election victory. The two main problems were the shortage of foreign exchange and unemployment. Inflation had exceeded 30% owing to two devaluations, but was now down to 14% and, he hoped, would decrease further. The Government was trying to balance its economic programmes but the measures he was obliged to take were making him unpopular.

there had been a change of

This was the first time / government in Mauritius. Much propaganda had been directed against ^{government} his / but they were committed to democracy. The constitution had been amended to provide that elections could be postponed only after a two-thirds majority had supported the proposition in a referendum and Parliament unanimously confirmed it. By-elections, which had been abolished in 1969, had been reintroduced. The long campaign leading to the last elections had been bad for foreign investment and for local confidence. Unemployment had risen and foreign debt was very high. Oil imports placed a particular burden on the balance of payments.

/He wished

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He wished to appeal to the Prime Minister that the United Kingdom should maintain its support for the sugar regime contained in the Lomé Convention. The Prime Minister noted that at least 80% of the sugar-cane exported by Mauritius came to the United Kingdom. Mr. Joypaul observed that these exports also resulted in the provision of jobs in the United Kingdom. The link thus made for a happy partnership. Mr. Squire commented that it would be easier to maintain support for this trade if we could point to opportunities available in Mauritius to our industry, in particular in the form of contracts.

Mr. Jugnauth said that his Government was already providing incentives for foreign investors, particularly in the field of tourism. He was trying to diversify agriculture and reduce agricultural imports. He very much hoped that he would have British support, as in the past, at next year's meeting of the consultative group/aid donors. In the past, we had provided a loan of £1 million for structural adjustment in support of an IMF programme. He hoped we would double this sum next time. Mr. Squire pointed out that, while we tried to give priority to countries which follow IMF programmes, there was very little leeway in our aid budget.

The Prime Minister asked whether Mauritius was in fact able to use the aid money it received. Mr. Jugnauth recalled that we had made £5 million available under the UK/Mauritius No. VI Loan. His government now wish to negotiate a seventh loan and hoped we would consider lending £6 million this time. This could benefit UK industry, in particular with regard to such projects as the one for the extension of the airport. The Prime Minister said that she knew Plessey were interested in the airport extension project. Mr. Squire said that they had recently been informed that they had no chance. Should Plessey in fact send a team out to Mauritius? Mr. Jugnauth promised to provide an answer on this point.

Mr. Jugnauth then said that the relationship between Britain and Mauritius was of long standing. He wished to preserve it. There was only one thorn in our relationship, namely Diego Garcia.

CONFIDENTIAL /The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister said that it would be best to set that matter aside. The fact was that we had sovereignty in Diego Garcia. It was vital for the defence of the Indian Ocean. She had hoped that the financial arrangements meant this question could be set aside for a considerable time. She had noted the tendency of some to condemn colonialism in order to become new imperial powers themselves.

Mr. Jugnauth said that there was a feeling that the UK was losing interest in Mauritius. The closing of the British Council had been particularly regrettable. The Prime Minister said that the fact that we took 80% of the sugar exports of Mauritius showed clearly that we were not losing interest. We could fill the quota over and over again from African and Caribbean suppliers. In response to a question, Mr. Squire confirmed that a British Council Library had been kept going in Mauritius with local staff. Mr. Joypaul said that Sir Antony Acland had stated that if more money were forthcoming from the Treasury we might be able to reconsider British Council activities in Mauritius.

Mr. Jugnauth said that the fees we were now charging for students created great difficulty. The Prime Minister observed that there was a fund of some £10 million to help students from poorer countries. But she understood Mr. Jugnauth's concern. The British Council was an excellent organisation. She asked to be informed after the meeting how many scholarships were provided for Mauritius. In answer to a question from the Prime Minister, Mr. Jugnauth said that his daughter had now returned to Mauritius from Cambridge but his son was studying at Buckingham.

The Prime Minister asked how many students from Mauritius studied abroad. Mr. Jugnauth replied that about 1,000 went abroad for study each year. The Prime Minister expressed some surprise - what jobs would they secure when they returned? Mr. Jugnauth said that not all of them would return. In any case, he could not prevent them from studying abroad.

Following a general discussion of economic policy, the Prime Minister enquired when Mr. Jugnauth would be speaking in the United Nations. Mr. Jugnauth said that he planned to speak

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

on 15 October.

Mr. Jugnauth said that he wished to raise the question of compensation for the Ilois. The legal case which had been an impediment had now been withdrawn. There ought now to be an exchange of letters between our two Governments. The Ilois were getting very impatient. He hoped the payment could be made as soon as possible. After some discussion of the technical difficulty which was still outstanding, the Prime Minister said that we would attempt to get a favourable message to Mr. Jugnauth before he left for New York, or at latest before he returned to Mauritius on 18 October.

The discussion concluded at 1545.

A.J.C.

11 October 1982

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

I did not want to bother
you in haste about this.

As you had agreed to see him
earlier, and the visit was then
postponed, I said you would see
him this time.

A. S. C. $\frac{8}{10}$



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October, 1982

Dear Eden

Visit by Prime Minister of Mauritius

I understand that the Prime Minister has agreed to see the Prime Minister of Mauritius, as proposed in my letter of 6 October, at 3.15 pm on Monday 11 October.

/ I now enclose a brief for Mr Jugnauth's call. The Mauritius High Commission have told us that Mr Jugnauth will be accompanied by Mr B Bacha, the Permanent Secretary and probably Mr V Joypaul, the Acting High Commissioner.

Yours sincerely
C. P. Greenwood

(C P Greenwood)
Assistant Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street



CALL BY MR ANEEROOD JUGNAUTH QC, MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER,
15.15 3 AUGUST 1982

POINTS TO MAKE

Internal

1. Congratulations on remarkable electoral victory. Impressive display of democracy at work.

External

2. Respect Mauritian views on non-alignment and demilitarisation of Indian Ocean. Peace and stability in area our concern also. Threat to area does not come from Diego Garcia.

Anglo/Mauritius Relations

3. Look forward to strengthening traditional ties. Pleased Foreign Secretary met Mr de l'Estrac in July and Mr Onslow met Mr Berenger last month. Fully aware of the importance of Britain as an outlet for Mauritius sugar.

Ilois Settlement

4. Gratified agreement reached on this long-standing question. Trust satisfactory resettlement arrangements can be worked out.

Mauritius Claim to Sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago (if raised)

5. The position is clear: we have sovereignty over these Islands. We have undertaken to cede them to Mauritius when no longer needed for defence purposes.

The Republic Question (if raised)

6. Mauritius' constitutional development is for Mauritius to decide. Any change need not affect bilateral relations.

Fishing Rights: Chagos Archipelago (if raised)

7. Mauritius fishermen have traditional fishing rights in Chagos waters.

Further Aid (if raised)

8. We shall certainly accept invitation to attend Consultative Group. Cannot say now whether we can offer new aid but will consider Mauritius' needs carefully. Understand Plaisance airport has high priority, with Plessey in the running.



Plaisance Airport Project

9. Understand that Plesseys may not now get any part of this project. If true, very disappointed. The Company have done excellent work of this kind, for example in Francophone West Africa; and financial terms are still negotiable.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

8 October 1982



CALL BY MR ANEEROOD JUGNAUTH QC, MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER
15.15 HRS 8 OCTOBER 1982

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Internal

1. At General Election in June, a coalition of left-wing opposition parties (Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) and Parti Socialiste Mauricien (PSM)) came to power for the first time with landslide victory. They have quickly trimmed radical intentions to economic reality. First instance in history of post-colonial Africa of opposition winning power through ballot box.

Economy

2. In severe difficulties, with high rates of inflation and unemployment (both over 25%); low prices in vital sugar industry; acute balance of payments problem; and debt servicing now absorbing 45% of recurrent revenue. Britain (viz Tate and Lyle) takes nearly all Mauritius raw sugar production under Lomé arrangements. Financial assistance from the IMF, European Development Fund, World Bank and Western countries, notably France, remains crucial to surmount economic crisis. Aware of this the government have postponed plans to nationalise 2 (out of 20) sugar estates, ^{to} cut off commercial links with South Africa; and have introduced orthodox austerity budget.

UK Aid

3. Mr Jugnauth may ask for new £6m project loan and £2m programme aid. Aid presently allocated to Mauritius is:

<u>1982/83</u>	1983/84	1985/85
£1.9m	£1.7m	£1.8m

These sums would cover until exhaustion of existing (No 6 1977) project loan, and leave little room for fresh programme aid offer. Proposal for extra funds in 1983/84 under consideration but financial constraints may preclude.

/Foreign Policy



Foreign Policy

4. According to their manifesto, new government intends to follow strictly non-aligned policy and to support Third World interests. Centrepiece the demilitarisation of Indian Ocean and return to Mauritius of Chagos Archipelago (Diego Garcia). Priority for relationships with India and France.

Anglo/Mauritian Relations

5. Incoming Mauritius Ministers have made warm references to close relations with Britain. New Mauritius Foreign Minister, Mr Jean-Claude de l'Estrac, paid a courtesy call on, and was given lunch by Mr Pym on 21 July. New Finance Minister, Mr Paul Berenger called on Mr Onslow on 1 September. His half promise of a share for Plessey in Plaisance (main airport) extension under threat from French interests.

6. Our interests in Mauritius principally political and strategic; to limit opportunities for Soviet influence in area. Over recent years Britain has provided Mauritius with £15m worth of development aid (three loans of £5m). Exports to Mauritius totalled £25m in 1980, imports (mainly sugar) some £145m. Overseas students fees caused very strong reactions in Mauritius: but main political irritant in our relations is Diego Garcia. Nothing heard since elections of MMM's commitment to move to Republican status within Commonwealth.

Diego Garcia

7. Mauritius publicly hostile to military use of Diego Garcia, main island in the British Indian Ocean Territory. Claims sovereignty over Islands, asserting that detachment of Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 was illegal. We expect Mauritius to pursue the issue in international fora, when they will be supported by non-aligned, notably India. Mr Jugnauth has recently told our High Commissioner (on 6 October) that he did not see the issue of Diego Garcia as interfering with the very good relations Mauritius wished to maintain with the UK. We can make some allowances for effervescence of an inexperienced administration; but, with settlement of Ilois issue



(para 9) can bring home to Mauritius that good relations must include responsible public utterances.

8. British sovereignty beyond doubt. Sovereignty over Mauritius, Seychelles and Chagos Islands transferred from France to Britain under 1814 Treaty of Paris. Chagos Islands, although 1400 miles from Mauritius, administered for reasons of convenience as Lesser Dependencies of Mauritius. In 1965, detached, with agreement of Mauritius Council of Ministers (including Jugnauth), to form part of British Indian Ocean Territory. In return British government paid compensation of £3m. British government also agreed that:

- (a) in event of Chagos Islands no longer being required for defence purposes, they should be ceded to Mauritius;
- (b) Mauritius fishermen could continue to exercise traditional fishing rights in Chagos area.

Prime Minister confirmed (a) in Answer to Parliamentary Question on 11 July 1980 (Hansard extract attached).

The Ilois Agreement

9. Ilois - former inhabitants of Diego Garcia - resettled in Mauritius to make way for American defence facility. Although we paid Mauritius government £650,000 in 1972, negotiations on further financial assistance resumed in 1975 in face of court action brought by one of the Ilois (Vencatessen). In March 1982 agreement reached whereby we will make an ex-gratia payment of £4m in full and final settlement of Ilois claims. Mauritius government will make available to Ilois land to value of £1m. Ilois are now demonstrating in Port Louis for immediate implementation. Last Mauritian impediment (Vencatessen case) removed on 8 October. Payment should therefore be made in next few days. (Not to be revealed). Treasury authority still awaited to pay from the Contingencies Fund on grounds of urgency, rather than wait for approval from the Winter Supplementary vote.



Plaisance Airport Project

10. The Mauritius Government is committed to major improvements to the existing international airport at Plaisance. The work includes:

- (a) runway resurfacing;
- (b) control tower improvements
- (c) preparation of detailed master plan
- (d) equipment.

Plesseys are interested, particularly in (b) and (d). In discussions with the firm and with Mr Onslow in early September, Mr Berenger, Mauritius Minister of Finance, came close to promising Plessey a share in the work. We have just learned from Mr Berenger that Mr Jugnauth decided at about the same time (in Mr Berenger's absence from Port Louis) to give the whole job to the French.

11. Plessey's team were due to leave next week for detailed discussions in Mauritius including discussion of possible financial terms. ODA and DOT are ready to contemplate use of ATP provision in order to secure the business.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

8 October 1982

Diego Garcia **Hansard 11-7-80**

Mr. Newens asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement on the talks she has had with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, and what references were made to the future of Diego Garcia during the course of these.

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Vol 988

The Prime Minister : I had a useful exchange of views on 7 July with the Prime Minister of Mauritius on political, economic and cultural matters. Diego Garcia was one of the subjects discussed. When the Mauritius Council of Ministers agreed in 1965 to the detachment of the Chagos Islands to form part of British Indian Ocean territory, it was announced that these would be available for the construction of defence facilities and that, in the event of the islands no longer being required for defence purposes, they should revert to Mauritius. This remains the policy of Her Majesty's Government.



MR ANEEROOD JUGNAUTH QC

Member of the Legislative Assembly for Pitou-Rivière.
President of the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM),
the dominant partner in the ruling coalition.

Appointed Prime Minister in June 1982. Served under
Ramgoolam before Independence.

Born 1929. Hindu. (Hindus are in a majority in
Mauritius). Lawyer (he studied at Lincoln's Inn). He
is married, with a daughter who studied Biochemistry at
Cambridge and a son who is studying law at Buckingham.

At first sight, a rather shy and retiring figure whose
impassive exterior probably conceals an emotional and
touchy character. Less able than Paul Berenger, his
Finance Minister and strategist of the MMM, and somewhat
resentful of this fact. Well disposed towards Britain.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 October 1982

Prime Minister

do you want to see him - at
1515 on Sunday, 11 October?

How soon.

Visit by Prime Minister of Mauritius

A.S.C. 6/10

We have just learned from our High Commission in Port Louis that the Prime Minister of Mauritius will be in London on 11 and 12 October on his way to the UNGA, which he will address on 15 October. I attach a copy of his CV.

Mr Pym recommends that the Prime Minister should offer to see him, if only briefly. It will be Mr Jugnauth's second visit to this country since coming to power last June. The Prime Minister had agreed to see him during his first visit in early August but a last-minute postponement of it until later in the month resulted in his not being seen by any Minister.

The new government's policies are leftist. In external affairs they have declared their intention to follow a strictly non-aligned course and pledged solidarity with the Third World. Their initial pronouncements have been moderate. Their economic policies so far are sober and responsible. The Foreign Minister was in London in July and when he saw the Secretary of State he made clear Mauritius' wish to strengthen traditional good relations with Britain.

At the same time the new government are making a song and dance about their claim to sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (including Diego Garcia), which they claim was wrongly detached from Mauritius before independence. They have amended their constitution to include the Territory as part of Mauritius, and have declared their intention to launch a diplomatic campaign in various international fora for its recovery. The Secretary of State made our position clear to the Mauritian Foreign Minister, and it would be a good thing if Mr Jugnauth could personally be confronted with the same message before his appearance at the UNGA where he is expected to give prominence to this issue.

See brief attached.
A.S.C.

Your ever
Dexter Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



MR ANEEROOD JUGNAUTH, QC

Member of the Legislative Assembly for Piton-Rivière.
President of the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM),
the dominant partner in the ruling coalition.
Appointed Prime Minister in June 1982.

Born 1929. Hindu. Lawyer. Married, with a daughter
who was at Cambridge and a son at present studying
law at the University College at Buckingham.

Former Magistrate and Crown Counsel. Minister of
Labour 1965 - 67. Took part in London Constitutional
Conference 1965. Joined MMM 1971.

He is a quiet man of moderate ability. Well disposed
towards Britain.

Mauritius



10 DOWNING STREET

Note for the file:

re Pym's office

telephoned to say that the PM
of Mauritius was not, after all, coming.

The meeting on 3/8/82 is therefore
cancelled.

D.J.T. Collins

Duty clerk

2/8/82

8-1

be, Cardine

RF

29 July 1982

VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

Thank you for your letter of 27 July. As I told you on the telephone today, the Prime Minister will not be able to give lunch for Mr. Jugnauth on 3 August but would be able to receive him for talks at 1100 on that day. I should be grateful if you could let me have a brief as early as possible on 2 August.

A. J. COLES

F.N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

8



11.50 on 3

August

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Navitins Prime Minister

August 3 is the day of Clive's
Brewell lunch.

2. The arguments for and against seeing this man are finely balanced. His government is vociferously claiming Diego Garcia and will probably go on doing so whatever we say.

3. but he is head of a Commonwealth Government and some frank speaking about Diego Garcia would do us harm.

4. Agree to talks for 45 minutes
— but regret inability to give lunch if
his - would rather put it
over ~~top~~ A.S.C. 27.
much - not

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CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 July, 1982

Dear John,

Visit by Prime Minister of Mauritius

We have just learned that the new Prime Minister of Mauritius is passing through London at the beginning of August on his way to the OAU Summit in Tripoli. His office have indicated that he would be available for talks on 3 August. I attach a copy of his CV. It would be helpful if the Prime Minister could offer to see him for a short talk and, if at all possible, host a lunch in his honour. It is his first visit to this country since coming to power after winning an overwhelming victory in the June election over the moderate government of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

The new government's policies are leftish, in external affairs they have declared their intention to follow a strictly non-aligned course and pledged solidarity with the third world. They are also making strong noises about sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (Diego Garcia) which they claim was wrongly detached from Mauritius before independence. They have amended their constitution to include the British Indian Ocean Territory as part of the territory of Mauritius, and they intend to launch a diplomatic campaign at the various international fora for its recovery.

Mr Pym gave lunch to the Mauritian Foreign Minister last week and left him in no doubt about our views on Diego Garcia. It would be useful for Mr Jugnauth to have the same message before his appearance at the OAU summit, when he is expected to launch his campaign.

On the positive side, the Mauritian Foreign Minister emphasised to Mr Pym his government's wish to maintain and strengthen their country's traditional good relations with Britain. Attention by the Prime Minister to Mr Jugnauth would serve to assure him of our continuing interest in Mauritius. On the other hand, a refusal to see a newly appointed Commonwealth Head of Government would certainly be taken as a snub, at a formative stage in the attitudes of the new Mauritian government.

Yours ever,
Francis Richards

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

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MR ANEEROOD JUGNAUTH, QC

Member of the Legislative Assembly for Piton-Riviere. President of the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM), the dominant partner in the ruling coalition. Appointed Prime Minister in June 1982.

Born 1929. Hindu. Lawyer. Married, with a daughter who was at Cambridge and a son at present studying law at the University College at Buckingham.

Former Magistrate and Crown Counsel. Minister of Labour 1965 - 67. Took part in London Constitutional Conference 1965. Joined MMM 1971.

He is a quiet man of moderate ability. Well disposed towards Britain.



27 JUL 1982

To Private Secretary to Prime Minister
Legend re: Limoges Dinner Service gift
from Prime Minister
of Mauritius



of
Feb. 1981

With the Compliments
of the

Mauritius High Commission

copied to
Gifts file
received

01-581 0294/5

32/33 ELVASTON PLACE
LONDON SW7 5NW

R18/3. ef. 1913
① Prime Minister
② File. ef. 1813

There were several East India Companies. For example, the English "Company of Merchants of London trading to the East Indies" which received its Charter from Queen Elizabeth in 1600; the Dutch East India Company formed in 1802; the Danish one formed in 1729.

But when we in Mauritius speak of the East India Company, we refer to the French "Compagnie des Indes Orientales" and more particularly to the second or Nouvelle Compagnie des Indes, established by an Edict of May 1719, and to which Louis XV gave the ownership of Isle de France (as Mauritius was then called) on 2 April 1721.

The island remained in the ownership of this Company for the next 50 years during which time it was turned into a strategic shipping station primarily because of its natural harbours.

The porcelain imported by this Company is still highly prized as a model of artistic taste and workmanship.

FILE

VLS

Mauritius

cc MAFF
CO

17 February 1981

Call by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

As you know, the Prime Minister of Mauritius called on the Prime Minister here on Thursday, 12 February. I enclose a copy of the record of their discussion.

I am sending copies of this letter together with its enclosure, to Kate Timms (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RP

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

Mauritius



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Type in final form.

17 February 1981

Dear Michael,

Mauritius

I attach John Robson's draft record of the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Mauritius on 12 February.

The Prime Minister asked that the Mauritian points about sugar should be taken further with a Minister in the MAFF. Sir H Walter called on Mr Wiggin on 16 February and I understand that they had a useful meeting. Mauritian anxieties may not have been fully allayed but Mr Wiggin re-emphasised that we and the Community would continue to fulfil the commitments under Lome II.

yours ever

Rodney Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or address.



17 FEB 1981

DRAFT: Record of a Meeting
~~minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

J R ROBSON

DEPARTMENT: EAST AFRICAN TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

~~Top Secret~~

Secret JAR/MO'C

Confidential 16/2/81

~~Restricted~~

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Copies to:

RECORD OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS AT NO.10 DOWNING STREET ON THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, 1981 AT 4.30 P.M.
SUBJECT:

PRESENT

The Prime Minister
Mr Richard Luce MP
Sir L Allinson
Mr J N Allan
Mr J A Robson
Mr Alexander

Dr, the Right Honourable Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius
The Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
The Hon. Sir Harold Walter Foreign Minister
Mr B Ghoorah Cabinet Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

- PS/No.10
- PS
- PS/LPS
- PS/Mr Marten
- PS/Mr Luce
- Mr Day
- Sir L Allinson
- ECD(E)
- E&WAD, ODA/FCO
- EAD
- Defence Dept
- The Chancery WASHINGTON
- The Chancery PORT LOUIS

1. Welcoming Sir S Ramgoolam, the Prime Minister said that she understood that bilateral matters had been discussed ^{earlier} with Lord Carrington. She ^{would be interested to hear} welcomed Mauritius views on ~~the~~ regional issues. Sir S Ramgoolam said that Mauritius was fortunate in having no frontiers. Britain had withdrawn from the Indian Ocean area to a certain extent, though France had been able to give Mauritius some help. His main problems, however, were internal. The Movement Militant Mauricien Opposition MMM Party, which was Communist inspired, had given his Government a rough time. He had been able to contain this on the political front but the MMM continued to stir up trouble in the industrial field. His major problem remained the state of the economy and the prospects for sugar. He wished to express his gratitude for HMG's offer

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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of a £1.m programme aid loan which would help the balance of payments' position. Sir V Ringadoo said that he had now been briefed on the terms proposed for the loan which were acceptable to Mauritius.

2. Sir S Ramgoolam said that HMG had ^{made} an original commitment to the Commonwealth Sugar Producers for ~~£1.3 m. tonnes~~; but prospects in the UK and Community market were threatened by the increase in beet sugar production. Any way in which the Tate & Lyle Liverpool Refinery could continue to operate would be helpful to the ACP countries. The Prime Minister said that we would certainly honour the commitment to Mauritius. Tate & Lyle had said that they were ready to export any surplus which they could not themselves refine. Sir H Walter argued that the real commitment to Mauritius was that by the United Kingdom under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement; there was also the Community Agreement but Mauritius was not a party to UK arrangements with the Community, although Mauritius participated in Lomé II. Sir S Ramgoolam added that Mauritius was concerned because the closure of the Liverpool refinery reduced UK capacity for refining cane below the level which Britain was pledged to import. He handed over a piece of paper seeking further assurances which Mauritius hoped HMG could give (text at Annex). The Prime Minister said that the matter would best be ^{pursued} ~~discussed further~~ with a Minister in the MAFF and arrangements would be made for this.

3. The Prime Minister asked how Mauritius saw developments in the Indian Ocean area. Sir S Ramgoolam said that both Britain and Mauritius were concerned about the defence of the Indian Ocean. The only immediate problem he faced arose from the settlement of the former inhabitants of Diego Garcia in Mauritius. They ^{government} had under-estimated their numbers, which

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/they

///

they now assessed at 6,000. Sir V Ringadoo said that there was a political dimension to ~~the problem~~, because the ^{of the Ilois} Opposition had now chosen to make an issue of their treatment and of the use made of Diego Garcia by the UK and the United States. Sir H Walter said that Mauritius and Britain disagreed as to whether developments on Diego Garcia were in accord with the 1965 agreement. This was now past history and Mauritius did not wish to reopen the matter, ~~except in one respect~~. But it had been agreed that labour and materials for the defence facility should be supplied by Mauritius ^{and} but this had not been ^{done} implemented. ~~No doubt~~ this was partly the fault of Mauritius which had not pressed the matter; but now that the Opposition had taken up the cudgels ^{the government} Mauritius needed some further element of compensation for the Ilois. Mr Luce said that in addition to the original resettlement grant by HMG there was the further offer of £1.25 m. to compensate the Ilois for removal. Little progress had been made in obtaining its acceptance and for this we needed the cooperation of ^{ministers} ~~the Mauritians~~. We supported the use of labour and materials from Mauritius for the new expansion programme and he was confident that business would come to Mauritius for this work. Sir S Ramgoolam said that his Government had had to disburse further sums to the Ilois from their own resources. He proposed that ~~there should be~~ further talks with Britain, and possibly with the United States, ~~also~~ on compensation and on the future of Diego Garcia. The Mauritian Parliament would be dissolved not later than 20 December and ~~these~~ matters would be an issue in the subsequent General Election.

4. The Prime Minister said that following her talks with Sir S Ramgoolam last June, she had repeated explicit assurances about the future of Diego Garcia in the House. She

/was

~~she~~ was sure that it was best not to reopen these now but rather to pursue the separate enquiry about sugar.

5. The Prime Minister enquired about the political situation, in ~~Mauritius~~. Sir H Walter said that there had been a shift of opinion within the Opposition towards more moderate ^{politics} ~~parties~~. Sir S Ramgoolam ~~said~~ that the Government's position would be strengthened if HMG could offer more aid for retraining and to help meet the consequences of a deliberate shift in the economic activity from the south of the Island to the north. France had given some help but they needed more. The Prime Minister said that we had already acted through the offer of the £1 m. loan for balance of payments' support. The High Commissioner would explore whether we could assist further in retraining within the limits of our existing technical assistance programme. Sir S Ramgoolam ^{said} ~~emphasised~~ that Mauritius was the only free democracy in the Indian Ocean; he hoped that Britain would help ~~were~~ it could.

6, The meeting ended at 5.30 p.m.

SUBJECT

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84
of Memo

RECORD OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRIME
MINISTER OF MAURITIUS AT NO. 10 DOWNING STREET ON THURSDAY
12 FEBRUARY 1981 AT 1630 HOURS

Present:-

The Prime Minister
Mr. Richard Luce, MP
Sir L. Allinson
Mr. J.N. Allan
Mr. J.A. Robson
Mr. M.O'D.B. Alexander

Dr. The Rt. Hon. Sir Seewoosagur
Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of
Mauritius
The Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo,
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance
The Hon. Sir Harold Walker,
Foreign Minister
Mr. B. Ghoorah,
Cabinet Secretary

* * * * *

Welcoming Sir S. Ramgoolam, the Prime Minister said that she understood that bilateral matters had been discussed earlier with Lord Carrington. She would be interested to hear Mauritius views on regional issues. Sir S. Ramgoolam said that Mauritius was fortunate in having no frontiers. Britain had withdrawn from the Indian Ocean area to a certain extent, though France had been able to give Mauritius some help. His main problems, however, were internal. The Opposition Mouvement Militent Mauricien (MMM), which was Communist inspired, had given his Government a rough time. He had been able to contain this on the political front but the MMM continued to stir up trouble in the industrial field. His major problem remained the state of the economy and the prospects for sugar. He wished to express his gratitude for HMG's offer of a £1 million programme aid loan which would help the balance of payments position. Sir V. Ringadoo said that he had now been briefed on the terms proposed for the loan which were acceptable to Mauritius.

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/Sir S. Ramgoolam

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Sir S. Ramgoolam said that HMG had made an original commitment to the Commonwealth Sugar Producers but prospects in the UK and Community market were threatened by the increase in beet sugar production. Any way in which the Tate & Lyle Liverpool Refinery could continue to operate would be helpful to the ACP countries. The Prime Minister said that we would certainly honour the commitment to Mauritius. Tate & Lyle had said that they were ready to export any surplus which they could not themselves refine. Sir H. Walter argued that the real commitment to Mauritius was that by the United Kingdom under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement; there was also the Community Agreement but Mauritius was not a party to UK arrangements with the Community, although Mauritius participated in Lomé II. Sir S. Ramgoolam added that Mauritius was concerned because the closure of the Liverpool refinery reduced UK capacity for refining cane below the level which Britain was pledged to import. He handed over a piece of paper seeking further assurances which Mauritius hoped HMG could give (text at Annex). The Prime Minister said that the matter would best be pursued with a Minister in the MAFF and arrangements would be made for this.

The Prime Minister asked how Mauritius saw developments in the Indian Ocean area. Sir S. Ramgoolam said that both Britain and Mauritius were concerned about the defence of the Indian Ocean. The only immediate problem he faced arose from the settlement of the former inhabitants of Diego Garcia in Mauritius. The Government had under-estimated the numbers, which they now assessed at 6,000. Sir V. Ringadoo said that there was a political dimension because the Opposition had now chosen to make an issue of the treatment of the Ilois and of the use made of Diego Garcia by the UK and the United States. Sir H. Walter said that Mauritius and Britain disagreed as to whether developments on Diego Garcia were in accord with the 1965 agreement. This was now past history and Mauritius did not wish to reopen the matter. But it had been agreed that labour and materials for the defence facility should be supplied by Mauritius and this had not been done. This was partly the fault of Mauritius which had not pressed the matter; but now that the Opposition had taken up the cudgels the Government needed some further element of compensation for the Ilois. Mr. Luce said that in addition to the original resettlement grant by HMG

/there was

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

there was the further offer of £1.25 million to compensate the Ilois for removal. Little progress had been made in obtaining its acceptance and for this we needed the co-operation of Mauritius Ministers. We supported the use of labour and materials from Mauritius for the new expansion programme and he was confident that business would come to Mauritius for this. Sir S. Ramgoolam said that his Government had had to disburse further sums to the Ilois from their own resources. He proposed further talks with Britain, and possibly with the United States, on compensation and on the future of Diego Garcia. The Mauritian Parliament would be dissolved not later than 20 December and these matters would be an issue in the subsequent General Election.

The Prime Minister said that following her talks with Sir S. Ramgoolam last June, she had repeated in the House explicit assurances about the future of Diego Garcia. She was sure that it was best not to reopen these now but rather to pursue the separate enquiry about sugar.

The Prime Minister enquired about the political situation. Sir H. Walter said that there had been a shift of opinion within the Opposition towards more moderate policies. Sir S. Ramgoolam said that the Government's position would be strengthened if HMG could offer more aid for retraining and to help meet the consequences of a deliberate shift in the economic activity from the south of the Island to the north. France had given some help but they needed more. The Prime Minister said that we had already acted through the offer of the £1 million loan for balance of payments support. The High Commissioner would explore whether we could assist further in retraining within the limits of our existing technical assistance programme. Sir S. Ramgoolam said that Mauritius was the only free democracy in the Indian Ocean; he hoped that Britain would help where it could.

The meeting ended at 1730 hours.

CONFIDENTIAL

17 February 1981

Aide. memoire handed to the Prime Minister
by the PM of Mauritius at Downing Street
on 12 February. Copy sent to the NAFF

ASSURANCES SOUGHT FROM HM GOVERNMENT

Copies ECD (CE)
PS/ Mr hua
Sir L Allinson
Mullewilt

- a) that the expansion of U.K. beet sugar which has taken place over the past five years will be restrained so as not further to erode the outlet for ACP sugar in the U.K;
- b) that ACP interests within the Community will continue to be protected by HMG;
- c) that HMG will ensure, in the event of the Liverpool refinery being closed, that the U.K. will be able, without term, to import and refine in the traditional way not less than 1.1 m tonnes of ACP sugar.

Jal...
18/2

11.2.81

12/2/81

Government of Mauritius
Handed to PM of Mauritius

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR. DENIS THATCHER IN HONOUR OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS AND LADY RAMGOOLAM ON THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 1981 AT 8.00 PM FOR 8.15 PM LOUNGE SUIT

The Prime Minister
and Mr. Denis Thatcher

Mauritius Suite

Dr. The Rt. Hon. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam
and Lady Ramgoolam

The Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo
and Lady Ringadoo
Minister of Finance

The Hon. Sir Harold Walter
and Lady Walter
Minister of External
Affairs, Tourism and
Emigration

His Excellency the High Commissioner for Mauritius
and Lady Teelock

Mr. B. Ghoorah
Cabinet Secretary

Mr. U. Gopaul
Principal Private Secretary

Dr. Nuvin Ramgoolam
and Mrs. Ramgoolam
Sir Seewoosagur's son

Miss Sunita Ramgoolam
" " daughter

HM Government

The Rt. Hon. Sir Ian Gilmour, MP
and Lady Caroline Gilmour

Mr. Richard Luce, MP
and Mrs. Luce

Mrs. Lynda Chalker, MP

Conservative MPs

Sir Nigel Fisher, MP
and Lady Fisher
Commonwealth Parliamentary
Association

Mr. Patrick Wall, MP
and Mrs. Wall
interests in East Africa

Mr. John Selwyn Gummer, MP
and Mrs. Selwyn Gummer

Mr. Patrick Cormack, MP
and Mrs. Cormack

Mr. Antony Buck, MP
and Mrs. Buck

Mr. Keith Best, MP

Labour MPs

The Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP

The Rt. Hon. Roy Mason, MP
and Mrs. Mason

Mr. Robert MacLennan, MP
and Mrs. MacLennan

has visited Mauritius

Opposition Front Bench
Spokesman on Africa

House of Lords

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Boyd of Merton personal friend of Sir Seewoo-
and the Viscountess Boyd of Merton sagur

The Rt. Hon. Lord Greenwood of Rossendale " " "
and the Lady Greenwood of Rossendale

Industry

The Rt. Hon. Earl Jellicoe
and the Countess Jellicoe

Chairman, Tate and Lyle

Sir Austin Pearce
and Lady Pearce

Chairman, British Aerospace

Mr. Robert Atkinson
and Mrs. Atkinson

Chairman, British Shipbuilders

Press

Mr. John Thompson
and Mrs. Thompson

Editor, Sunday Telegraph

Others

Mr. James Porter
and Mrs. Porter

Director, Commonwealth Institute

Mr. K.D. Brough
and Mrs. Brough

Chairman, East Africa Association

Sir James Lighthill
and Lady Lighthill

Provost of University College,
London

Sir John Rennie
and Lady Rennie

last Governor of Mauritius
(1962-68)

Mr. Donald Chesworth

Warden, Toynbee Hall. Interests
in Mauritius and personal friend
of Sir Seewoosagur

Officials

Sir Leonard Allinson
and Lady Allinson

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr. James Allan
and Mrs. Allan

HM High Commissioner, Mauritius

10 Downing Street

Mr. Michael Alexander

Mr. Derek Howe and Mrs. Howe

*Mauritius
Visa*



MAURITIUS HIGH COMMISSION

01-581 0294/5

32/33 ELVASTON PLACE
LONDON S.W.7.

Your Ref.:

Our Ref.: MHCL/652/1/01

11 February 1981

Dear Private Secretary,

As agreed with your Office this morning, the two boxes containing the dinner set gift from my Prime Minister to yours, are being left today at No 10 together with this note.

As advised by your Office, arrangements will be made at your end for the small box to be made available to my Prime Minister for the symbolic presentation to the Rt Hon Mrs Thatcher immediately after the official talks tomorrow.

Kindly ensure accordingly.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

G. Nath.

D.G. Nath
Deputy High Commissioner

The Private Secretary to
Prime Minister
Foreign Affairs Division
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London SW 1

*This was done.
cf. 12/2.*

*FA will no doubt
be doing thank you
letter.*

*NA says not
necessary to write. cf. 16/2*

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO PROGRAMME FOR
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

Wednesday 11 February

Please add the following appointments for Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo.

1600 Signing of Double Taxation Agreement
Mr R Luce, Parliamentary Under-Secretary
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
India Office Council Chamber, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office.

Friday 13 February

The Prime Minister's appointments during the afternoon are:-

1600 Press briefing at Hyde Park Hotel

1800 OAU group will call on Prime Minister,
Mauritius High Commission, 32/33 Elvasion
Place, SW7.

Saturday 14 February

1100 The Prime Minister and Lady Ramgoolam will
move to the Waldorf Hotel.
end of official visit.



HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Visit of
The Prime Minister of Mauritius
and Lady Ramgoolam

10 to 13 FEBRUARY 1981

Dr. the Right Honourable Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius and Lady Ramgoolam will be accompanied by:

The Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Lady Ringadoo

The Hon. Sir Harold Walter,
Foreign Minister

Lady Walter

Mr. B. Ghoorah,
Cabinet Secretary

Mr. U. Gopaul,
Principal Private Secretary

In attendance:

Mr. Neville Coppel—*Government Hospitality*

The Hon. Diana Makgill—*Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

During the official visit the party will be staying at:

The Hyde Park Hotel,
Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1

SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY

0530 hrs Arrive London Heathrow Airport by Flight MK 042
Alcock and Brown Suite, Terminal 3

Met by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Greeter,
Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Docherty

0550 Leave the Airport by car
(approx)

0620 Arrive at the Waldorf Hotel
(approx) *Aldwych, W.C.2*

*The Prime Minister and Lady Ramgoolam will stay privately
at the Waldorf Hotel until the start of their official programme
on 10 February*

Programme

TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY

1145 hrs Leave the Waldorf Hotel

1200 Arrive at the Hyde Park Hotel

Met by the Secretary of Government Hospitality,
Brigadier J. A. C. Cowan

1500 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs,
Mr. Richard Luce, M.P.
will call on the Prime Minister
at the Hyde Park Hotel

1845 Leave the hotel

1900 Dinner given by University College London
for Host: The Provost of University College London,
1930 Sir James Lighthill
*School of Medicine, University College
University Street, W.C.1
Buckston Browne Room
Dress: Lounge Suit*

Return to the Hyde Park Hotel

WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

- 1035 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1050 Arrive Westminster Abbey
Great West Door
- Met by the Dean of Westminster,
The Very Reverend Dr. Edward Carpenter
- The Prime Minister will lay a wreath on the
Grave of the Unknown Warrior
- 1120 Leave Westminster Abbey
- 1125 Arrive Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Ambassadors' Entrance
- 1130 Talks with the Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington
- 1215 Leave the Foreign and Commonwealth Office
and return to the hotel

*(See page 6 for separate programme for the Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo
and the Hon. Sir Harold Walter)*

- 1305 Leave the Hyde Park Hotel
- 1315 Arrive Buckingham Palace
Grand Entrance
- Luncheon given by Her Majesty The Queen
- Return to the hotel
- 1730 Leave the hotel

WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY (Contd.)

- 1745 hrs Arrive Admiralty House
Whitehall, S.W.1
- Supper given by Her Majesty's Government
Hosts: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs and Mrs. Luce
Dress: Lounge Suit
- 1915 Leave Admiralty House
- 1925 Arrive Aldwych Theatre
Aldwych, W.C.2
- Met by the Deputy London Manager for the
Royal Shakespeare Company,
Mr. Sama Swaminathan
- 1930 Attend a performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company
of "Juno and the Paycock"
- 2215 Leave the theatre and return to the hotel
(approx)

Continued on next page

**PROGRAMME FOR THE HON. SIR VEERASAMY RINGADOO
AND THE HON. SIR HAROLD WALTER**

WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

1215 hrs *Leave the Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

1245 *Luncheon given by Tate and Lyle Limited*
Host: The Chairman,
The Lord Jellicoe
Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, E.C.3

Leave Tate and Lyle

The Hon. Sir Harold Walter returns to the hotel

1455 *The Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo arrives at*
H.M. Treasury,
Parliament Street Entrance

Met by Assistant Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary,
Miss Jane Swift

1500 *Call on the Chief Secretary to the Treasury,*
The Rt. Hon. Leon Brittan, M.P.

Leave H.M. Treasury and return to the hotel

The Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo and the Hon. Sir Harold
Walter follow the same programme as the Prime Minister
from 1730 hours

THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY

(See page 9 for separate programme for the Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo)

1200 hrs *Leave the hotel*

1210 *Arrive Houses of Parliament*
St. Stephen's Entrance

Met by the Secretary UK Branch of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association,
Mr. Peter Cobb

1215 *The Prime Minister will address the Anglo-Mauritian*
Parliamentary Group
CPA Rooms, UK Branch

1300 *Luncheon given by the Executive Committee of the CPA*
Host: Deputy Chairman UK Branch of the CPA,
Sir Nigel Fisher, M.P.

1430 *Attend Prime Minister's Question Time*
House of Commons, Commonwealth Gallery

1530 *Leave the House of Commons and return to the hotel*

1615 *Leave the Hyde Park Hotel*

1628 *Arrive 10 Downing Street*

1630 *Talks with the Prime Minister,*
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

Leave 10 Downing Street

1745 *Arrive 22 Friary Court, St. James's Palace, S.W.1*

Received by H.R.H. Princess Alexandra,
the Hon. Mrs. Angus Ogilvy

Continued on next page

THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY (Contd.)

1815 hrs Leave St. James's Palace and return to the hotel
1950 Leave the hotel
2000 Arrive 10 Downing Street
2000 Dinner given by Her Majesty's Government
for Hosts: The Prime Minister
2015 and Mr. Denis Thatcher
Dress: Lounge Suit
Return to the hotel

PROGRAMME FOR THE HON. SIR VEERASAMY RINGADOO

THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY

1015 hrs *Leave the hotel*
1025 *Arrive Overseas Development Administration,
Eland House, Stag Place, S.W.1*
*Met by Member of CSAD,
Mr. McCulloch*
1030 *Call on the Minister of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas
Development,
Mr. Neil Marten, M.P.*
*Leave Overseas Development Administration
and return to the hotel*
*The Hon. Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo will then follow the
Prime Minister's programme*

FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY

- 0815 hrs Leave the hotel
- 0945 Arrive RSPCA
Causeway, Horsham, Sussex
- Meeting with RSPCA officials
- 1000 The Prime Minister will be presented with the
Richard Martin Award for Meritorious Service
Library/Conference Room
- 1015 Proceed by car to Roffey Training College
- 1030 Tour of RSPCA Training facilities
- 1045 Informal Reception with refreshments
- 1115 Depart Roffey Training College and return to
the Hyde Park Hotel
- 1305 Leave the hotel
- 1315 Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government
for Host: The Minister for Trade,
1330 Mr. Cecil Parkinson, M.P.
1 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1
- Return to the hotel
- During the afternoon the Prime Minister will give
a Press Briefing and receive a call by the
OAU/Commonwealth group
- End of official visit
- The Prime Minister and Lady Ramgoolam will move to the
Waldorf Hotel on Saturday, 14 February, to stay privately
until their departure from the United Kingdom on Tuesday,
17 February*

TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

- 1620 hrs Leave the Waldorf Hotel
- 1710 Arrive London Heathrow Airport
Alcock and Brown Suite, Terminal 3
- 1730 Board Flight MK 053 departing at 1750 hours
- The Secretary of Government Hospitality,
Brigadier J. A. C. Cowan
and
Sir David Muirhead,
Special Representative of the Secretary of State
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
will bid farewell.

DIRECTORY

<i>Government Hospitality</i> 2 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1	01-214 8142
<i>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, S.W.1</i> Protocol and Conference Department	01-233 3261
<i>Hotels</i>	
Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1	01-235 2000
Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, W.C.2	01-836 2400
<i>London Heathrow Airport</i> Alcock and Brown Suite, Terminal 3	01-759 4321 & 5276
<i>Mauritius High Commission</i> 32/33 Elvaston Place, S.W.7	01-581 0294
<i>School of Medicine, University College</i> University Street, W.C.2	01-388 2411
<i>Westminster Abbey</i>	01-222 5152
<i>Admiralty House,</i> Whitehall, S.W.1	01-930 8901
<i>Tate and Lyle Limited</i> Lower Thames Street, E.C.3.	01-626 6525
<i>H.M. Treasury</i> Parliament Street, S.W.1	01-233 3000
<i>House of Commons</i>	01-219 3000
<i>RSPCA</i> Horsham, Sussex	0403 64181
<i>1 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1</i>	01-214 6523
<i>Aldwych Theatre</i> Aldwych, W.C.2	01-379 6721

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Mauritius



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 February 1981

Dear Michael,

Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius: 10 - 13 February

✓ I enclose briefs for the Prime Minister's talks with Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on Thursday 12 February. Dr Ramgoolam will be accompanied by his Finance Minister, Sir V Ringadoo, and his Foreign Minister, Sir H Walter.

/ I also enclose a short draft speech for the Prime Minister's use at the dinner for Sir Seewoosagur that evening.

The Secretary of State will hold talks with Sir Seewoosagur and his colleagues on Wednesday 11 February. If the Mauritians raise any additional topics of significance on that occasion, supplementary briefing will be provided.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON



OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

LIST OF BRIEFS

1. Steering Brief.
2. Anglo/Mauritian Relations.
3. Diego Garcia.
4. Vencatessen Case/Ilois.
5. Aid/Balance of Payments Support.
6. Indian Ocean.
7. Internal Political.
8. Personality Notes.



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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10 - 13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 1: STEERING BRIEF

British Objectives

1. To consolidate present close Anglo-Mauritian relations and to reassure Mauritians of our understanding of their interests and problems.
2. To show recognition of Sir Seewoosagur's distinguished record as Prime Minister of Mauritius, senior Commonwealth statesman and practitioner of Parliamentary democracy.
3. To seek maximum Mauritian support for and acquiescence in Western measures to counter the Soviet threat in the Indian Ocean area.
4. To secure Mauritian Government participation in negotiations for the settlement of the Ilois problem.

Mauritian Objectives

5. To seek reassurance about continued close relations with Britain (they believe our interest in them is diminishing).
6. To ensure continued British development assistance in the longer term and some short term balance of payments support.
7. To stress the importance they attach to HMG remaining committed to the Community arrangements for Mauritian exports (sugar and textiles).
8. To defend their belief that Mauritius has a legitimate interest in the developments on Diego Garcia, _____

/9. To

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9. To stress the particularly adverse affect on Mauritius of the increase in fees for overseas students in Britain.

Background and Tactics

10. The interests of the Mauritians are basically parochial apart from Southern Africa (Mauritius has important commercial links with South Africa and is a lukewarm member of the OAU), and developments in the Indian Ocean area. Discussion on the Mauritian side is likely to focus on economic and commercial problems including the need for capital aid and balance of payments assistance, protection of sugar quotas and textile exports to the community. We can offer little new on capital aid and can make few concessions on a number of technical questions (sugar, civil aviation, closure of the British Council Office) on which we have been pressed by the Mauritians. They will however be pleasantly surprised by our ability to confirm that we can offer £1m in programme aid as the UK's contribution to Mauritius appeal to the international community for balance of payments support (Brief no 5). We should make the most of this. Our offer should also answer Dr Ramgoolam's periodic complaint that we are less solicitous of our friends than of those less well disposed (eg Seychelles).

11. It will be a domestic political requirement for the Mauritians to raise their 'claim' to Diego Garcia. Discussion on this is unlikely to be productive. Dr Ramgoolam knows this; his objective (more modest but still unrealistic) is that some financial benefit should accrue to Mauritius from the development of the US defence facility on the island. However, the prospect of employing skilled labour from Mauritius in the big construction projects on Diego Garcia will be welcome and Dr Ramgoolam will know how to make local political capital out of this.

12. The strong reaction in Mauritius to increased fees for overseas students stems from the fact that an exceptionally high proportion of self-financed students come to Britain for higher education.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

VITAL STATISTICS

1. Population and Land Area

(a) Land Area	2045	km ²
(b) Population (1978)	0.924	million
(c) Population Growth rate (1970-77)	1.3	%pa

2. Economic

(i) Gross National Product

	<u>1978</u>	
(a) Total	760	US\$m
(b) Growth Rate (1970-77)	8.3	%pa
(c) Position in Total GNP League Table	129	(of 176)
(d) Per Capita	830	US\$
(e) Position in Per Capita League Table	99	(of 176)

(ii) Balance of Payments

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	US\$m
Exports	264.6	307.6	325.8	373.1	
Imports (fob)	-307.4	-368.0	-424.0	-452.3	
Invisibles and Transfers (net)	6.7	-17.1	-20.3	-47.5	

Current Account	-36.1	-77.5	-118.5	-126.7
Capital Account	-44.8	29.7	85.4	88.3
Balancing Item	5.2	9.7	11.8	-14.5

Overall Balance	-75.7	-38.1	-21.3	-52.9
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(iii) International Reserves

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
Total	89.5	66.7	45.8	29.2
Months of Imports covered	2.6	1.6	0.9	0.5

/3.

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3. Foreign Trade

(a) <u>Main Export Markets</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	%
UK	44.9	62.3	63.3	
France	1.6	8.5	11.1	
USA	8.0	7.2	13.1	
Belgium/Luxembourg	0.6	4.8	11.9	

(b) <u>Major Sources of Imports</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	%
UK	21.6	14.8	13.5	
France	6.8	11.9	9.2	
South Africa	8.5	11.8	13.7	
Japan	6.6	6.8	4.9	
Australia	5.4	5.5	5.0	

(c) <u>UK Trade with Mauritius</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	£m
Total value of exports	31.7	30.4	24.7	
Real growth of exports (five years ending)	na	4.2	na	%pa
Position in UK's Export League Table	81(of 85)	na	na	

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS :
10 - 13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 2 : ANGLO /MAURITIAN RELATIONS

POINTS TO MAKE

Bilateral

1. Value close and warm relations. Attach importance to Mauritius role in Indian Ocean affairs. Need to keep in close touch in view of Soviet threat.
2. Admire Sir S Ramgoolam's achievement since independence in maintaining a stable and Westminster model democracy.

Sugar

- ANNEX A
3. Hope letter from Prime Minister has allayed Mauritian concerns.
 4. UK is and will remain committed to Lomé Sugar Protocol. Community's commitment to purchase and import specific quantities at guaranteed prices not subject to any conditions or qualifications. No time limit to Protocol, apart from provision for limited re-examination by end of February 1982.
 5. But emphasise Lomé commitment undertaken by whole Community not solely UK.
 6. Closure of Tate and Lyle refinery does not affect Lomé commitment. Tate and Lyle have said they will continue to buy as much ACP sugar as hitherto.

/Overseas

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Overseas Students Fees (if raised)

7. Regret that the fees for entrants in 1980 had to be raised to a realistic level, and also that fees for the next year are going to be somewhat higher.

8. The number of scholarships available through the British Council, ODA and the Department of Education and Science, will be maintained as far as possible to offset the effects of the student fee increases. Mauritius has been considered as one of the special cases because of its higher educational structure, but the decision to cut the subsidy had to be a global one.

British Council (if raised)

9. Regret that it was necessary for the British Council to withdraw the Representative from Mauritius. This should not be seen as a lessening of British interest in Mauritius. British Council could not be exempt from cuts as a result of HMG's need to reduce public expenditure to get the economy right.

10. Hope it will be possible to retain British Council library beyond March 1982. No commitment possible at present. Views of Mauritians will be taken into account.

EC/Mauritius Textiles (if raised)

11. Glad that Voluntary Restraint Arrangement (VRA) working well so far.

12. Recognise importance of textile industry to Mauritius.

13. But UK textile industry remains very sensitive area. Hope that any further problems can be settled amicably as in the past.

14. We are concerned about great increase in Mauritian exports
/of

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of woven shirts to the UK, and are discussing this with the European Commission,

Air Services (if raised)

15. We have proposed full air services talks in early March. This will be the opportunity to clear up all outstanding points,

16. Pleased to hear that Air Mauritius no longer propose operating on same day as British Airways,

17. The questions of routes to Hong Kong and rebated fares for Mauritian civil servants give us problems of policy and precedent. Detailed discussion best left to the forthcoming talks,

18. (If Sir S Ramgoolam adopts an accusing tone). British Airways have a genuine operational need to route via Zurich and this can do no possible harm to Air Mauritius.

New British Nationality Law (if raised)

19. The Bill closely follows the proposals contained in the White Paper on Nationality Law published in July 1980.

20. The new law is needed to provide a distinctive citizenship for those who have a close connection with the United Kingdom,

21. Commonwealth citizens who have the right of abode in the United Kingdom will not be affected in any way. Their rights will be preserved,

22. There is nothing in the Bill which need disturb in any way our friends in Commonwealth countries.

/The

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The Republic Question (if raised)

23. Mauritian constitutional development is for Mauritius to decide. Assume The Queen would be advised in advance of any change.

24. Would not wish close relations to be affected.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 2: ANGLO/MAURITIAN RELATIONS

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Bilateral

1. Relations are warm and close. Mauritian Ministers, and in particular the Prime Minister, are frequent visitors to Britain. All Sir S Ramgoolam's political inspiration and ideas flow from his British experience - moderate socialism, Westminster style of democracy and the welfare state. Our interests in Mauritius are principally political and strategic. We want to limit opportunities for Soviet influence in the area, and to encourage Mauritian cooperation over Western defence measures. Also we recognise the significant role he plays in support of the Commonwealth.

2. The Mauritians are deeply conscious of their physical and political isolation. The coup in Seychelles in 1977 which brought to power the present radical government, came as a great shock. The Mauritians feel that Britain has lost interest in them, and see evidence of this in the termination on our initiative in 1976 of the 1968 Defence Agreement between UK and Mauritius, our withdrawal of the British Council (see para 11 below), our reticence over a new aid loan (see Brief No 5), and the increases in student fees (see para 7 below).

3. The main irritant in our relations is Diego Garcia (see Brief No 3). As long as a moderate Government basically well disposed towards the West such as Sir S Ramgoolam's remains in power the issue should remain under control.

/Sugar

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Sugar

4. The announced closure of the Tate and Lyle cane sugar refinery has aroused concern among the Commonwealth ACP that the access for their sugar exports to the UK may be in jeopardy. Mauritius is heavily dependent on sugar exports and has the largest quota (487,200 tonnes) under the Lomé Convention. On 22 January, Sir S Ramgoolam wrote to the Prime Minister about this on behalf of all the ACP producers. A reply was sent on 5 February.

5. The line to take makes clear that the Lomé Convention is not qualified in any way, eg by beet sugar production levels or refining capacity in the Community. If necessary ACP sugar which cannot find a market must be bought into intervention, although this has never yet happened. It also makes clear that there is no separate commitment by the UK to take the ACP sugar: the commitment is one by the Community as a whole.

6. The closure of the refinery will reduce Tate and Lyle's total cane refining capacity to some 1.1m tonnes, some 60,000 tonnes less than the 1.16m tonnes of ACP sugar they refined in 1979/80. The company have said publicly that they are prepared to buy in the future the same amount of ACP raw sugar as hitherto and try to find a market elsewhere in the Community for the sugar they cannot refine themselves. Indeed the company have told MAFF that they are about to conclude the necessary contracts with two French cane refineries. (This should not be revealed to the Mauritians). This offer seems to offer the same commercial security as the ACP have enjoyed up to now.

Overseas Students' Fees

7. Overseas students entering courses in UK universities and polytechnics for first time in the academic year beginning in September 1980 were required to pay realistic rate of fees, not

/'Home

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'Home Student' rates, which are heavily subsidised. This decision came as a blow to Mauritius, whose educational system has developed on the assumption that students would be able to continue their higher education in this country. Many of them are self-financing and, if the fees are beyond them, may have to go elsewhere for further education. We now know that the full rate for new entrants in academic year 1981 will be higher.

8. The full rates of enhanced fees do not apply to students already enrolled in past years. But otherwise they do apply to all Commonwealth and non-EC foreign countries. The teacher/student ratio in the British system is much higher than in most overseas countries which means that in some cases the realistic fees now requested are higher than those in universities in the USA, Germany, France and other countries. But often our courses are shorter.

9. Decision to charge students from EC countries the same fees as home students from September 1980 was taken in anticipation of a Community Resolution which, when implemented, will oblige us to follow that course. The decision also brought us in line with the majority of European partners. This apart, it is difficult to make exceptions in present economic circumstances. Will however remain Government policy to do what we can for deserving cases. DES maintaining their rate of post-graduate scholarships for outstanding overseas students. This in addition to special arrangements mentioned above under Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. British Council scholars and especially those supported by grants from ODA, being considered on merits for continued support, even at higher rates. ODA funds for this allocated on basis of needs of country concerned; but funds available to ODA have themselves been cut.

10. Whole question is being monitored in London and will be discussed by committees of officials and by Ministers.

/British Council

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British Council

11. The British Council was established in Mauritius in 1950 with a Representative's office and a library. Public expenditure cuts necessitated the closure of the Representative's office in March 1980.

12. It was originally also intended to close the Library but following strong protests from the Governor General and others, including an appeal to the Secretary of State by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the British Council agreed to maintain the Library until March 1981. The British Council have since given a further commitment to retain the Library until at least March 1982.

13. The future of the Library beyond March 1982 is under consideration in the current joint British Council/ODA/FCO discussions on the Council's priorities in the light of budget reductions. It is expected that the Library will be maintained beyond March 1982.

14. Cultural and educational activities are now handled by the High Commission in consultation as necessary with the British Council in London, which helps whenever possible but its ability to do so is limited by the lack of a specific budget for Mauritius.

Textiles

15. The Lomé agreements provide for free and unlimited entry to the Community for ACP industrial products subject only to safeguard measures. The latter have never been used against an ACP State.

16. The Community has however drawn the attention of the ACP to the sensitivity of the European textile industry and the need for both sides to be mindful of each other's interests. It has also explained its policy on global ceilings and the creation of a fixed

/quantity

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quantity within those ceilings for the ACP States - known as the ACP Line. The ACP States do not recognise any of these internal ceilings but have acknowledged the need for early consultations when problems arise.

17. Mauritius is the most significant ACP textile exporter and the only ACP country with which the Community has had to negotiate a Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA). This was in 1979; the Mauritians were no doubt influenced by the fear that in the absence of an agreement the Community might impose unilateral restraints. The VRA applies only to the UK and Ireland and sets limits for jerseys, blouses and T-shirts, all of which are in the most sensitive categories. There is also a less formal arrangement with France covering six products.

18. We now have another potential problem over woven shirts (also very sensitive and already covered in the French agreement). The Mauritians have increased their exports to the UK from 134,847 to 480,640 during the period January 1979 to December 1980 (an increase of well over 200%). We are trying to persuade the Commission to request early warning consultations with the Mauritians and have told them that we may mention our concern to the Mauritians during Sir S Ramgoolam's visit. This is a matter which it would be most appropriate for the Minister of Trade to mention briefly when he sees the Mauritian party for lunch on 13 February, and DOT are providing a separate brief for Mr Parkinson. The attached points to make are for defensive use only by the Prime Minister and other Ministers who will be seeing members of the Mauritian party.

Air Services

19. Air Mauritius is the creation of Sir S Ramgoolam (who is also Minister of Civil Aviation) and exists primarily for prestige
/reasons

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reasons. It is far too small to operate economically especially on long-haul routes (it is entitled to operate 2 Boeing 707 services per week to London) and cannot compete properly with larger modern airlines. This has placed a continuing strain on air services relations with the UK.

20. British Airways currently operate twice weekly to the Indian Ocean as follows;

1 London-Zurich-Bahrain-Seychelles

2 London-Bahrain-Seychelles-Mauritius

Owing to falling demand, and their general need to cut costs, BA need to amalgamate these two services into one. The Mauritians, however, have refused permission for British Airways to route via Zurich even though their proposal poses no threat whatsoever to Air Mauritius' interests. British Airways have rejected a Mauritian proposal that they should pay Air Mauritius £300,000 per annum cash in return for the facility to operate via Zurich.

21. If British Airways are not allowed to stop at Zurich they will seriously consider dropping services to Mauritius altogether. This is likely to have some adverse effect on Mauritius' tourist trade. Above all BA wish to preserve their valuable Zurich-Seychelles traffic (luxury holidays).

22. We have proposed air services talks between officials in early March to discuss this and other matters, including a route for Air Mauritius to Hong Kong and rebated fares for Mauritian civil servants. Lord Trefgarne has already confirmed in a personal letter to Sir S Ramgoolam that these matters should be covered at the next air services talks. (This followed a brief private visit to London by the latter in January).

23. In view of this, Ministers should avoid any detailed discussion of these matters during the visit, (although the Minister for Trade

/will

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will be asked to raise the problem of same-day scheduling with Sir S Ramgoolam).

UK/Mauritius Trade

24.	£m		
	1978	1979	1980
UK exports to Mauritius	31.7	30.4	24.7
UK imports from Mauritius	122.8	116.0	145.2

UK's exports to Mauritius in 1980 consisted mainly of machinery and transport equipment £7.9m. In return the main Mauritian exports to UK was sugar £123.2m.

25. The UK's level of exports to Mauritius have been declining and the UK's share of the market in 1979, the latest date for which statistics are available, has fallen to 13.5%. South Africa has now overtaken UK as the leading supplier to the market with 13.7%.

26. All normal ECGD services are available for exports to Mauritius and there are no payment problems. UK companies are, however, pursuing a number of contracts which if successful would cause problems for the ECGD market limit. ECGD have indicated to the Mauritians that they would have difficulty in wholly covering the £30m airport contract which Plessey are pursuing. ECGD have suggested that the Mauritians consider splitting the project among credit insurers.

27. Plessey Airports Ltd have been facing strong competition from the French in trying to sell an airport system to Mauritius.

/Lummus

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Lummus Ltd are pursuing an order for an oil refinery. British Shipbuilders are hoping to win a contract for a ro-ro vessel. British Aerospace are seeking to sell an HS748 to Mauritius Airways.

New British Nationality Law

28. The Nationality Bill received Second Reading on 28 January. The present law on which British nationality is based dates from 1948. It is now out of date.

29. It has been one of the objectives of successive governments clearly to identify in terms of citizenship those persons who have the right of abode in the United Kingdom. The Bill proposes a scheme of three citizenships:

British citizenship for those citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies (CUKC) who have close links with the United Kingdom, citizenship of the British Dependent Territories for those CUKCs who have corresponding links with a dependency and British Overseas citizenship for those CUKCs whose ancestral or residential connections with the United Kingdom or an existing British dependency are not sufficiently close to qualify them for British citizenships or citizenship of the British Dependent Territories.

30. The Home Secretary has given assurances that the new nationality law will in no way affect the rights of anyone lawfully settled in the United Kingdom.

The Republic Question

31. From time to time over the last few years, the question of a Mauritius republic has become an active issue in Mauritius politics. It has been dormant since March 1979, but there are signs that Ramgoolam is once more giving the subject some thought, and he may raise it during the visit. Two considerations may be in

/his

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his mind:

- (a) a safeguard which would make it less easy for the opposition party to take Mauritius out of the Commonwealth if they were to come to power;
- (b) a wish to secure special powers for himself as Executive President

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 1981

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OO PORT LOUIS
GRS 615
RESTRICTED
FRAME DEVELOPMENT
FM FCO 051208Z FEB 81
TO IMMEDIATE PORT LOUIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 22 OF 5 FEB
INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS
YOUR TELNO.26 : CLOSURE OF TATE AND LYLE SUGAR REFINERY
1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO RAMGOOLAM'S
LETTER OF 22 JANUARY (ALREADY COPIED TO YOU):
MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 22 JANUARY ABOUT THE CLOSURE OF
THE TATE AND LYLE CANE SUGAR REFINERY AT LIVERPOOL.

I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DECISION WAS A
COMMERCIAL ONE FOR THE COMPANY TO TAKE. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRI-
ATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK TO PERSUADE THEM TO ALTER THEIR
DECISION. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE CLOSURE OF THE REFINERY
WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO ACCESS FOR ACP
SUGAR TO THE COMMUNITY MARKET.

THE COMMITMENT UNDER THE SUGAR PROTOCOL TO THE LOME CONVENTION
IS THAT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE WILL PURCHASE AND IMPORT SPECIFIC
QUANTITIES OF SUGAR FROM THE ACP PRODUCERS AT GUARANTEED PRICES.
THERE ARE NO CONDITIONS OR QUALIFICATIONS ATTACHED TO THAT
COMMITMENT. THE COMMITMENT IS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD, SUBJECT
ONLY TO THE PROVISIO THAT THE CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE
GUARANTEE 'SHALL BE RE-EXAMINED BEFORE THE END OF THE SEVENTH
YEAR OF THEIR APPLICATION', THAT IS BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY
1982. AND IF ANY ACP SUGAR CANNOT BE MARKETED IN THE COMMUNITY,
THE PROTOCOL EFFECTIVELY REQUIRES THE COMMUNITY TO BUY IT INTO
INTERVENTION AT AT LEAST THE GUARANTEED PRICE. AS MR WALKER AND
HIS PREDECESSORS HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR TO THE COMMONWEALTH
ACP PRODUCERS, THEIR EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY CANNOT BE AFFECTED
BY THE LEVEL OF BEET SUGAR PRODUCTION IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE SUGAR PROTOCOL IS AN OBLIGATION TO WHICH THE UNITED
KINGDOM IS AND WILL REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROTOCOL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ACP PRODUCERS. BUT I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THAT OBLIGATION DOES NOT REST SOLELY UPON THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE COMMITMENT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN 1975 WHEN THE FIRST LOME CONVENTION WAS NEGOTIATED. IT IS TRUE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM MADE SATISFACTORY ACCESS FOR SUGAR FROM THOSE COMMONWEALTH SUGAR PRODUCERS WHO SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE LOME CONVENTION ONE CONDITION OF OUR ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY. BUT UNDER THE LOME SUGAR PROTOCOL WHICH PUT THAT COMMITMENT INTO PRACTICE, ACCESS IS GUARANTEED TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, AND NOT SOLELY TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IN PRACTICE THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS UP TO NOW TAKEN MOST (BUT NOT ALL) OF THE ACP SUGAR EXPORTED TO THE COMMUNITY. I SEE NO REASON WHY THIS SHOULD NOT CONTINUE. IT IS TRUE THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH TATE AND LYLE HAVE HAD TO FACE IS THE CONTRACTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM MARKET FROM 2.6 TO 2.3 MILLION TONNES OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS. BUT MR WALKER HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A REDUCTION IN THE UK PRODUCTION QUOTA UNDER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS TO 1.15 MILLION TONNES. IF THIS SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IS AGREED, SUGAR SURPLUSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL OCCUR ONLY OCCASIONALLY, AND ARE NOT LIKELY TO EXCEED 100,000 TONNES. SMALL AMOUNTS OF THIS SORT CAN BE STORED AND CARRIED OVER TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR UNDER COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTED THAT TATE AND LYLE HAVE SAID THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO BUY THE SAME AMOUNT OF ACP RAW SUGAR AS HITHERTO, AND THAT THEY WILL TRY TO FIND A MARKET ELSEWHERE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE SUGAR THAT THEY CANNOT REFINER THEMSELVES. THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS ARE OF COURSE FOR THE COMPANY AND THE SUGAR EXPORTERS TO NEGOTIATE. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME A HELPFUL OFFER.

YOURS SINCERELY
MARGARET THATCHER

2. ORIGINAL WILL BE HANDED TO RAMGOOLAM'S PARTY ON ARRIVAL IN LONDON. PLEASE DELIVER TEXT TO HIS OFFICE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.
CARRINGTON

DIST:

COPY TO:

FRAME DEVELOPMENT
ECD(E)
EAD

MR ROBERTS SUGAR DIV, MAFF.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 3: DIEGO GARCIA

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Disappointed over some references to Diego Garcia made in India in October. We should try not to make difficulties for each other over Diego Garcia. Only the Soviet Union benefits. True position is well known both sides.

Visit to Diego Garcia [if raised]

2. Access is governed by Agreements with the United States. There are real practical difficulties but of course we would consider a request.

Mauritian Labour on Diego Garcia [if raised]

3. Raised this with the Americans. Understand that American authorities are encouraging contractors to employ Mauritians. But decision rests with contractors.

Fishing Rights [if raised]

4. Mauritian fishermen have traditional fishing rights within the 12-mile zone.

Mineral and Oil Rights [if raised]

5. 1965 Agreement reserves mineral rights on Chagos Islands for Mauritius. Agreement also states that no prospecting/exploitation may take place while Islands required for defence purposes.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 3: DIEGO GARCIA

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. In 1965, Mauritian Ministers, led by the present Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, agreed to the detachment of the Chagos Islands (including Diego Garcia) to form part of the British Indian Ocean Territory and to the Islands being made available for the construction of defence facilities. It was also agreed that if the Islands were no longer for defence purposes, the United Kingdom would cede them to Mauritius. The Prime Minister repeated this undertaking in answer to a question in the House on 11 July 1980.

Annex A

2. During the course of 1980, Mauritian Ministers made public statements, sometimes contradictory, laying claim to Mauritian sovereignty over Diego Garcia. Some of Sir S Ramgoolam's references to Diego Garcia while in India last October were particularly unhelpful. The Mauritian attitude may be explained by:-

Annex B

- (a) A political need not to be outflanked by the radical MMM opposition party which has made a domestic issue of Diego Garcia. General elections are due within the next 12 months.
- (b) A belief that past Mauritian acquiescence over Diego Garcia has not paid off, given our termination of the Defence Agreement in 1976, closure of British Council, student fees, no offer of new bilateral capital aid loan.
- (c) The success of Somali, Oman and Egypt in extracting financial benefit from the Americans in return for defence facilities.

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(d) A reaction to criticism by other Indian Ocean states over the 1965 Agreement, and a genuine concern at the military build-up in the Indian Ocean area.

3. We have made it clear to the Mauritians that we do not accept their claim to sovereignty and that it is in the interests of both governments to avoid a public wrangle. In private, the Mauritians assure us that we have no cause to be worried at their public statements and to ask for our understanding of their political problems: they accept the need for a defence facility on Diego Garcia and share our view of the Soviet threat. Consequently we play down the issue in public.

4. Nevertheless, Mauritian attitudes on Diego Garcia give the Soviet Union an opportunity to make difficulties for us in the Indian Ocean.

Mauritian Delegation to Diego Garcia

5. The question of a Mauritian parliamentary delegation to Diego Garcia was raised in the Mauritian Legislative Assembly in November. Ramgoolam replied that the possibility could be considered after consultation with Britain and America. As far as we know, the matter rests, but it is possible Ramgoolam may raise it with us. A visit would not be in our interests because

- (i) it would provide a platform for Mauritian Opposition members to strengthen criticism and
- (ii) it would cut across the UK/US low profile policy of keeping close control on visits to Diego Garcia.

Mauritian Labour, Supplies and Materials on Diego Garcia

6. On learning of the American expansion programme, the Mauritians reminded us of our undertaking in the 1965 Agreement to encourage the Americans to use whenever possible Mauritian labour, supplies and materials on Diego Garcia. There would be

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no difficulty for us over materials and supplies from Mauritius but there may be problems in the use of Mauritian labour. Labour sponsored by the opposition party could be introduced onto the Island and would be well placed to make trouble for us and to strengthen the Ilois claim of the right to return [see Brief No 4]. Nevertheless, we have kept our promise with the Mauritians to take the matter up with the Americans, who have agreed to encourage their contractors to use Mauritian labour; there have been discussions between American and Mauritian authorities but we do not yet know the outcome. In any case, the final decision to use Mauritian labour must rest with individual contractors.

Fishing Rights: Chagos Islands

7. The 1965 Agreement provided for Mauritian fishermen to continue to exercise traditional fishing rights in the Chagos area. This is academic at present because the Mauritians are not adequately equipped for long distance fishing (the Chagos Islands are 2,700 miles round trip with no prospect of refuelling). However, if they were to ask for the use of one of the islands as a fishing base, there would be difficulties since the 1966 Exchange of Notes with the Americans reserves all the Islands for defence purposes.

Mineral and Oil Rights: Chagos Islands

8. The 1965 Agreement states that the benefit of any minerals or oil discovery goes to Mauritius. There is no question of our allowing exploration or exploitation as long as the islands are used for defence purposes. Sir S Ramgoolam is well aware of the position which was made clear to him in 1970 by the then Parliamentary Under Secretary, Maurice Foley.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 1981

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Annex B. A

Friday 11 July 1980

INSURANCE COSTS

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson asked the Attorney-General how much in total his Department and the Lord Chancellor's Department will pay in insurance during the current financial year; and if he will publish a functional breakdown of the total amount.

The Attorney-General: No insurance costs are incurred by the Attorney-General's Department and those by the Lord Chancellor's Department are negligible, save for some £15,000 for insuring premises used by the Law Society in the operation of the legal aid scheme. This is included in the grant to the legal aid fund.

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Stanbrook asked the Attorney-General if he will now prosecute the BBC under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in respect of its actions in interviewing the killer of Mr. Airey Neave, and co-operation with the IRA in setting up and filming a roadblock in Carrickmore.

The Attorney-General: I have considered the police reports on these two incidents and have consulted leading counsel, and I have decided against instituting any criminal proceedings against any members of the staff of the BBC in respect of either incident. I have, however, written to the chairman of the BBC to express my views about the conduct of those involved and to give my understanding of the effect of section 11 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976. It is this section which places on the citizen a legal, as opposed to a moral, duty to report to the police information relating to terrorists and acts of terrorism.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Sir Robert Cooke

Mr. Harold Walker asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to what facilities in the House of Commons Sir Robert Cooke has been given access, and by whose authority.

Mr. St. John-Stevas: As an ex-Member of the House of Commons, Sir Robert Cooke may go to the Members' Lobby.

As a holder of a Palace of Westminster photo-identity pass, which is issued to certain civil servants who attend the House of Commons regularly on duty, Sir Robert may use the Strangers' Cafeteria. This pass was issued on the authority of the Serjeant at Arms.

Diego Garcia

Mr. Newens asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement on the talks she has had with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, and what references were made to the future of Diego Garcia during the course of these.

The Prime Minister: I had a useful exchange of views on 7 July with the Prime Minister of Mauritius on political, economic and cultural matters. Diego Garcia was one of the subjects discussed. When the Mauritius Council of Ministers agreed in 1965 to the detachment of the Chagos Islands to form part of British Indian Ocean territory, it was announced that these would be available for the construction of defence facilities and that, in the event of the islands no longer being required for defence purposes, they should revert to Mauritius. This remains the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

EMPLOYMENT

Earnings Statistics

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will publish in the *Official Report* a table showing for each of the years 1973 and 1977 to 1979 the percentage increase in average wages and salaries on the previous year and cumulatively since 1970 and 1973, respectively, together with the increase in wages and salaries per unit of output for: (a) manufacturing industry, (b) the whole economy less production industries and (c) gas, electricity and water.

Mr. Jim Lester: The following table sets out the available information in respect of each of the years 1973 and 1977 to 1979.

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Annex B

NEW DELHI, OCT 30, REUTER -- MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER SIR SEEMOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM SAID HERE TODAY +IMPERIALIST+ BRITAIN WAS BEING UNREASONABLE ABOUT THE DISPUTED INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA.

MAURITIUS, WHICH CEDED THE ISLAND TO BRITAIN BEFORE IT ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE IN 1968, HAS ASKED FOR THE RETURN OF THE STRATEGIC ATOLL, NOW BEING USED BY THE UNITED STATES AS A MILITARY BASE.

SIR SEEMOOSAGUR WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS FROM LONDON QUOTING A BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT DIEGO GARCIA WAS DETACHED FROM MAURITIUS IN 1965 WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE MAURITIUS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

+PART OF THE AGREEMENT LAID DOWN THAT IF THE ISLAND WERE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES, IT WOULD BE CEDED TO MAURITIUS, + THE SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

BUT SIR SEEMOOSAGUR TOLD NEWSMEN AT DELHI AIRPORT AT THE END OF A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA: +THERE IS NO WRITTEN AGREEMENT. THERE WAS ONLY A STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT IN 1965+.

ASKED WHETHER BRITAIN WAS UNREASONABLE, HE SAID: +THEY ARE UNREASONABLE. ALL IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES ARE UNREASONABLE. THEY WANT TO KEEP COLONIES SOMEWHERE. +

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ASKED WHAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD DO TO SECURE THE RETURN OF THE ISLAND, SIR SEEWOSAGUR REPLIED: +WE WILL SEE WHAT IS TO BE DONE. I WILL CONSULT MY COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT. +

HE SAID BRITAIN HAD RECOGNISED MAURITIUS' SOVEREIGNTY OVER DIEGO GARCIA. +THAT AT LEAST IS ACCEPTED, + HE ADDED.

THE MAURITUIS LEADER, WHO DISCUSSED DIEGO GARCIA WITH INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI, SAID: +SHE IS IN AGREEMENT WITH US. +

+WE HAVE THE SAME OBJECTIVES OF PEACE AND DETENTE AND OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, + HE SAID.

IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY, SIR SEEWOSAGUR TOLD REUTERS HE WANTED BRITAIN TO RETURN DIEGO GARCIA TO ENABLE MAURITIUS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

+TERMS AND CONDITIONS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE NOT ASKING THE UNITED STATES TO GO AWAY, + HE SAID.

THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY STEPPED UP DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MILITARY BASE ON THE ISLAND AS PART OF THE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 4: VENCATESSEN CASE AND THE ILOIS

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Wish to reach a settlement as soon as possible. Our offer is final. Will not be increased. Devaluation of the Mauritius rupee in October 1979 has made it considerably larger in rupee terms.
2. We look to the Mauritian Government for their active support. How does Mauritian Government see developments? What is the new Ad Hoc Committee's plan of action?
3. If necessary, HMG willing to negotiate directly with the Government of Mauritius.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:

10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 4: VENCATESSEN CASE AND THE ILOIS

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Following the setting up of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), the copra plantations were run down and the inhabitants (the 'Ilois'), most of whom were contract labourers, were persuaded to leave. They had close ties with Mauritius and the great majority (about 1,151 people) settled there, final arrivals taking place in 1973. The Mauritian Government drew up a resettlement plan, costed at £650,000 and in 1972 Her Majesty's Government paid this sum to the Mauritian Government. In 1973 the Mauritius Prime Minister acknowledged its receipt in full and final settlement of any claim upon us by the Mauritius Government in respect of resettlement. The Mauritius Government was unable to secure agreement from the Ilois on a resettlement programme, and in 1977 they decided to distribute the grant in cash in accordance with the wishes of the majority. The money was disbursed in 1978 by which time accrued interest had raised its value to £936,000.

2. In 1975 a former inhabitant of the BIOT, Mr Michael Vencatessen, took an action against HMG in the UK courts for wrongful removal from the Territory and for deprivation of rights of residence in the Territory. It was decided to offer £1.25m to the Ilois as a whole as an out-of-court settlement in order to avoid the following possible consequences:-

(a) moral censure by the Judge ruling on the case, on the lines of judicial comment in the Banaban case;

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(b) being compelled by the court to release official papers which might be the source of serious embarrassment to HMG (eg showing that we prevaricated with the UN when BIOT was set up);

(c) an adverse judgement, which the Attorney General made clear could not be wholly excluded;

(d) the likelihood, in such an event, of other members of the Ilois community in Mauritius bringing similar actions.

Our offer envisages Vencatessen agreeing to discontinue his action, and the Ilois giving legal assurances that they recognise they have no claim on HMG.

3. The offer was made to the Ilois in May 1979 by their legal representative, Bernard Sheridan, a London solicitor. A settlement has not yet been reached because of disunity among the Ilois, and pressure by the Mauritian Opposition for them to refuse. Opposition has centred on a clause in the deed of acceptance which requires the Ilois to renounce their rights (if any) to ever return to the Chagos Islands. Negotiations are under way with Sheridan on a revised deed of acceptance. We have agreed with him an amended clause which requires the Ilois not to return until such time as the islands are ceded to Mauritius. Sheridan is seeking Ilois agreement to the new wording, but as a result of internal squabbles among them, he is no longer certain who are his principals. He has had no effective instructions for months. Thus there is stalemate.

4. As a result of opposition pressure, the Government has had to drop its neutral stance over the issue, and is participating in a new Ad Hoc Committee responsible for promotion of the Ilois' welfare. Its terms of reference include negotiating with HMG on our offer. This provides a fresh opportunity for bringing an end to this problem which can only complicate our relations with Mauritius. Ramgoolam's visit enables us to assure the Mauritians

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of our wish to reach a speedy settlement, and to seek their active support. There are advantages in dealing direct with the Government of Mauritius rather than Sheridan and we should indicate our willingness to do so.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 1981

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 5: AID/BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT

POINTS TO MAKE

1. We very much sympathise with Mauritius's present economic difficulties, and fully support the policies adopted which we hope will soon bring a rapid recovery.
2. Happy to be able to offer additional £1m for programme aid - to finance essential spare parts and maintenance equipment from UK.
3. In addition as we said at the IMF meeting, we can make available credit cover to facilitate the purchase of UK imports.
4. We will be happy to consider any proposals for any projects under the current loan, of which around £2m still remains uncommitted.

Seychelles Aid Agreement [if raised]

5. The agreement on a new aid package for Seychelles met a legal obligation which was part of the Independence settlement.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 5: AID/BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Mauritius Economy

1. Since 1979 Mauritius has had serious balance of payments problems, stemming from high public expenditure and adverse terms of trade (decline in sugar prices and rising oil prices). Although sugar prices have risen again, cyclones significantly reduced last year's yield. The IMF agreed to a stand-by arrangement and subsequent modification, and a waiver in the performance criteria.
2. A Consultative Group Meeting, chaired by the IBRD, was held last October to seek assistance from donors. Apart from the UK and the international organisations, only France, India, Japan and the USA were represented, although Australia, Canada and Germany sent observers. Nothing very substantial emerged: the UK could only offer availability of ECGD cover; and only France offered financial assistance, the amount and terms of which were undecided. Since then however, the Mauritians have raised a \$30m loan organised by Citibank (London), which, with a stand-by loan of \$50m and the availability of an additional \$30m, should cover their 1980/81 deficit.

Future Aid

3. The extra £1m (£0.5m to be spent in 1981/82, £0.5m in 1982/83) for programme aid was included in the allocation of 1981/82 Contingencies, at present under discussion with DOT Ministers. The DOT have agreed that this commitment should proceed in advance of overall agreement on the Contingencies allocation.

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4. The Aid Framework provides for full disbursement of the current project loans by 1983/84: there is therefore scope for reasonably early progress in allocating the uncommitted balances of current loans. There is no room for disbursement under any new loan within that period.

Comparison with our Aid to Seychelles

5. The Mauritians may make unfavourable comparisons between our reticence over a new aid loan for them and the aid package of £3.5m negotiated last year with Seychelles. The background to the Seychelles agreement is that at Independence we undertook as part of the settlement to provide special financial assistance until 1979, after which we would assist in the creation of a budgetary reserve if none existed, and also to discuss a further development loan. These undertakings were embodied in a legally-enforceable document which the Seychellois activated in 1979. We finally decided on the package in November 1980.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 1981

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 6: INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ)

POINTS TO MAKE

1. View with sympathy the security concerns of the littoral states. But invasion of Afghanistan demonstrates that threat to security of region comes from the land, not the sea.
2. Encouraging that at the recent UN General Assembly it proved possible to adopt a consensus resolution. Nevertheless clear that views on several fundamental aspects of IOPZ are far apart.
3. Bound to question whether sensible to hold Conference this year in Colombo. Could be counter-productive: expose antagonistic positions. A public display of the issues on which we are divided would make progress on IOPZ more difficult, rather than less. What do you think?
4. If Conference is held in Colombo, do you have any ideas on agenda or ways to avoid confrontation? Might some suggest a less contentious form - eg a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee in Colombo?

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:

10-13 FEBRUARY, 1981

BRIEF NO 6: INDIAN OCEAN

ESSENTIAL FACTS

The Island States

1. Super-power rivalry in the area is not welcome to Mauritius which has a growing sense of isolation. Relations are cool with the other Indian Ocean island states (Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros). Seychelles and Madagascar follow radical policies, are open to Soviet influence and are proponents of the concept of an Indian Ocean Peace Zone (see below). The Mauritius opposition party has established close links with them. The Government of Mauritius view all this with unease.
2. The American build-up on Diego Garcia, part of a chain of facilities around the Indian Ocean (see brief No.3) has put Sir S Ramgoolam in a difficult position vis-à-vis the other Indian Ocean island states, since it was he who agreed to release Diego Garcia for US/UK defence purposes. Ramgoolam's recent public statements on the issue are an attempt to allay criticism, particularly by India. Mauritius' commercial relations with South Africa are another source of difficulty.

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3. The Government of Mauritius looks to France for military support following our termination of the 1968 Defence Agreement in 1976. The French maintain a sizeable naval force on the nearby island of Réunion (a Département of Metropolitan France). A defence agreement is reported to have been signed with France in 1980.

Western Policy and Interests

4. It would be a serious reverse for the West if the Russians were to be granted naval facilities or some other form of military access on one of the island states. They could thereby control sea-lanes vital to the West. They have been pressing Seychelles and Madagascar but so far without success. Seychelles is most at risk; although President Rene has so far kept the Russians at arms length, some of his ministers are pro-Soviet. Madagascar has also resisted the Russians but the economy is becoming increasingly shaky. Western policy is to encourage the island states to resist Soviet pressures and to follow a genuinely non-aligned policy. In this regard Mauritius is basically pro-Western, shares the West's view of the Soviet threat and thus merits Western support.

Indian Ocean Peace Zone (IOPZ)

5. The 1971 UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution declaring the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace. The UK and most of the West abstained on this resolution.

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6. A UN Ad Hoc Committee comprised of littoral states was set up in 1972 to carry the proposal forward. Mauritius is a member. The UK, together with other Security Council members and major maritime nations joined the Committee in 1980.

7. British interests are that nothing should be done to interfere with freedom of navigation and overflight and that UK/US use of Diego Garcia should not be impaired. It is difficult to conceive of any Zone of Peace acceptable to the non-aligned which would meet these requirements but we have avoided outright opposition because of the strong attachment of many non-aligned leaders to the proposal. Instead, we take a line of 'constructive questioning' which so far has sufficed to ensure that no progress is made. Mauritius does not take an active role in pressing for an IOPZ but is obliged to support it in general terms, particularly because of the complication over Diego Garcia which is an emotive issue in Mauritian politics (see Brief No.3).

8. A 1979 UNGA Resolution, on which we abstained, decided to convene a conference at Colombo in 1981 to implement the IOPZ proposal. The non-aligned, led by India, insist that our joining the Committee implied a commitment to the proposed Conference. The West argues that the expansion of the Committee must affect its mandate and that the invasion of Afghanistan has altered the situation in the region, making it premature to schedule a conference.

/9. Nevertheless,

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9. Nevertheless, we cannot be sure that a Western boycott of a Colombo Conference would be agreed. We would have no problem with a decision to hold a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee in Colombo but that might not be enough to satisfy Sri Lanka. A compromise may be needed. It would be helpful to know the extent of common ground between us and more moderate non-aligned members of the Committee.

EAST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT

FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

6 February, 1981

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 7: MAURITIUS INTERNAL POLITICS

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The Government coalition (Sir S Ramgoolam's Labour Party and the right wing Parti Mauricien Social Democrate (PMSD) under Sir Gaetan Duval) has an overall Parliamentary majority of four. The radical - though not extreme - opposition, the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM), is the largest single party and is directed by the energetic and purposeful Paul Berenger.

2. The constitution requires a General Election by the end of March 1982. Electioneering is under way although Ramgoolam is not expected to call the election until the last moment in the hope that:

i) measures taken in 1980 to strengthen the economy will be showing results, and

ii) there will be a good sugar harvest this year.

He will again lead his party into the elections, but this time in alliance with the PMSD; the MMM are negotiating an alliance with the Parti Socialiste Mauricien (PSM), a breakaway group of the Labour Party.

3. The election could be close fought. The Government appears to have recovered from setbacks over ministerial corruption and internal feuding. However the MMM is adopting a moderate stance and may win over disenchanted Labour Party supporters. Ramgoolam has been in power for many years. He

/has

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has shown no signs of retiring nor has he nominated a successor. Consequently, the feeling that the time has come for a change may prove to be a significant factor.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 1981

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 8: PERSONALITY NOTES

RAMGOOLAM, DR THE RT HON SIR SEEWOOSAGUR GCMG MLA

Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security, Minister of Reform Institutions, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Minister of Communications.

MLA for Pamplemousses/Triolet (Labour); Leader of the House since 1960.

Born 1900, Belle Rive. Educated Royal College, Curepipe; University College, London (Honorary fellowship conferred in 1971). Elected Municipal Councillor 1940-53; re-elected 1956; Deputy Major, Port Louis, 1956; Mayor 1958; entered Legislative Council for Pamplemousses-Riviere du Rempart, 1948; Member Executive Council, 1948; Liaison Officer for Education 1951-56; Ministerial Secretary to Treasury 1958; Chief Minister and Minister of Finance, 1961; Premier, 1965; Prime Minister since 1967.

Sir Seewoosagur, a diabetic, is remarkably fit and active for his age. He needs little sleep, and has surprising stamina. No gathering is too small for him to attend. A short, stocky man, with only one good eye, he can on occasions be almost inaudible.

He was born of humble, but not very poor, parents. His political philosophy derives from his days as a journalist and medical student in England in the twenties and thirties. He has dominated the Mauritian political scene for 30 years, and led his country to

/independence

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independence. A shrewd political tactician, an eminent 'wheeler and dealer'. Over-loyal to his old friends, and out of touch with the younger generation. Exercises tight personal control over all government business but age and innate reluctance to take decisions have a paralysing effect. Seems determined to stay in office at least until the next elections. Though many people feel it is high time he went, he is still widely respected. Can be harsh with his subordinates.

Believes in a mixed economy, opposes further nationalisation and strongly anti-communist. Essentially non-violent. Pro-Commonwealth, and well disposed to Britain. An indefatigable traveller.

Lady Ramgoolam is shy and does not share her husband's obvious enjoyment of social life. But has a poise and quiet charm of her own. Lengthy illness April 1980 to date. They have two children.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 8: PERSONALITY NOTES

RINGADOO, THE HON SIR VEERASAMY, Kt MLA

Minister of Finance since 1968, and Deputy Prime Minister

MLA for Quartier Militaire and Moka (Labour).

Born 1920, Port Louis. Educated Port Louis Grammar School; London School of Economics; LLB 1948; called to the Bar 1949; elected Municipal Councillor, 1956; elected Member Legislative Council for Moka-Flacq 1951-67; Minister of Labour and Social Security 1959-64; Minister of Education 1964 to July 1967; Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources August 1967 to June 1968.

One of the best departmental Ministers. Intelligent and hard-working.

Acts as Prime Minister when Sir Seewoosagur is away, and is a possible successor to the latter.

Physically, Sir Veerasamy is very short and dark, his forebears being low caste Tamil from the south of India. He has no ready-made political base and has had to create a following by ability. He underwent a serious cardiac operation a few years ago, and, although he appears to have made a good recovery, it is not certain that he has the stamina for the responsibilities of a Prime Minister. Well disposed towards Britain.

He has a quiet manner socially. A vivacious wife; two children.



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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 8: PERSONALITY NOTES

WALTER, THE HON SIR HAROLD EDWARD, Kt MLA

Minister of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration since May 1976.

MLA for Mahebourg-Plaine Magnien (Labour).

Born 1920, Quartier Militaire. Educated Royal College Curepipe. Enlisted 1940 and on demobilisation was Staff Officer, GHQ MELF: served in Madagascar and East Africa and Middle East; Commissioned 1946; called to the Bar Lincoln's Inn, 1951; Member of Legislative Council for Mahebourg, 1959; re-elected 1963; defeated December 1976 but came back as a best loser; Minister of Works and Internal Communications 1959-65; Minister of Health 1965-67, 1971-76, and of Labour 1967-71. Knighted 1972.

A Creole of mixed Anglo/Indian and African descent. An extrovert he talks non-stop, both in private and public (a brilliant orator). Devious and untrustworthy; one of the most disliked men in Mauritius. He sees himself as a future Prime Minister, a view shared by very few.

A keen shot and bon viveur. Makes a great show of friendliness towards Britain, but not to be relied upon.

Married, no children.

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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS:
10-13 FEBRUARY

BRIEF NO 8: PERSONALITY NOTES

SIR LECKRAZ TEELock CBE

Appointed 12 March 1968.

Born 1909. After completing his secondard ecuation at the Royal College of Curepipe went to the United Kingdom for medical studies and qualified at Edinburgh University. Returned to Mauritius in 1930 and set up a flourishing medical practice which he gave up when he was appointed Mauritius Commissioner in London in April 1964. Elected member for Brisee Verdiere in 1959 and represented that constituency until 1963. One of the founders of the Mauritius Family Planning Association and of the Hindu Girls' College, a secondard school open to girls of all races and creeds.

Intelligent but not a forceful personality. Quite conscientious as the Doyen ofthe Diplomatic Corps and Senior High Commissioner. His health has given cause for concern of late.

He and his wife are both very friendly and sociable. She is a Barrister-at-Law (Middle Temple), daughter of the late Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University, India, and a woman of some energy. They have a married daughter now living in Germany and a son at school in London.

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

CC (G77)

JEM

Handwritten initials

118/81

Original filed

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 February 1981

My dear Prime Minister,

Overseas Aid, May 79
Renegotiation of
the Lome Convention
Closure of Tate & Lyle

Thank you for your letter of 22 January about the closure of the Tate & Lyle cane sugar refinery at Liverpool.

I am sure you will understand that this decision was a commercial one for the company to take. It would not be appropriate for the Government to seek to persuade them to alter their decision. But I can assure you that the closure of the refinery will have no effect on the Community commitment to access for ACP sugar to the Community market.

The commitment under the Sugar Protocol to the Lome Convention is that the Community as a whole will purchase and import specific quantities of sugar from the ACP producers at guaranteed prices. There are no conditions or qualifications attached to that commitment. The commitment is for an indefinite period, subject only to the proviso that the conditions for implementing the guarantee "shall be re-examined before the end of the seventh year of their application", that is before the end of February 1982. And if any ACP sugar cannot be marketed in the Community, the Protocol effectively requires the Community to buy it into intervention at at least the guaranteed price. As Mr Walker and his predecessors have repeatedly made clear to the Commonwealth ACP producers, their exports to the Community cannot be affected by the level of beet sugar production in the Community.

The Sugar Protocol is an obligation to which the United Kingdom is and will remain fully committed. We are fully aware of the importance of the Protocol for the Commonwealth ACP producers.

/But

But I would point out that that obligation does not rest solely upon the United Kingdom. The commitment was undertaken by the European Community in 1975 when the first Lome Convention was negotiated. It is true that the United Kingdom made satisfactory access for sugar from those Commonwealth sugar producers who subsequently became associated with the Community through the Lome Convention on condition of our accession to the Community. But under the Lome Sugar Protocol which put that commitment into practice, access is guaranteed to the Community as a whole, and not solely to the United Kingdom.

In practice the United Kingdom has up to now taken most (but not all) of the ACP sugar exported to the Community. I see no reason why this should not continue. It is true that one of the problems which Tate and Lyle have had to face is the contraction of the United Kingdom market from 2.6 to 2.3 million tonnes over the past seven years. But Mr Walker has made it clear that he is prepared to accept a reduction in the UK production quota under European Community arrangements to 1.15 million tonnes. If this substantial reduction is agreed, sugar surpluses in the United Kingdom will occur only occasionally, and are not likely to exceed 100,000 tonnes. Small amounts of this sort can be stored and carried over to the following year under Community arrangements.

You may have noted that Tate and Lyle have said that they are prepared to continue to buy the same amount of ACP raw sugar as hitherto, and that they will try to find a market elsewhere in the Community for the sugar that they cannot refine themselves. The detailed arrangements are of course for the company and the sugar exporters to negotiate. But it seems to me a helpful offer.

Yours sincerely
Raymond De la Haye

Dr The Rt Hon Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, GCMG MLA

Handwritten signature

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS AND LADY RAMGOOLAM

10-13 FEBRUARY 1981

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Cars are provided for the official suite and seating arrangements are described at Annex 1.

Wednesday 11 February

Talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The following will also be present:

Mauritius

Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo

Sir Harold Walter

Sir Leckraz Teelock

United Kingdom

Mr R Luce

Mr D M Day or Sir Leonard Allinson

Mr J Allan

Mr J A Robson

Thursday 12 February

Talks with the Prime Minister

The following will also be present:

Mauritius

Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo

Sir Harold Walter

Sir Leckraz Teelock

United Kingdom

PS/Prime Minister

Mr R Luce

Mr D M Day or Sir Leonard Allinson

Mr J Allan

Protocol and Conference Department
Visits Section
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
233 3261

4 February 1981

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10 Downing Street

PS to the Prime Minister (2)
Press Office (1)

Mauritius High Commission (6)

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PS/LPS (2)

PS/Mr Luce (2)

PS/PUS (1)

Mr D M Day (1)

Sir L Allinson (1)

Mr J A Robson (1)

Mr S Innes EAD (6)

News Dept (3)

Commonwealth Coordination Department (1)

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Protocol and Conference Department (6)

Dr A Semmence, Treasury Medical Adviser's Office

FILE

Rd

PRIME MINISTER

The dinner for the
Prime Minister of Mauritius
on Thursday, 12 February
is informal i.e. lounge suite
as he does not wish to bring
a dinner jacket.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

4 February, 1981

RESTRICTED



10/18
to Mrs Goodland
Mauritius

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1981

RF 1) 18-1-81

Dear Rudine, 2) 10-2-81

Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius

As you know, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, is calling on the Prime Minister on the afternoon of Thursday 12 February and dining with her that evening.

2 | I should be grateful if you could ensure
1 | that we receive the briefs for the talks by
close of play on Tuesday 10 February. It would
be helpful if we could have the guest list for
the dinner, which as you know will be for 60
or so guests, as soon as possible.

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Z

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5700 - 1

OO PORT LOUIS
GRS 81
RESTRICTED

FM FCO 071030Z JAN 81
TO IMMEDIATE PORT LOUIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3 OF 7 JANUARY

FROM EAD
YOUR TELNO 6: RAMGOOLAM'S VISIT

1. NO PROBLEM OVER BOTH RINGADOO AND WALTER COMING WITH WIVES. PLEASE CONFIRM RINGADOO TAKES PRECEDENCE.
2. RAMGOOLAM WOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO GIVE A RETURN DINNER.
3. BLACK TIE WOULD BE THE ONLY FORMAL DRESS REQUIRED.
4. WE PROPOSE TO CALL ON RAMGOOLAM ON EITHER 15 OR 16 JANUARY TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAMME. MAURITIAN HIGH COMMISSION HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.

CARRINGTON

NNNN

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Maintors

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5630 - 1

OO PORT LOUIS

GRS 101

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FM FCO 061750Z JAN 81
TO IMMEDIATE PORT LOUIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1 OF 6 JANUARY

FROM EAD

YOUR TELNO 6: RAMGOOLAM'S VISIT

1. IN VIEW OF PRESS LEAKS IN MAURITIUS, WE AGREE TO AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BEING MADE ON 9 JANUARY IN LONDON AND PORT LOUIS. FOLLOWING TEXT IS PROPOSED:

'THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, SIR SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM, WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AS A GUEST OF H M GOVERNMENT FROM 11-13 FEBRUARY'. PLEASE CONFIRM MAURITIAN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE ALONG THESE LINES.

2. GRATEFUL TO KNOW IF ANY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL ACCOMPANY RAMGOOLAM.

CARRINGTON

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fn.
Paul

FOR EAD
TELECON HEWITT
RAMGOOLAM'S VISIT

1. RAM TOLD ME WHEN I CONVEYED INVITATION HE WAS NOT SURE LADY RAMGOOLAM WOULD BE WELL ENOUGH. SHE HAS HARDLY BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC AT ALL THIS YEAR AND HIS DAUGHTER, RETURNED A FEW MONTHS AGO AFTER COMPLETING LAW STUDIES IN UK, OFTEN NOW ACCOMPANIES HIM TO FUNCTIONS. YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HOW TO REACT IF HE ASKS FOR HIS DAUGHTER TO BE INVITED INSTEAD.
2. RAM WOULD PRESUMABLY HOPE HIS SON WOULD BE INVITED TO MOST FUNCTIONS ALSO.
3. I DON'T IMAGINE RAM WOULD BE FUSSY ABOUT HOTEL PROVIDED IT WAS ONE OF BEST. HE STAYED AT GROSVENOR FOR CHGM 1977 BUT THAT WAS PRESUMABLY ALLOCATED BY US RATHER THAN PICKED OUT BY HIM.
4. RAM IS NO STRANGER TO LONDON AND I WOULD EXPECT HIM TO HAVE VIEWS OF HIS OWN ON WHAT TO DO. TEELock HAS COME BACK PRESUMABLY FOR CONSULTATIONS ABOUT THE VISIT AND I WOULD HOPE TO GET SOME RESPONSE FROM RAM NEXT WEEK. WALTER TOLD ME SOME WHILE AGO A THEATRE WOULD APPEAL.
5. FOR CITY ENTERTAINMENT, REPRESENTATIVES OF FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS WITH MAURITIUS INTERESTS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND: TATE AND LYLE (LORD JELICOE), SUGAR SYNDICATE, BARCLAYS, LLOYDS, CITICORP, BRITISH AIRWAYS, LONRHO, BAT, IRELAND BLYTH, L G ADAMS, CROWN AGENTS, CDC, ECGD, CABLE AND WIRELESS, ALEXANDER GIBB, CONFERENCE SHIPPING LINES, PLESSEYS, ICL, AND EAST AFRICA AND MAURITIUS ASSOCIATION. BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS AND BRITISH AEROSPACE HOPE FOR BUSINESS HERE.

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/6. FOR

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6. FOR OTHER POSSIBLE GUESTS FOR THIS OR OTHER OCCASIONS SEE LIST IN MY TELNOS 118 AND 120 OF 24 JUNE TO WHICH MIGHT BE ADDED: BARON GREENWOOD (CHAIRMAN 1965 CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE), SIR JOHN RENNIE (LAST GOVERNOR), SIR ARTHUR GALSWORTHY, TONY RUSHFORD, BERNARD SHERIDAN, COLIN LEGUM, DAVID BUTLER (FELLOW, NUFFIELD COLLEGE, OXFORD), MRS DE SMITH (GALLAGHER'S LETTER OF 6 AUGUST 1979), MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE (TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS A YEAR AGO), LEONARD CHESHIRE VC, AND PROFESSORS COWAN (SOAS), THISTLETHWAITE (EAST ANGLIA), SIMS (SHEFFIELD), BUTTERWORTH (WARWICK), (ALSO SOMEONE FROM UCH LONDON).

7. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA WILL PRESUMABLY BE INVOLVED IN SOME WAY. ALSO THE QUEEN MOTHER WHO VISITED MAURITIUS YEARS AGO.

WARD

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MR DAY
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKBY 221300Z DEC 80
TELEGRAM NUMBER 240 OF 22 DECEMBER 1980

fa.
Phu

YOUR TELNO 176
OFFICIAL VISIT BY MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER

1. RAMGOOLAM ACCEPTS WITH PLEASURE, CONFIRMS DATES ACCEPTABLE AND
WILL REPLY ON OTHER POINTS SOON.

WARD

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(1)

PRIME MINISTER

Visits and Visitors - 1981

I attach a summary of your programme of outward visits and inward visitors next year as it is at present shaping up. I also attach the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's programme together with a background note.

Subject to your views, your programme seems to me at present to be manageable. However, I hope you will agree that it would be wise to resist proposals to extend it much further. In particular the programme of inward visits ^{*} is already looking rather ambitious: there will inevitably be a considerable number of unforeseen additions.

* The FCS would like to issue an (undated) invitation to Mr Angabe early next week for a visit to London next year. Agree?

Phil

12 December 1980

(Can we wait a little. I am not sure it would be sufficient if received by public opinion. not.)

PRIME MINISTER'S VISITS AND VISITORS - 1981

OUTWARD VISITS

Fixed, in hand or highly probable

United States of America	Late February/early March
European Council - Maastricht	23-24 March
India/Gulf	15-23 April
North/South Summit - Mexico	Early June
European Council - Luxembourg	29-30 June
Ottawa Summit	19-21 July
CHGM - Melbourne	30 September - 7 October
Anglo-German Summit - Bonn	? October

Proposals

Portugal - now looks less attractive	1 day
Strasbourg	December - 1 day

INWARD VISITORS

Fixed, in hand or highly probable

Panama President	30 March - 1 April
Ghana President	Early 1981
Romania Prime Minister	13-16 April
Anglo-German Summit	11-12 May
Anglo-Italian Summit	? May or later
Anglo-French Summit	? June
Anglo-Irish Summit	June/July
European Council	26-27 November

/ Proposals

Proposals

Mauritius Prime Minister	Early February
French Prime Minister	Early 1981 - if at all
Zimbabwe Prime Minister	
Jamaican Prime Minister	
Belgian Prime Minister	Late 1981
Cameroon President	
Peruvian Prime Minister	
Dominican Prime Minister	

Notes

- (i) The Prime Minister of Singapore is likely to visit the United Kingdom under his own steam in 1981, to become a Freeman of the City of London.
- (ii) The Sultan of Brunei is coming for 4-6 weeks in the Spring to learn about the arts of government.
- (iii) The Prime Minister of Fiji may also come under his own steam.

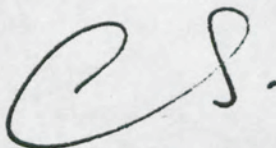
MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister's Visits Overseas and Visitors 1981

I have checked through Roderick Lyne's letter to you of 1 December and can confirm all the dates he mentions on page 4, both for the outward visits and the inward visitors. I would be grateful, however, if when you write back to him you could ask him to go firm as quickly as possible with any of his "proposals". I think it would also be a good idea to show the Prime Minister the whole programme.

The FCO ask for a specific date for Sir S. Ramgoolam. I can manage a dinner on either Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12 February and talks on either day, though the 12th would be infinitely preferable. Not much alternative around that time.

I really am going to be in great difficulty fitting anything more in.



5 December 1980

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

MOGBA o/r.

1 December 1980

Dear Michael,

Prime Minister's Overseas Visits and
Visitors 1981

Lord Carrington has been considering possible programmes of visits and visitors for the Prime Minister and himself in 1981. I enclose a schedule of existing plans at Prime Ministerial level and of Lord Carrington's additional proposals, as well as a schedule of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's own plans. We assume of course that events are likely to necessitate additional visits, outward and inward, which cannot now be foreseen.

The Queen

As background, I should recall the plans for State Visits next year. The recommendations are likely to be that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia be invited in June and President Shagari of Nigeria in November. If there is a recommendation for a State Visit in March, it may be for President Marcos of the Philippines or President Banda of Malawi. The Queen will visit Norway in May, Australia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHGM) in September/October, and New Zealand and Sri Lanka later in October. Canada is a possibility in July. - *Patricia of Constitution? - we may be*

Outward Visits by the Prime Minister

having difficulty at that time.

In view of the UK Presidency in the second half of 1981, the Prime Minister may prefer to fit as many of her outward trips as possible into the first half of the year.

Lord Carrington welcomes the idea that the Prime Minister should visit the Gulf in early January or in connection with her Indian visit in April. He suggests that the best countries to visit would be Saudi Arabia, Oman and

/the

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Agreed
 the United Arab Emirates. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall submit draft telegrams to the Posts with instructions and detailed suggestions. (There will not be time to include visits to all six Arab states in the Persian Gulf, but the Prime Minister has met in the relatively recent past the Amir of Qatar, and the Prime Ministers of Bahrain and Kuwait. They will be borne in mind for another Ministerial visit in the not too distant future.)

The proposals in the schedule for visits to the US and to the North/South Summit in Mexico need little explanation. Lord Carrington will make specific suggestions in due course. We shall also make detailed suggestions about a visit to India in April. A visit to Spain would only be appropriate if the Lisbon Agreement on Gibraltar is implemented. If this condition was met, a visit during the UK Presidency would be particularly appropriate. A visit to Portugal (Paul Lever's letter of 7 November) could be extremely brief, but the Portuguese would wish it to be separate from any visit to Spain.

Agreed
 The schedule of outward visits does not include an Anglo/Italian Summit in Rome in November. The Prime Minister may feel that the frequency of these meetings could be eased by suggesting in due course to the Italians that the second Summit due in 1981 might be postponed because of the UK Presidency until early 1982.

Inward Visits

Agreed
 Sir S Ramgoolam, although Prime Minister of MauViti since independence, has never paid an official visit to Britain. Despite his age he is not expected to retire soon. He is firmly pro-Western and his country is among the few which have preserved the Westminster model of Parliamentary democracy. Lord Carrington recommends that Sir S Ramgoolam should be invited here in the second week of February, when the Mauritian parliament (where the government have a slender majority) will be in recess and when The Queen should be able to receive him. Given the short time available, we would be grateful to know the Prime Minister's wishes as soon as possible.

Please try to delay.
 An invitation to Mr Mugabe would be an excellent way of keeping up the momentum of our relations with Zimbabwe. One of the regular Anglo/Irish Summits will be due in mid-year and should probably be held after the Northern Ireland

/local



Not before
election

local government elections in June. We shall be writing shortly with detailed suggestions about inviting M. Barre. It would be a suitable gesture to invite the Belgian Prime Minister for a brief visit before we hand over the Presidency to Belgium at the end of the year.

shall be here
at 6pm
6th

An invitation to Mr Seaga would be an excellent goodwill gesture after the change of government in Jamaica.

We have tended to neglect Cameroon, a stable, moderate country which is one third Anglophone. The Cameroon market, with its sound agricultural base and significant oil reserves, is buoyant and attractive. President Ahidjo, in office since independence in 1960, has just started another 5 year term. Lord Carrington recommends an official invitation in 1981.

Peru has recently returned to democratic government. The economy is strong and offers opportunities for investment and exports. Dr Ulla, the Prime Minister, is also Minister of the Economy and Commerce and the most important person after the President. An official visit could win us a valuable friend.

The new, moderate Dominican Government would welcome an invitation to the Prime Minister, Miss Charles. There is advantage in demonstrating support for governments favouring stability in the volatile Eastern Caribbean.

You will see that Lord Carrington's schedule of inward visits includes the possibility of inviting the Polish Foreign Minister. But, depending on how things go in Poland, we may later wish to sound the Poles about the possibility of a higher level contact instead.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of OD and David Wright in the Cabinet Office.

yours ever
R M J Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

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SECRETARY OF STATE'S OVERSEAS VISITS AND VISITORS, 1981

OUTWARD VISITS

Fixed or in hand

Morocco/Egypt	3-17 January
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	19-20 January
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	16-17 February
Political Cooperation Foreign Ministers - The Hague	25 June
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	16-17 March
European Council - Maastricht	23-24 March
Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg	13-14 April
Hong Kong/China/Japan/Pakistan	?28 March - 9/10 April
State Visit to Norway	May
Foreign Ministers' Informal weekend - Netherlands	9-10 May
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	18-19 May
NATO Ministerial Meeting Location not fixed	2 days in May
Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg	22-23 June
European Council - Luxembourg	29-30 June
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	13-14 July
Ottawa Summit	19-21 July
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	14-15 September
CHGM Melbourne	30 September - 7 October
Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg	19-20 October
Anglo-German Summit - Bonn	?October
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	16-17 November
NATO Ministerial Meeting - Brussels	2 days in December
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	7-8 December

Proposals

USA	?February/March
Pakistan en route to Hong Kong	?26 March
FRG	Early 1981
Moscow	Early 1981
Nigeria	February 1981
France for brief Bilateral North/South Summit - Mexico	Early June
Netherlands (handover visit to outgoing Presidency)	One day late June
UNGA (speaking engagement in US?)	September
Luxembourg: Churchill Memorial Lecture	One day October
Berlin after the Anglo-German Summit	October
ASEAN two countries en route to or from CHGM	September-October

INWARD VISITORS

Fixed or in hand

Mozambique Foreign Minister	26-29 January
Foreign Ministers' informal weekend	5-6 September
Anglo-German Summit	?May
Anglo-Italian Summit	?May
Anglo-French Summit	?June
Political Cooperation Foreign Ministers	13 October
European Council	26-27 November
Iraqi Foreign Minister (perhaps in 1980)	

Proposals

Foreign Ministers of:

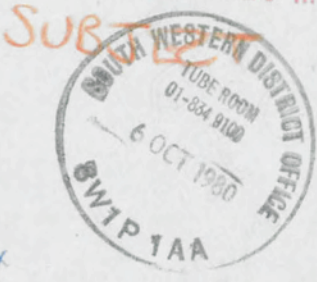
Poland	Venezuela
Yugoslavia	Brazil
India	Sweden
Luxembourg	Finland
Mexico	
Botswana	

Notes

- (i) The Department may wish later to recommend that the Secretary of State should attend the opening session of the Global Negotiations, which may be in late January.
- (ii) New Australian Foreign Minister likely to come under own steam in 1981.
- (iii) The same applies to the Portuguese Foreign Minister;
- (iv) and to the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister.
- (v) The Foreign Minister of Guinea may come in early 1981 as a COI Visitor.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T197^A/80



*Prime Minister
ofc.*

Ans. 8/11

0
889113 PO SW G
299992 PO TS G
P133 1607 LONDON TELEX 47

THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER MP PRIME MINISTER 10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1

11.9.80

ms

MANY THANKS YOUR MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES ON MY BIRTHDAY .
MY FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT AND MYSELF APPRECIATED IT VERY MUCH .
WARM PERSONAL REGARDS .

SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

COL ~~10 SWT~~ . . . SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM

299992 PO TS G
889113 PO SW G

[Handwritten signature]

Manthorpe

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 7172A/80

fs. Amul

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42998 - 1

GRS 81
RESTRICTED
FM FCO 111500Z SEPT 80
TO ROUTINE PORT LOUIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 131 OF 11 SEPTEMBER
YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 159: RAMGOOLAM'S 80TH BIRTHDAY
1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME
MINISTER TO SIR S RAMGOOLAM ON 18 SEPTEMBER.

BEGINS
I SEND YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR
EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY. YOUR RECORD OF SERVICE TO YOUR COUNTRY
IS EXCEPTIONAL AND YOUR COUNSELS ARE HIGHLY VALUED BY FELLOW
MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. WITH EVERY GOOD WISH.
ENDS

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MR DAY

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No. 10 DOWNING STREET

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Mauritus

10 September 1980

Dr The Rt Hon Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 9 September proposing that she send a congratulatory birthday message to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. The Prime Minister has approved the text enclosed with your letter.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

M A Arthur, Esq
Lord Privy Seal's Office

cc.



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree with?

Prud. Yes
not.

9 September 1980

Dear Mike

DR THE RT HON SIR SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM GCMG MLA

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, celebrates his 80th birthday on 18 September. He has dominated the politics of his country for nearly 40 years and has been in charge of Mauritian affairs so long that his career is synonymous with the recent political history of this country. He was appointed Chief Minister in 1962, was made a Privy Councillor in 1964 and became Prime Minister in 1967, leading his country to Independence in the following year. Throughout his career Sir Seewoosagur has been a good friend of Britain.

Sir Ian Gilmour thinks that the Prime Minister may therefore wish to send a congratulatory birthday message to Sir Seewoosagur. No other Commonwealth leader has attained such an age still in office and with so long an unbroken period as first minister (the Prime Minister of Trinidad has longer service, but is somewhat younger). Sir S Ramgoolam values his links with Britain and a message from the Prime Minister, whom he has seen twice this year, would give much pleasure. If this is agreed, Mrs Thatcher may like to send a message on the lines of the attached draft telegram.

/Mr Luce

M A Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street



Mr Luce, who visited Mauritius in June, proposes to send a personal message.

Mauritius is a Realm, and we understand The Queen will be sending a message as Queen of Mauritius.

Yours ever

Mitchell Arthur

M A Arthur
Private Secretary to the
Lord Privy Seal

File No.

RESTRICTED
OUTWARD

Security Classification
RESTRICTED
Precedence
ROUTINE
DESKBYZ

Department EAST AFRICAN

Drafted by (Block Capitals) J A ROBSON/MO' C

TELEGRAM

Tel. Extn. 4549

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched (Date)
(Time)Z

POSTBYZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.)

(Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) RESTRICTED

(Caveat)
Privacy marking) Z

(Codeword)

(Deskby) Z

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(precedence) (post)

Tel. No. of [4.9.80.]

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[TEXT]

Your telegram number 159; RAMGOOLAM's 80th BIRTHDAY

1. Please convey the following message from the Prime Minister to Sir S Ramgoolam on 18 September.

BEGINS

I send you my warm congratulations on the occasion of your eightieth birthday. Your record of service to your country is exceptional and your counsels ^{are} ~~continue~~ highly valued by fellow members of the Commonwealth.

With every good wish.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

MT

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN



CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 August, 1980

Thank you for your letter of 11 August, with information about the 1965 Anglo/Mauritius discussions.

The Prime Minister has seen this. She is satisfied that Sir S Ramgoolam was well aware of what Mauritius was agreeing to.

In respect of the question of use of labour and materials from Mauritius, the Prime Minister is content with your recommendation that HMG should be seen to have re-examined the question, and that you will arrange for this to be discussed with the Americans with a view to briefing our High Commission in Port Louis to speak to the Mauritians should the matter remain live.

I am copying this letter to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

R M J Lyne, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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SECRET



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 August 1980

Yes out!
Prime Minister

Dear Mike,

*You asked for details of the
1965 discussions. Content to*

Call by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

*leave FCO to pursue
question of Mauritian*

In his letter of 8 July, Michael Alexander asked for an *Labour's* account of the exact nature of the Anglo/Mauritius discussions *materials* in 1965 and whether there was any substance in Sir S Ramgoolam's *at X?* assertion that these discussions were not reflected in the public statements made about them at the time.

The records show that Mauritius ministers were willing, indeed eager, to agree to the detachment of the Chagos; their object was to obtain the best possible price. They pressed HMG to lease Diego Garcia because they thought that an offer to lease would enable Mauritius to extract a high price from the Americans, whom they knew to be intended users of the island. Discussions were largely taken up with an explanation by the British side that the Americans were only prepared to construct a facility if the UK retained full sovereignty and with a gradual talking down of Mauritian expectations. However, Mauritius Ministers can have been in little doubt of the nature of the facility. The record of a meeting with Sir S Ramgoolam and his colleagues on 13 September 1965 states that 'The Secretary of State (Mr Antony Greenwood) explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposals for defence facilities in the Chagos Archipelago.', and later that 'it was explained that ... the United States Government would construct communications and support facilities on the Islands and Britain and the United States would use the facilities jointly'. At a further meeting with the Colonial Secretary on 20 September, Ramgoolam (still pursuing his objective of extracting concessions from the Americans) said:

'The United States was spending vast sums of money elsewhere in the world on bases that were not secure. Admittedly Diego Garcia was not being used at present; but in the future it might be of great strategic significance. Mauritius must obtain some significant benefit from making it available. He did not pretend to know the military significance of Diego Garcia but, in considering compensation for Mauritius, the scale on which the United States has accepted expenditure on bases elsewhere had to be borne in mind.'

/It is clear

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SECRET

It is clear, therefore, that Ramgoolam was well aware of what Mauritius was agreeing to, and that Mr Greenwood's statement in the House on 10 November, 1965 ('It is intended that the Islands will be available for the construction of defence facilities by the British and US Governments.') correctly reflected discussions between HMG and Mauritius ministers.

There were, however, other points pressed by Mauritius ministers during the negotiations which were not, I understand, raised by Sir S Ramgoolam with the Prime Minister, but were by Sir Harold Walter with Mr Luce. I attach an extract from the record of 23 September 1965 summarising the terms under which Mauritius ministers agreed to the detachment of the Chagos. Some (£3 m. compensation; conclusion of an Anglo-Mauritius defence agreement - terminated in 1976) were put into effect shortly afterwards; others (consultation in the event of internal disorder on Mauritius) have never become actual; others (Mauritian wish for increased sugar quotas in the US) are simply expressions of hope and in any case time-expired; the understanding that if the Islands were no longer required for defence purposes they would revert to Mauritius has been publicly reaffirmed, most recently by the Prime Minister in the House on 11 July.

X | Sir H Walter, however, did raise with Mr Luce the use of labour and materials from Mauritius on Diego. You will see from the 1965 record that HMG undertook 'to do their best to persuade the American government to use labour and materials from Mauritius for construction work in the Islands'. This was only an expression of best endeavours; construction work did not begin until the early 1970s; when it started the US authorities operated not from the region but from their military establishments in the Far East; it is unlikely that Mauritius could offer anything that Americans would want or not obtain more easily elsewhere. Because of the removal of the Ilois community from the Chagos to Mauritius in the early 1970s, an attempt to engage Mauritius contract labour for Diego would be politically awkward for us. However, now that Sir H Walter has reverted to the question, it is desirable that we should be seen to have re-examined it. We will discuss this with the Americans with a view to briefing our High Commission in Port Louis to speak to the Mauritians, if the matter remains live.

I am copying this letter to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

yours via
Robin Lyne
(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street

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EXTRACT OF A MEETING HELD IN LANCASTER HOUSE ON

23RD SEPTEMBER, 1965

MAURITIUS DEFENCE MATTERS

'Summing up the discussions, the Secretary of State asked whether he could inform his colleagues that Dr Ramgoolam, Mr Bissoondoyal and Mr Mohamed were prepared to agree to the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago on the understanding that he would recommend to his colleagues the following:

- (i) negotiations for a defence agreement between Britain and Mauritius;
- (ii) in the event of independence an understanding between the two governments that they would consult together in the event of a difficult internal security situation arising in Mauritius;
- (iii) compensation totalling up to £3 m. should be paid to the Mauritius Government over and above direct compensation to landowners and the cost of resettling others affected in the Chagos Islands;
- (iv) the British Government would use their good offices with the United States Government in support of Mauritius' request for concessions over sugar imports and the supply of wheat and other commodities;
- (v) that the British Government would do their best to persuade the American Government to use labour and materials from Mauritius for construction work in the Islands;

/(vi) the

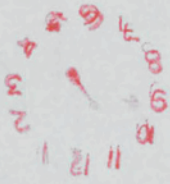
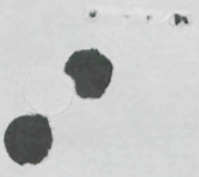
SECRET



SECRET

- (vi) the British Government would use their good offices with the US Government to ensure that the following facilities in the Chagos Archipelago would remain available to the Mauritius Government as far as practicable:
 - (a) navigational and meteorological facilities;
 - (b) fishing rights;
 - (c) use of air strip for emergency landing and for refuelling civil planes without disembarkation of passengers;
- (vii) that if the need for the facilities on the Islands disappeared the islands should be returned to Mauritius;
- (viii) that the benefit of any minerals or oil discovered in or near the Chagos Archipelago should revert to the Mauritius Government.'

SECRET



12 AUG 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT



cc Master
Defence, Pt 2, Number
Release
MOA
CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

B/F18-780

8 July 1980

Dear Rodric,

CALL BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir S. Ramgoolam, called on the Prime Minister yesterday. He was accompanied by the Mauritian Foreign Minister, Sir Harold Walter, and by the Mauritian High Commissioner. Mr. Luce and Mr. Day were also present. After an exchange of courtesies, the Prime Minister said that she had been surprised to learn about the Resolution passed at the OAU Summit in Freetown on 4 July. The terms of the Resolution did not seem to be accurate, particularly the reference to the fact that Diego Garcia had not been ceded to Britain for military purposes. It had always been intended that Diego Garcia would be available for the construction of defence facilities. This had been made clear in a statement made to the British House of Commons in November 1965. The statement had been repeated in Mauritius on the same day. She was also distressed to see that the Resolution referred to the militarisation of Diego Garcia as being a threat to Africa and to the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The threat to peace in that part of the world did not come from Diego Garcia. Britain had entered into an arrangement with Mauritius in good faith in 1965. The OAU Resolution was bound to cause trouble in the future.

In response to the Prime Minister, both Sir S. Ramgoolam and Sir Harold Walter said that, while they did not question Britain's good faith, they had been told originally that Diego Garcia was going to be used as a communications centre. Sir S. Ramgoolam said that the statement to which the Prime Minister had referred had been made in haste and when he was not in Mauritius. He did not think it represented the true nature of the agreement between Mauritius and the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister should ask to see the minutes of the discussions between the two sides at the time. As regards the OAU Resolution, Sir Harold Walter said that the Government in Mauritius was not asking either the United Kingdom or the United States to leave Diego Garcia, but the status of the island had become a live issue in Mauritian politics. Mr. Luce said that Sir Harold Walter had told him earlier in the day that the Mauritian Government would find it helpful if HMG were to

/reaffirm

reaffirm their position that Diego Garcia would revert to Mauritius if and when it was no longer required for defence purposes. The Prime Minister said that HMG stood by that statement. This could be reaffirmed publicly if that would help the Mauritian Government. However, she was anxious that the Mauritian Government should keep in the closest possible touch with HMG in dealing with any future developments relating to Diego Garcia.

Sir Harold Walter said that there would be no future developments (!). The Prime Minister had no need to be concerned about the OAU statement. The Mauritian Government was determined that neither Mauritius nor Diego Garcia would ever "be painted red". The Prime Minister welcomed Sir Harold Walter's words, but said that, nonetheless, she was concerned about the effect of the OAU Resolution on the position of Diego Garcia.

In the subsequent discussion, Sir Harold Walter said that Mauritius was in great economic difficulties as a result of having been hit by three cyclones in recent months. He thought that Mauritius was entitled to help from those whose interests she shared. He referred to the establishment of an IMF Consortium in which France was taking the lead. The European Development Fund had been slow in releasing money. The practical difficulties of reconstruction had been accentuated by the loss of a new roll on/roll off vessel which had sunk in the Mozambique Channel when loaded with a cargo of corrugated iron for the island.

Reverting to Diego Garcia, Sir Harold Walter claimed that the economic aspects of the 1965 agreement on Diego Garcia were not being observed. It had always been envisaged that labour would be recruited from Mauritius to work on Diego Garcia: in fact, the navvies on Diego Garcia were now all Filipinos. It had also been envisaged that purchases for Diego Garcia would be channelled through Mauritius. This had never happened.

Sir Harold Walter spent some time giving a graphic account of the situation in the Seychelles and in the OAU. However, little of the substance was new. His theme was that the Seychelles had become a one-party state with increasingly close links with extreme left-wing regimes in Africa and that it had designs on Mauritius which the Mauritian Government was determined to resist.

Two miscellaneous points made by Sir Harold Walter might also be worth recording. He made a plea that the British Council office in Mauritius should not be closed down. He expressed the hope that the BBC External Services would be maintained. The Prime Minister asked whether the External Services were received in the Seychelles and was assured that they were.

/I should be

I should be grateful to receive in due course an account of the exact nature of the discussions between HMG and the Mauritian Government in 1965 and whether there is any substance in Sir S. Ramgoolam's assertion that the public statements made at the time do not reflect the discussions between the two Governments.

I am sending copies of this letter to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME 8 JULY 1980
MAURITIUS AND DIEGO GARCIA

PA
MS (CF-614)
7/1/81

6

LINE TO TAKE

Angol/Mauritian Relations

1. Excellent relations of long standing. Ties strengthened following the visit by my Hon Friend the Member for Shoreham in June.

Purpose of Visit by PM of Mauritius

2. Took advantage of his return from the OAU summit in Freetown to have an exchange of views.

What was Discussed

3. There was a general discussion which included political, economic and cultural matters. Diego Garcia was one of the subjects covered. Both governments recognise the threat of peace and stability in the Indian Ocean area and the need to meet this.

Use of Diego Garcia

4. Mauritius Ministers agreed to the detachment of the Chagos Islands and were fully aware of the purpose for which British Indian Ocean Territory was established.

/SUPPLEMENTARIES

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Has Mauritius made a claim for the return of Diego Garcia

1. Both governments understand each others interests. There was a useful discussion in the light of the common concern for stability in the region.

(if pressed)

The circumstances in which the British Indian Ocean Territory was established in 1965 are a matter of public record, including the reversion of Diego Garcia to Mauritius if no longer required for defence purposes.

Do we accept that Diego Garcia:

(i) 'has always been an integral part of Mauritius'

(ii) 'was not ceded to Britain for military purposes'

2. The Chagos Islands were administered as part of the Crown Colony of Mauritius until the establishment of the British Indian Ocean Territory in 1965. Mauritius Ministers agreed to the detachment and the construction of a defence facility in Diego Garcia.

HMG's attitude to the OAU Resolution

3. Resolutions of the OAU are for members of the Organisation. We wish to see peace and stability in the Indian Ocean area. The threat to this does not come from the West.

BACKGROUND NOTE

The 1965 Statement Concerning the Detachment of the Chagos Islands (Diego Garcia) from Mauritius

1. The 1965 negotiations with the Colonial Government of Mauritius were complicated and extended over many months. No formal published text of the agreement was issued. Understanding was reached on the various points by triangular exchanges of telegrams and letters between the Colonial Office, the Governor of Mauritius and the Mauritius Council of Ministers. The Premier of Mauritius at that time was Sir Seeweesagur Ramgoolam. During these negotiations it was made clear to the Mauritian side that it was the intention to reserve Diego Garcia for the defence needs of the United States and the United Kingdom. On 5 November 1965 the Governor reported that the Mauritian Ministers had agreed to the detachment of the Chagos Islands subject to the clarification of certain points. One of these points concerned the return of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. HMG confirmed that if facilities on the Islands were no longer needed for defence purposes, they would be returned to Mauritius.

2. A statement was made in the House of Commons on 10 November 1965 outlining the agreement and a similar statement was made in Mauritius at the same time (copy attached). Further information on the agreement was disclosed during Question Time in the Mauritius Legislative Assembly on 21 December 1965 when it was made clear that the Islands were to be used for defence facilities and that they would be returned to Mauritius when no longer needed.

Wednesday 10th November, 1965

Defence facilities in the Indian Ocean

Reply to a Parliamentary Question the Secretary of State made the following statement in the House of Commons on Wednesday November 10th:-

"With the agreement of the Governments of Mauritius and the Seychelles new arrangements for the administration of certain islands were introduced by an Order in Council made on the 8th November. The islands are the Chagos Archipelago, some 1,200 miles north-east of Mauritius, and Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches in the western Indian Ocean. Their populations are approximately 1,000, 100, 172 and 112 respectively. The Chagos Archipelago was formerly administered by the Government of Mauritius and the other three islands by that of the Seychelles. The islands will be called the British Indian Ocean Territory and will be administered by a Commissioner. It is intended that the islands will be available for the construction of defence facilities by the British and U.S. Governments, but no firm plans have yet been made by either Government. Compensation will be paid as appropriate."

The cost of compensating the Company which exploits the plantations and the cost of resettling elsewhere those inhabitants there who can no longer remain/will be the responsibility of the British Government. In addition, the British Government has undertaken in recognition of the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius, to provide additional grants amounting to £3m. for expenditure on development projects in Mauritius to be agreed between the British and the Mauritius Governments. These grants will be over and above the allocation earmarked for Mauritius in the next period of C. D. & W. assistance.

The population of the Chagos Archipelago consists, apart from civil servants and estate managers, of a labour force, together with their dependants, which is drawn from Mauritius and Seychelles and employed on the copra plantations. The total number of Mauritians in the Chagos Archipelago is 638, of whom 176 are adult men employed on the plantations.

Chief Secretary's Office

Port Louis,

10th November, 1965.

Extract Debates of the Legislative Assembly
(Mauritius)

21st December, 1965

Excision of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius

(No. N/266) Mr. C.G. Duval (Curepipe) asked the Premier and Minister of Finance: (SIR SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM)

Whether, in exchange for the agreement of this Government to the excision of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius, the following obligations have definitely been undertaken by the British Government:-

- (a) the British Government will ensure the defence of Mauritius against external aggression and British troops would intervene in case of a 'coup d'etat' against the legal Government of Mauritius, if so requested by the Government;
- (b) all fishing facilities around Diego will be safeguarded;
- (c) all the meteorological data collected in Diego Garcia will be at the expense of Great Britain and made available to Mauritius free of charge;
- (d) an aerodrome will be constructed in Diego Garcia, which could be made use of by planes coming to and going from Mauritius, in case Plaisance Aerodrome is out of use, for one reason or another;
- (e) in case America and England do not for any reason make use of the Chagos Archipelago, the Archipelago will be returned to Mauritius with such installations as can be made use of by this country;
- (f) all the Mauritians now living in Diego will be resettled in Mauritius. The costs of repatriation will be met from the British Exchequer and all costs of rehousing them will be met by the British, and that work would be found for them by the British Government;
- (g) that Great Britain will buy all building materials required and use Mauritian labour for the construction of the base;
- (h) Mauritians trained at H.M.S. Mauritius will be employed at the telecommunications centre in Diego Garcia;
- (i) that if mines of bauxite and uranium were to be found in the Chagos Archipelago, Mauritius would be the only country entitled to exploit them; and

(1) that in exchange for the agreement for the excision of the Chagos Archipelago, Great Britain will grant Rs. 4 million for the Mauritius University and one million one hundred and fifty rupees annually for ten years.

If so, whether in view of the contradictory statement made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on Wednesday the 10th November, circulated at the last sitting, Government will publish the correspondence between the British Government and the Mauritian Government in that connection?

If not, whether he will state which of the items have not been definitely agreed to by the British Government?

Mr. Forget (on behalf of the Premier and Minister of Finance):

(1) (a) I would refer the Hon. Member to the penultimate paragraph of the closing speech by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the end of the Mauritius Constitutional Conference in September, the Report of which was subsequently published in Mauritius as Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1965.

(b) I am not clear what the Hon. Member means by the word "safeguarded". So far as I am aware the only fishing that now takes place in the territorial waters of Diego Garcia is casual fishing by those employed there and as the Hon. Member is aware, they will be resettled elsewhere.

(c) The question of responsibility for the collection of meteorological data in Diego Garcia has not been discussed in detail, but the British Government is alive to the great importance of such data to Mauritius and no difficulty is foreseen. It may be of interest to the Hon. Member to know that members of the World Meteorological Organisation are required to supply each other with weather data and that the Director of the Meteorological Services has never heard of a charge being made.

(d) No decision has yet been taken to construct any facilities on Diego Garcia. Any airfield which might be constructed on Diego Garcia would be intended for purely defence purposes but if an aircraft were obliged to have recourse to it in such an emergency as is indicated in the question, I have no doubt that permission would be granted.

(e) If the British Government decides that the Chagos Archipelago is no longer required for defence purposes, the islands will be returned to Mauritius. The question what would happen in such circumstances to any installations in the Chagos Archipelago is, of course, a hypothetical one, and would no doubt be discussed between the interested Governments in the light of practical requirements and considerations at the time.

- (f) The British Government has undertaken to meet the full cost of the resettlement of Mauritians at present living in the Chagos Archipelago.
- (g) The extent to which it would be practicable to use Mauritian labour and materials is a matter for further consideration when the respective requirements and responsibilities for construction of the British and American Governments have been defined. But the desire of the Mauritius Government that Mauritian labour and building materials should be used to the maximum extent has been brought to the notice of the British Government.
- (h) I refer the Honourable Member to the first sentence of my reply to question (d) above.
- (i) The Honourable Member's question is, again, a hypothetical one and I should make clear that there has never been any indication of minerals in the Chagos Archipelago, which is a string of coral atolls. The British Government has no intention of allowing prospecting for minerals while the islands are being used for defence purposes. For the position thereafter, I would refer the Honourable Member to the first sentence of the reply to Question (e).
- (j) No Sir. I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement on the Chagos Archipelago already issued by the Government and to what my colleague the Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs said in the House on Tuesday the 7th December 1965 in relation to financial aid from Great Britain for the University of Mauritius.
- The aid for the University does not form part of the £3,000,000 of additional aid referred to in the former statement and, like the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago, is an illustration of the mutual association between Mauritius and Britain to which the Government attaches importance.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 July 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit by the Prime Minister of
Mauritius

Please refer to my letter of 4 July enclosing a brief for the Mauritius Prime Minister's call on Mrs Thatcher this afternoon. You have asked for supplementary briefing in the light of the adoption of a Resolution on Diego Garcia at the OAU Summit on 4 July. The text of the Resolution is attached (Freetown telegram number 133). We have now learned that the Mauritian Foreign Minister, Sir Harold Walter, will accompany Sir S Ramgoolam and the Mauritian High Commissioner on his call. As arranged, Mr Richard Luce and Mr Derek Day will attend.

Mr Luce had an opportunity to discuss the Resolution with Sir Harold Walter this morning. Sir Harold said that he and his Prime Minister were in no doubt about the importance of Diego Garcia for Western defence interests in the Indian Ocean or about the true source of the threat to stability in the region. They had no wish to get the Americans out of Diego Garcia. But the Mauritian Government faced a difficult political problem. The Opposition charge was that Ramgoolam had shown lack of patriotism and had sold a portion of the national territory (he commented in passing that it was important to describe the £3 m. given to Mauritius in 1965 as development aid and not a payment for the sale of Diego Garcia). Mauritius therefore needed, first, some public affirmation by HMG of its title to sovereignty over Diego Garcia in addition to the existing public undertaking that the island would revert to Mauritius if and when it was no longer required for defence purpose. Second, fresh attention should be given to the statements of intent made at the time of the creation of British Indian Ocean Territory, about seeking opportunities for the employment of Mauritian labour on Diego Garcia and about access for Mauritius in BIOT territory, e.g. fishing rights. Third, Mauritius deserved much greater UK and US economic aid given her helpful political attitudes. Mauritius was at the bottom of the African league table for Western aid; it appeared to be politically more advantageous to be an opponent than a friend of the West.

/The OAU

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

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The OAU Resolution, though unwelcome, does not immediately cause us serious difficulties. However, Walter confirmed that the Resolution (which we understand was passed on the nod without debate with only five members present, including Mauritius and Madagascar) will now go forward to the Non-Aligned Movement and thence no doubt to the UN General Assembly. It is therefore likely to gather an increasing head of steam behind it.

We do not think it would be profitable to take on Ramgoolam directly on the question of sovereignty. HMG's title to Diego Garcia is clear though qualified by the public undertaking that it would revert to Mauritius if no longer required for defence purposes. Mauritian ministers also fully understood and accepted the purpose for which BIOT was created. A statement by the the Colonial Secretary in the House on 10 November 1965 is attached. As recently as 27 June Sir S Ramgoolam stated that Diego Garcia 'does not belong to Mauritius'.

The Prime Minister therefore may wish to say that we understand the political problems facing the Mauritian Government over Diego Garcia, arising from the threat to Western interests and to those of Mauritius from recent Soviet actions in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean area. HMG have no doubt as to their title over BIOT: but this matter must not be allowed to cloud the fundamental unity of purpose between the two governments. It is important that each should act in ways which will not cause unnecessary difficulties for the other. We wish to keep in the closest touch and will be ready to consider whether we could take any steps which would underline HMG's undertaking that Diego Garcia would revert to Mauritius if no longer required for defence purposes.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 155

UNCLASSIFIED

(A)

FM FREETOWN 051130Z JUL 80
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 133 OF 05 JULY
INFO ROUTINE PORT LOUIS

YOUR TELNO 125: OAU SUMMIT: DIEGO GARCIA.

1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THE SUMMIT HAD ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:-

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 1 PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE OAU CHARTER WHICH STIPULATES THAT " THE ORGANISATION SHALL INCLUDE THE CONTINENTAL AFRICAN STATES, MADAGASCAR AND OTHER ISLANDS SURROUNDING AFRICA;

CONSIDERING THAT ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANISATION IS THE RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ITS STATES:

AWARE OF THE FACT THE DIEGO GARCIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF MAURITIUS:

RECOGNISING THAT DIEGO GARCIA WAS NOT CEDED TO BRITAIN FOR MILITARY PURPOSES:

REALISING THAT THE MILITARISATION OF DIEGO GARCIA IS A THREAT TO AFRICA AND TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE:

DEMANDS THAT DIEGO GARCIA BE UNCONDITIONALLY RETURNED TO MAURITIUS AND THAT ITS PEACEFUL CHARACTER BE MAINTAINED.

2. SO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE RESOLUTION WAS TABLED BY MAURITIUS DIRECT TO THE SUMMIT AT THE LAST MOMENT AND ACCEPTED ON THE NOD. IF MAURITIUS MADE ANY STATEMENT IT HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

FCO PLEASE PASS

MORGAN

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]
[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

F I L E S

EAD
DEFENCE D
NEWS D
OID
PS/MR LUCE
SIR L ALLINSON

Wednesday 10th November, 1965

Defence facilities in the Indian Ocean

In reply to a Parliamentary Question the Secretary of State made the following statement in the House of Commons on Wednesday November 10th:-

"With the agreement of the Governments of Mauritius and the Seychelles new arrangements for the administration of certain islands were introduced by an Order in Council made on the 8th November. The islands are the Chagos Archipelago, some 1,200 miles north-east of Mauritius, and Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches in the western Indian Ocean. Their populations are approximately 1,000, 100, 172 and 112 respectively. The Chagos Archipelago was formerly administered by the Government of Mauritius and the other three islands by that of the Seychelles. The islands will be called the British Indian Ocean Territory and will be administered by a Commissioner. It is intended that the islands will be available for the construction of defence facilities by the British and U.S. Governments, but no firm plans have yet been made by either Government. Compensation will be paid as appropriate."

The cost of compensating the Company which exploits the plantations and the cost of resettling elsewhere those inhabitants there who can no longer remain/will be the responsibility of the British Government. In addition, the British Government has undertaken in recognition of the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius, to provide additional grants amounting to £3m. for expenditure on development projects in Mauritius to be agreed between the British and the Mauritius Governments. These grants will be over and above the allocation earmarked for Mauritius in the next period of C. D. & W. assistance.

The population of the Chagos Archipelago consists, apart from civil servants and estate managers, of a labour force, together with their dependants, which is drawn from Mauritius and Seychelles and employed on the copra plantations. The total number of Mauritians in the Chagos Archipelago is 638, of whom 176 are adult men employed on the plantations.

Chief Secretary's Office

Port Louis,

10th November, 1965.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mauritius



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister.

This is really a courtesy call + I don't
if anyone need come from the FCO. But if you
woud like someone, I will arrange for the house to
be present.

Dear Michael,

And 4/7

Visit by the Prime Minister of
Mauritius

Thank you for your letter of 30 June. I understand the time of the call is now 5.15 p.m. on 7 July. Sir S Ramgoolam will be accompanied by the High Commissioner for Mauritius, Sir Leckraz Teelock. Would you please let me know if the Prime Minister would like someone from the FCO to attend? I attach a brief as requested.

The call will enable us to sound out Sir Seewoosagur on his attitude to Diego Garcia which is an increasingly prominent issue in Mauritian politics. Sir Seewoosagur was one of the Ministers who agreed to the detachment of Diego Garcia from the Crown Colony of Mauritius in 1965, and is under strong attack by the radical opposition party. Sir Seewoosagur feels obliged to join in the call for Diego Garcia's return but he has indicated to us that his statements are primarily to maintain his position at home. He is not in doubt about HMG's policy, but regards it as politically important to be able to say that he has raised the matter at the highest level.

The call will also enable the Prime Minister to express her thanks to Sir Seewoosagur for the remarkably warm welcome given Mr Luce during his visit to Mauritius 11 - 13 June.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



4 JUL 1980



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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SIR S RAMGOOLAM, PRIME MINISTER
OF MAURITIUS - MONDAY, 7 JULY, 1980 AT 1715 HOURS

POINTS TO MAKE

ANGLO-MAURITIAN RELATIONS

1. Grateful for very warm welcome given Mr Luce. Important to maintain close relations and Sir Seewoosagur's own visits help in this.

DIEGO GARCIA

2. Realise this is a matter of importance in Mauritian politics.
3. Expansion of facility follows Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.
4. Detachment from Mauritius was agreed by all concerned in 1965. Compensation of £3 m. paid.
5. Diego Garcia reverts to Mauritius when no longer needed for defence purposes.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT [IF RAISED]

6. UK will attend proposed IMF/IBRD meeting in September. We await further details from IMF.

AID PROGRAMME [IF RAISED]

7. Happy to discuss proposals for allocating the uncommitted balance of our current project loan. A team from our Development Division in Nairobi proposes to visit Mauritius in August for this purpose.

STUDENT FEES [IF RAISED]

8. Aware of Mauritius concern over increased student fees. Monitoring the situation to know effect on numbers of Mauritians coming here.


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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SIR S RAMGOOLAM, PRIME MINISTER
OF MAURITIUS - MONDAY, 7 JULY, 1980 AT 1715 HOURS

ESSENTIAL FACTS

ANGLO-MAURITIAN RELATIONS

1. Mr Richard Luce visited Mauritius 11-13 June. Given very good welcome. Relations warmest for some time. RN ships visit Mauritius 7-11 July. Possibility (not to be disclosed) ~~of~~ visit by HRH Princess Alexandra.

DIEGO GARCIA

2. Under terms of agreement reached with Mauritius Government in 1965, Mauritius was paid £3 m. compensation for detachment of the Chagos Islands, and Diego Garcia reverts to Mauritius when no longer needed for defence purposes. Both clauses disclosed in Mauritius Legislative Assembly in November, 1965.
3. Fragile coalition Government under strong pressure from powerful opposition to make issue of Diego Garcia. Since early this year, various statements made by Mauritius Ministers on need for UK to consider returnign Diego Garcia to Mauritius. Sir S Ramgoolam knows this not possible. Has indicated to us his stance is for local consumption.
4. In press statement made on 27 June, before leaving for London, Sir S Ramgoolam said he would 'lay fresh claims to Government of Great Britain'. Presumably he will raise the matter with the Prime Minister in order to make his position on issue more credible at home. Currently considering whether we can make some concession, e.g. over fishing rights in the

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/seas



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seas around Diego Garcia that would be helpful to Ramgoolam, but not yet in a position to put this to him.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT

5. In 1979 Mauritius developed a serious balance of payments problems, stemming from a high level of public expenditure and adverse terms of trade (a decline in sugar prices and rising oil prices). Although sugar prices have risen again cyclones have greatly reduced sugar production. We supported Mauritius' request for an IMF Stand-By arrangement, and the subsequent waiver of performance criteria and modification of the Stand-By arrangement. The IMF agreed to this. A meeting has now been proposed for donors to pledge balance of payments support. Our contribution is likely to be limited to ECGD cover as we do not foresee any margin for additional aid.

AID PROGRAMME

6. UK capital aid has been running at about £1 m. a year, and Technical Cooperation about £0.5 m. The current capital aid loan (£5 m.) has £2.5 m. yet to be committed. We are prepared to consider proposals for its allocation. But expected high level of expenditure during the next two years on our major project (the Northern Plains Irrigation Scheme) does not allow significantly increased expenditure on other projects for that period.

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RAMGOOLAM, DR THE RT HON SIR SEEWOSAGUR GCMG MLA

Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security, Minister of Reform Institutions, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Minister of Communications.

MLA for Pamplemousses/Triolet (Labour); Leader of the House since 1960.

Born 1900, Belle Rive. Educated Royal College, Curepipe; University College, London (Honorary fellowship conferred in 1971). Elected Municipal Councillor 1940-53; re-elected 1956; Deputy Mayor, Port Louis, 1956; Mayor 1958; entered Legislative Council for Pamplemousses-Riviere du Rempart, 1948; Member Executive Council, 1948; Liaison Officer for Education 1951-56; Ministerial Secretary to Treasury 1958; Chief Minister and Minister of Finance, 1961; Premier, 1965; Prime Minister since 1967.

Sir Seewoosagur, a diabetic, is remarkably fit and active for his age. He needs little sleep, and has surprising stamina. No gathering is too small for him to attend. A short, stocky man, with only one good eye, he can on occasions be almost inaudible.

He was born of humble, but not very poor, parents. His political philosophy derives from his days as a journalist and medical student in England in the twenties and thirties. He has dominated the Mauritian political scene for 30 years, and led his country to independence. A shrewd political tactician, an eminent "wheeler and dealer". Over-loyal to his old friends, and out of touch with the younger generation. Exercises tight personal control over all government business but age and innate reluctance to take decisions have a paralysing effect. Seems determined to stay in office at least until the next elections. Though many people feel it is high time he went, he is still widely respected. Can be harsh with his subordinates.

Believes in a mixed economy, opposes further nationalisation and strongly anti-communist. Essentially non-violent. Pro-Commonwealth, and well disposed to Britain. An indefatigable traveller.

Lady Ramgoolam is shy and does not share her husband's obvious enjoyment of social life. But has a poise and quiet charm of her own. Lengthy illness April 1980 to date. They have 2 children.

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SIR LECKRAZ TEELOCK CBE

Appointed 12 March 1968

Born 1909. After completing his secondary education at the Royal College of Curepipe went to the United Kingdom for medical studies and qualified at Edinburgh University. Returned to Mauritius in 1939 and set up a flourishing medical practice which he gave up when he was appointed Mauritius Commissioner in London in April 1964. Elected member for Brisee Verdiere in 1959 and represented that constituency until 1963. One of the founders of the Mauritius Family Planning Association and of the Hindu Girls' College, a secondary school open to girls of all races and creeds.

Intelligent but not a forceful personality. Quite conscientious as the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps and Senior High Commissioner.

He and his wife are both very friendly and sociable. She is a Barrister-at-Law (Middle Temple), daughter of the late Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University, India, and a woman of some energy. They have a married daughter now living in Germany and a son at school in London.

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File Mauritius NYGM

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4/7/80

30 June, 1980.

Visit by the Prime Minister of
Mauritius

I am writing to confirm that the Prime Minister will be pleased to receive the Prime Minister of Mauritius at 1530 on Monday, 7 July, at No.10. Could your brief please reach us by close of play on Friday, 4 July?

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 June 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

We have learned from the Mauritius High Commissioner that Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam will be in London on 7 and 8 July. He has asked to call on the Prime Minister.

Although the Prime Minister saw Sir Seewoosagur as recently as 11 February, there are political grounds for arranging another short call if the Prime Minister could fit this in. Sir Seewoosagur's Government is under pressure both internally and within the Non-Aligned Movement over the defence build-up on Diego Garcia. It will help him deal with opposition to his policies (which are generally helpful to us) if he can demonstrate that he retains close links with the UK at the highest level. Sir Seewoosagur and his Government gave a very warm welcome to Mr Luce during his visit to Mauritius earlier this month.

Lord Carrington therefore hopes that the Prime Minister can agree to receive Sir Seewoosagur for a brief call.

We are proposing to offer an official lunch for Sir Seewoosagur on 7 July, at which Mr Luce would be host.

yours ever

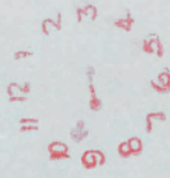
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

30 JUN 1980



FILE

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cc CO

11 February 1980

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam spent 50 minutes with the Prime Minister this afternoon. There was little substance to their discussion, but I enclose a note of the main points which arose.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Subject

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✓ C Master Sid

NOTE OF A CALL BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS ON THE
PRIME MINISTER AT 10 DOWNING STREET AT 1600 HOURS ON
MONDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 1980

Present:

Prime Minister

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister of Mauritius

Mr. Richard Luce, M.P.,
Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State, FCO

Sir Leckraz Teelock,
High Commissioner for Mauritius

Mr. M. A. Pattison

* * * * *

The Prime Minister of Mauritius spent 50 minutes with the Prime Minister over tea. Much of the conversation was inconsequential.

Mauritian Economy

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said that three recent cyclones had resulted in heavy damage. The economy had been depressed recently, as a result of the oil price rise and the general international economic situation. The rise in the world sugar price would be of some assistance. Mauritius had about 150,000 tonnes for sale over and above its E.E.C. deliveries, where the price was above the world market. The cyclone would affect the next crop, whose growth would be stunted, although replanting would not be necessary. There were 3,000 more houses to be replaced as a result of cyclone damage, at a time when restoration after the last serious cyclone was still incomplete.

Mr. Luce said that the United Kingdom had provided about £15 million worth of aid over recent years. Some of this money was still to be spent, and he would be meeting Sir Seewoosagur to discuss this further tomorrow. There was also much that voluntary organisations could do to help in the aftermath of disasters like the cyclone, and he would discuss

CONFIDENTIAL / this further

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this further too. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary had suggested that he (Mr. Luce) might make a visit in April/May, a proposal which the Prime Minister would need to consider.

The Prime Minister commented that the U.K. recognised the problems caused by the 100 per cent increase in oil prices, and the inevitable depression of world trade. Only the oil producers could really provide the means to offset the economic effects. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam commented that the oil producers were all buying gold. The Prime Minister stressed that Britain tried to hold down its oil price, and was always last to come into line with price rises. It was necessary to do so because Britain also imported.

Mr. Luce commented that Britain had supported an irrigation scheme in the north of Mauritius. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said that this had been the result of a successful pilot project, which was now being expanded. It would assist both sugar and other crops.

Mauritian Politics

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said that Mauritius had a growing sense of isolation. Seychelles and the Malagasy Republic had departed from democracy, and the Russians were in the Indian Ocean. Following the 1976 Election, he had had to go into coalition. The Left-Wing Opposition took 32 of the 70 seats. There had been divisions in his Party, created by an over-ambitious young man. He might perhaps have been in power too long for the taste of the electorate. Now the Opposition were making noises about the need for a coalition including them, in the interests of stability. But stability was not possible with Communists as partners. Sir Leckraz Teelock commented that they were not formally labelled Communists in Mauritius. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said that current political issues in Mauritius included corruption - a Commission of Inquiry having found two Ministers to be in the wrong - inflation, unemployment, and claims of economic mismanagement linked to the devaluation of October 1979.

CONFIDENTIAL / The Opposition

The Opposition were pressing for nationalisation of the big companies, especially the sugar factories. The measures taken by his Government would need two years to produce results, and would not work through in time to help him in the next Election.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said that there were also differences on foreign policy, in respect of attitudes to Russia, and the Opposition's criticisms of links with the West and the United States. The Opposition were opposed to the United Kingdom's role in respect of Diego Garcia. He had recently had to say something on the subject for local consumption. He had spoken of a need to examine whether the position of Diego Garcia should not now be reconsidered, as the United States had a base nearer the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Luce said that the United States would only have replenishment facilities at Berbera. Diego Garcia was vital to them. The Prime Minister commented that the United States presence at Diego Garcia was an insurance policy for the whole area in the light of recent developments.

The Prime Minister asked whether the Mauritian Opposition was a genuine home-grown Socialist movement, or whether foreign influences were at work. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam commented that there was significant Soviet and Libyan assistance to MMM. The Party treasurer had been caught leaving the Libyan Embassy with a large sum of money. There was not much evidence of interference from Cuba or China, but Russia disliked his government. They would also like to see Mauritius aligned with them on foreign policy issues elsewhere, such as the Algerian support for Polisario. Domestically, he felt that the West continued to look on until it was too late. In October, he had tried to persuade Mr. Vance to take a more forward approach, and to support projects to help the Mauritian economy.

Afghanistan

The Prime Minister welcomed the vigorous line taken by Mauritius at the United Nations, in voting with the rest of the non-aligned group. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said that

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Mauritius had wanted to make her position clear. The Prime Minister hoped that the events in Afghanistan had demonstrated to non-aligned countries the risks in the present international situation. Britain was concerned now about the position in Pakistan and Turkey. Nations must be free to determine their own destiny. Britain took a robust view. This was demonstrated by our position on the Olympics. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam commented that he agreed with the Prime Minister's position on the Olympics.

Rhodesia

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam commented on the wonderful job that Lord Soames was doing. He had known him in Paris. The Prime Minister said that the level of violence and intimidation in Rhodesia was very worrying. This was primarily not the responsibility of Mr. Nkomo. Mr. Luce said that about 75 per cent of complaints appeared to relate to Mr. Mugabe's supporters. There were some complaints about the auxiliaries, which were being investigated. Violence and intimidation posed a real threat to free and fair elections in the areas in question. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam commented that Mr. Nkomo was unable to make himself heard in those areas. The Prime Minister said that intimidation was preventing the supporters of Mr. Nkomo and Bishop Muzorewa even turning up for election rallies. Mr. Luce said that Lord Soames was receiving complaints from all sides in respect of the activities of ZANLA supporters. This implied that the complaints were genuine.

Mr. Luce said that Britain was disturbed by the U.N. Security Council Resolution on Rhodesia, especially with East Germany and the Soviet Union giving a lead in criticising our conduct of "free and fair elections". He asked whether the matter was likely to be taken to the General Assembly. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam regarded this as impossible. There would not be sufficient support for the move.

/ British Council

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British Council

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam spoke of the high standing and reputation of the British Council library in Mauritius. He personally made use of it from time to time. Mr. Luce explained that the library would now remain at least until the Spring of 1981. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam commented that the long serving locally engaged employees thought that they should be treated like H.M.C.S. staff in Mauritius in the past, and be given British passports. He could not say whether they would use them. Mr. Luce said that he would discuss this further at his meeting the next day. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said that the Mauritians had hoped that Britain would find ways and means of keeping the library open. He had told his Education Minister to keep in close touch with the situation, and if necessary to be prepared to take over the library as a going concern. He was pleased to hear that the library would be retained for the present.



11 February 1980

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

8 February 1980

Dear Michael,

Call by Mauritius Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 30 January confirming that the Prime Minister would be happy to see Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on 11 February at 4.00 p.m.

The Mauritius Foreign Minister will not now be visiting London. Sir S Ramgoolam will therefore only be accompanied by the High Commissioner for Mauritius, Sir Leckraz Teelock. Mr Luce, who hopes to visit Mauritius in the late spring, will attend.

Sir S Ramgoolam visits Britain fairly regularly. He has been attending a conference in Vienna and will be seeing President Giscard on 15 February. The main subjects Ramgoolam wishes to raise are the security of the Indian Ocean area following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the damage caused in Mauritius by the recent cyclones. These are covered in the attached briefing.

Mauritius voted for the Non-Aligned Movement Resolution on Afghanistan in the General Assembly and Ramgoolam's concern is genuine. But the Mauritians have recently been somewhat equivocal about US measures in response to the Middle East crisis and specifically about the proposed expansion of the US defence facility on Diego Garcia. The Mauritians accepted the excision of the Chagos Archipelago, of which Diego Garcia is the principal island, as part of the independence arrangements (which also included a defence agreement, terminated at our request in 1976). The matter has been dormant since the facility was established in 1966 but the Mauritian Government have recent expressed some opposition to US use of Diego Garcia, partly because the Opposition party in Mauritius have said that they will make the return of the Chagos an issue in the next elections. It is also possible that Ramgoolam, who feels that we have neglected Mauritius, sees this as a lever to engage greater British interest and hopes to sell Mauritian acquiescence at the best price. (The Americans have now formally requested our agreement to their proposed expansion of the Diego facility. Talks have been held at an official level but we have not yet given a considered reply.)

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1



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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY

List of Briefs

1. Afghanistan: Regional Aspects
2. Indian Ocean: Defence Matters and Diego Garcia
3. Aid Issues
4. Anglo-Mauritian Relations
5. Personality Notes

East African Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
7 February 1980

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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS ON 11 FEBRUARY 1980

AFGHANISTAN: REGIONAL ASPECTS

Points to Make

1. Weak response would encourage Soviet Union to believe they had judged rightly and could get away with similar action in future.
2. Vital that regional and non-aligned countries and West should all take firm line. Glad Mauritius voted for non-aligned resolution on Afghanistan at General Assembly. Encouraging outcome at Islamic Conference (27-29 January) which roundly condemned Soviet invasion and called for withdrawal of Soviet troops.
3. Hope Mauritius can take robust stand (eg on Olympic Games; by following example of Australia and Singapore and cancelling visits by Soviet research ships; by not renewing fisheries agreement with Soviet Union.)
4. Defence of region primarily for countries of area: we welcome signs of closer cooperation and plans of Islamic countries to discuss self help. But we stand ready with our allies to help. The main priority is to assist Pakistan.
5. We need to bolster Pakistan against Russian threat. But Indian dimension is crucial. Russians will seek to widen Indo-Pakistan differences. We will try to encourage closer relations.

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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
THE PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS ON 11 FEBRUARY 1980

AFGHANISTAN

Essential Facts

1. Now over 80,000 Soviet troops in country. They have seized main valley communication routes and towns but guerrilla attacks could continue for a long time. Soviet Union unlikely to withdraw.

2. Prospects for Babrak Karmal uncertain. Installation by Russians worst possible start for him; Afghans see him as Soviet puppet. His Government more presentable than Amin's regime but an uneasy coalition. Without Russians in background it would fall apart. He is hard-line doctrinaire Communist.

3. Mounting temptations for Soviet Union to punish Afghans within Pakistan and Iran.

PAKISTAN

4. Outlook worrying. Zia has not exploited Afghan crisis to rally country behind him; a comment on his inadequacy as a politician.

5. Zia is worried about a direct Soviet attack; a possible consequence of refugee activities.

6. Zia thinks best response to Soviet subversion in Baluchistan would be economic aid.



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7. We intend to continue to keep Pakistan's nuclear plans in mind.

INDIA

8. Indian line at UN disappointing. Mrs Gandhi's more recent statements have been more critical of Soviet action. But joint declaration Giscard/Gandhi (text at Annex) stops short of condemning Soviet action.

9. Both India and Pakistan are paranoid about encirclement of each other. A priority for the West is to encourage mutual confidence and better relations.

10. An improvement in Chinese/Indian relations would be helpful. Mrs Gandhi is concerned about Peking/Islamabad/Washington axis.

Mauritian Attitude

11. Voted for non-aligned resolution on Soviet intervention in Afghanistan at General Assembly. But supports concept of Indian Ocean Peace Zone and opposed to the expansion of US facilities at Diego Garcia. Concerned at increase of super power rivalry in Indian Ocean. Also concerned at proposals to rearm Pakistan; seen not to be in interest of stability of the area (Hindu majority in Mauritius). Close relations with India. Have welcomed re-election of Mrs Gandhi. Likely that Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam will follow to large extent line taken by Mrs Gandhi on Afghanistan.

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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 133 OF 28 JANUARY .

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INFO ROUTINE BONN, PEKING, ISLAMABAD, CANBERRA, UKDEL NATO AND UKMIS NEW YORK.

SAVING TO KABUL.

PRESIDENT GISCARD'S VISIT TO INDIA: JOINT DECLARATION

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A JOINT INDO-FRENCH DECLARATION SIGNED YESTERDAY BY PRESIDENT GISCARD AND MRS GANDHI:

"THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE, MR VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING, AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, MRS INDIRA GANDHI:

- GRAVELY CONCERNED AT THE DETERIORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WHICH COULD ENDANGER WORLD PEACE,
 - CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY OF BASING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON RESPECT FOR THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
 - CONSCIOUS OF THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH DEVOLVE, IN THE PRESENT CRITICAL TIMES, ON FRANCE AND INDIA BECAUSE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICIES OF DETENTE AND NON-ALIGNMENT,
- (1) SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

(I) ANY SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND INTERVENTION OR INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES IS INADMISSIBLE.

(II) IN ORDER TO STOP FURTHER ESCALATION, ALL STATES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION WHICH COULD INTENSIFY GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND BRING BACK THE COLD WAR, ESPECIALLY THROUGH DANGEROUS ARMS BUILD-UP LIABLE TO THREATEN PEACE AND STABILITY IN SENSITIVE REGIONS.

(III) IT IS NECESSARY TO RESTORE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL STATES CAN BE PRESERVED AND THE RIGHT OF THEIR PEOPLES TO FREELY DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE ASSURED.

/ (IV) RESPECT

(IV) RESPECT FOR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES DO NOT PREJUDICE ANY STATE'S LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS .. AND WOULD, IN FACT, GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS SAFEGUARDING THEM.

(2) ACCORDINGLY, THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY INITIATIVES TO DEFUSE PRESENT TENSIONS AND TO HELP CREATE A CLIMATE OF MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. TO THIS END THEY WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH EACH OTHER.

(3) THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER APPEAL TO ALL STATES, PARTICULARLY THE MOST POWERFUL ONES, TO RECOGNISE THE GRAVITY OF THE DANGER AND TO BEND ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO AVERT IT.

2. FOR COMMENTS SEE MIFT.

THOMSON

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1980

INDIAN OCEAN: DEFENCE MATTERS AND DIEGO GARCIA

Points to Make

1. Now Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, as well as Ethiopia and PDRY. Need to strengthen security of littoral states. UK will continue military training assistance and periodic visits by ships and aircraft.
2. (If asked about new Defence Agreement) We no longer maintain sufficient forces east of Suez to take on commitment. We can best help through training.
3. We support US measures to strengthen their ability to respond to Soviet threats to the region. Aware of Mauritian concern about US proposals to expand the defence facility at Diego Garcia but this is less provocative than that the US should be obliged to seek major facilities in the littoral states.
4. (If pressed on the return of Diego Garcia to Mauritius). There is no practical alternative location for the facility at present. Aware of the undertaking that islands should revert to Mauritius if no longer required for defence purposes.
5. (If pressed on US intentions). US consulting littoral states on most appropriate measures to enhance stability in area.

/US

SECRET

SECRET

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US wish to ensure capability to deploy forces to area to meet any threat from Soviet Union.

6. (If pressed on Indian Ocean Peace Zone). UK still considering whether to join the Ad Hoc Committee. IOPZ proposals not yet clearly defined. Must be realistic to have any hope of implementation. How do events in Afghanistan affect your assessment of the IOPZ proposals?

7. (If pressed on Compensation to 'Ilois'community). Her Majesty's Government's offer of £1.25 million is generous. First payment of £650,000 made in 1973.

East African Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
6 February 1980

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1980

Essential Facts

Defence Matters

1. The Soviet Union, United States and France maintain a permanent naval presence in the Indian Ocean. The Soviet Indian Ocean squadron at present consists of a nuclear submarine and eight warships which enjoy access to facilities in the PDRY and Ethiopia. Soviet military advisers are present in large numbers in Ethiopia and Mozambique. The permanent US naval presence in the Indian Ocean/Gulf consists normally of 3 ships, augmented by regular deployments from the US Pacific Fleet. The US Navy makes use of the existing support facilities at Diego Garcia but no ships or aircraft are permanently based there. US naval presence has increased considerably in the wake of the Iran crisis. It now consists of 3 aircraft carriers, 3 cruisers and 9 other ships. The Americans plan to step up both their permanent naval presence and the number of deployments to the area. This may involve increased access to facilities on Diego Garcia and in friendly littoral states, eg Oman, Somalia and Kenya. The French maintain a permanent naval squadron in the Indian Ocean based at Reunion. It currently consists of 12 ships of which 6 are combat vessels.

2. The UK maintains no permanent forces in the Indian

/Ocean

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Ocean but naval and air units deploy to the area periodically. A Royal Navy Task Group will deploy to North East Asia later this year via the Gulf and Indian Ocean. The itinerary has not yet been finalised but may include a visit to Mauritius. The UK provides military training assistance to a number of states in the area, including Mauritius.

3. Many Indian Ocean states including Mauritius are advocates of the Indian Ocean Peace Zone (IOPZ) which aims to exclude super power rivalry and foreign bases and military facilities from the area. In a press interview on 25 January, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam called on the UK to examine the possibility of returning Diego Garcia to Mauritius. The UK has reservations about the practicability of the peace zone proposals particularly in view of recent events in Afghanistan. A conference to establish the IOPZ is planned for 1981. The UK together with the US and its European partners is still considering whether to join the Ad Hoc committee. The Soviet Union and France have already accepted invitations to join. The UK position is complicated by the existing US facilities on Diego Garcia and US proposals for their extension. We must tread carefully to avoid upsetting the littoral states and handing the Russians a possible propaganda counter to Western pressure over Afghanistan.

Mauritian Attitude to Diego Garcia

4. Diego Garcia is part of British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), situated in the Chagos Archipelago. BIOT is a

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dependent territory set up in 1965 and now administered from London. In a published Exchange of Notes in 1966, Diego Garcia was made available to meet the defence needs of the UK and US governments initially for a 50-year period with provision for extension as necessary. Further exchanges of 1972 and 1976 cover the development by the US of a communications and support facility in Diego Garcia comprising an anchorage, an extension of the airfield, a fuelling pier and 550 feet of berthing space, fuel and ammunition storage and accommodation. An RN detachment of 25 personnel under the command of a Lt Cdr RN, works jointly with the US personnel (approx 1900) in the construction and operation of the facility.

5. Recently published US budgetary proposals starting in financial year 1981-82 envisage improving the fuelling facilities, increasing aircraft parking space, building a taxiway parallel to the main runway, improving the fresh water supply and constructing a pier capable of supporting pre-positioned roll-on/roll-off ships. Following Soviet intervention in Afghanistan the Americans have privately put to us further plans going considerably beyond the proposals for 1981-82.

6. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's statement of 25 January may increase our difficulties over our offer of £1.25 million to the former Diego Garcia islanders who were resettled in Mauritius to make room for the defence facility. We believe most of them are ready to accept but the offer is conditional

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on the Ilois renouncing their right of return to Diego Garcia. The opposition party are encouraging the Ilois to refuse the offer in view of this clause and it may be that the Mauritian Government which has not involved itself so far in the negotiations, may come under pressure to take the same line. Meanwhile we await acceptance of the offer.

East African Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
6 February 1980

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CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM, PRIME
MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1980

AID ISSUES

POINTS TO MAKE (DEFENSIVE)

Cyclone Damage

1. We extend our sympathy. Pleased that we are making a significant contribution through the European Community, but regret that we cannot make an additional bilateral contribution. Think we can best help through continuation of our regular aid programme.

Aid Programme

2. In the longer term we shall be happy to discuss proposals for allocating the uncommitted balance of our current project loan to Mauritius.

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CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM, PRIME
MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1980

AID ISSUES

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Cyclone Damage

1. Cyclone Claudette struck Mauritius on 22 December. Five lives were lost, and there was damage to roads, housing and sewerage in Port Louis. The Government has appealed for international assistance, and in doing so has somewhat exaggerated the extent of the damage. Another tropical depression caused heavy rain for a week in mid-January, resulting in further damage to roads and the sewerage system. A number of cases of typhoid have been reported in Port Louis.

2. The European Development Fund has responded quickly with an allocation of 1,150 mua (about £750,000) for emergency assistance and rehabilitation of housing and the sewerage system, together with water supply and electricity materials. The African Development Fund are considering the allocation of about £1m for roads. UNDP and France have provided some immediate assistance, and France is to help with telecommunications and electricity in the longer term.

UK Response to the Appeal

3. HMG made an immediate contribution of £5,000 from ODA's Disaster Unit. When Mr Luce saw Sir S Boolell on 21 January, he expressed HMG's sympathy to the Mauritius Government, and

/undertook

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undertook to consider whether we could do anything further, but stressed public expenditure constraints. The expenditure position has been reviewed, but does not permit a further contribution to Mauritius at present. Our share of the EEC contribution amounts to about £135,000.

British Aid to Mauritius

4. Capital aid to Mauritius has averaged about £1m in recent years, mainly for infrastructural projects, and TC about £400,000. Our largest current project is the Northern Plains Irrigation Project for sugar growing (ODA's contribution is £3m, plus £2m from the Commonwealth Development Corporation). Work on the project should begin shortly.

5. About £2.5m of the current project loan No 6 to Mauritius is uncommitted, and we are prepared to consider proposals for its allocation. But because of high levels of expenditure on Northern Plains in the next one to two years, we cannot significantly increase expenditure in this period.

East & General Africa Department
Overseas Development Administration
February 1980

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, ON 11 FEBRUARY 1980

ANGLO-MAURITIAN RELATIONS

Points to Make

Bilateral

Rhodesia

1. We shall need your continuing support over Rhodesia in
the United Nations and the OAU.

(Defensive)

British Council

2. British Council library will remain open until March
1981 at least.

East African Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
6 February 1980

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, ON 11 FEBRUARY 1980

Background Notes and Essential Facts

Attitude over Rhodesia

1. The Mauritius Government have been generally helpful to us over Rhodesia and Sir S Ramgoolam was quick to welcome Lancaster House Agreement. Sanctions were quickly lifted. Sir S Ramgoolam has known Nkomo for many years and would like to see him come to power.

Anglo-Mauritian relations

2. Relations normally warm and close. Mauritian Ministers particularly Sir S Ramgoolam are frequent visitors. However they feel we have lost interest, since our unilateral termination in 1976 of the 1968 Defence Agreement. They now look to France for military assistance. (The large French base at Reunion is close at hand). We provide a two member training team for their Special Mobile Force, but Mauritians are slow to take up the vacancies offered to them on courses in the UK.

3. Two irritants in our relations were removed before Christmas: an agreement was reached in London on the future level of Mauritian textile exports to the UK and an agreement was reached allowing the British Council to keep their library open in Port Louis at least until March 1981. Financial constraints may be too strong for it to survive beyond that date.

/Political

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Political Internal

4. Mauritius became independent in 1968 with The Queen as Head of State and Westminster system of government; since Independence has enjoyed substantial measure of peace and stability.

5. Sir S Ramgoolam Head of Government since 1961. His Labour Party forms coalition government with the right wing Parti Mauricien Sociale Democrat. Overall majority is extremely small and is hard pressed by the radical opposition party the Mouvement Militant Mauricien. It is not certain that the coalition will survive until next elections, due March 1982. Sir S Ramgoolam, now in his 80th year, seems prepared to stay on as long as possible.

The Economy

6. By third world standards Mauritius is well off with a per capita GNP of US \$830. But economy has been in difficulties due to the low sugar prices, soaring oil prices and the slow down in world trade. Chronic balance of payments deficit and foreign exchange reserves very low. In October 1979 an IMF package provided a stand-by credit of Rupees 730m in return for a 30% devaluation, reduced government expenditure and wage restraint. It remains to be seen if the government strong enough to make the measures effective.

Political External

7. Mauritius usually takes a moderate line at OAU and non-aligned gatherings but has little influence. Strong links

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links with France, Britain and India. Although they join the other Indian Ocean states in supporting the concept of an Indian Ocean Peace Zone, the Mauritians dislike the left wing regimes in Madagascar and Seychelles and feel increasingly isolated and vulnerable. Deeply concerned over events in Afghanistan, and uneasy at the increase in military activity in the Indian Ocean area.

East African Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
6 February 1980

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MAURITIUS: BASIC STATISTICS

1. Population and Land Area

(a) Land Area	2045	km ²
(b) Population (1978)	0.924	million
(c) Population growth rate (1970-77)	1.3	%pa

2. Economic(i) Gross National Product

	1978	
(a) Total	760	US\$m
(b) Growth Rate (1970-77)	8.3	%pa
(c) Position in Total GNP League Table	129	(of 176)
(d) Per Capita	830	US\$
(e) Position in Per Capita League Table	99	(of 176)

(ii) Balance of Payments

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	US\$m
Exports	264.6	307.6	325.8	
Imports	-307.4	-368.0	-424.0	
Invisibles and Transfers (net)	6.7	- 17.1	- 20.3	
Current Account	- 36.1	- 77.5	-118.5	
Capital Account	44.8	29.7	40.4	
Balancing Item	5.2	9.7	11.8	
Overall Balance	- 75.7	- 38.1	- 66.3	
(iii) <u>International Reserves</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	
Total	89.5	66.7	45.8	
Months of Imports covered	2.6	1.6	0.9	



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3. Foreign Trade

(a) <u>Main Export Markets</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1978</u>	%
UK	44.9	62.3	
France	1.6	8.5	
USA	8.0	7.2	
Belgium/Luxembourg	0.6	4.8	

(b) <u>Major Sources of Imports</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1978</u>	%
UK	21.6	14.8	
France	6.8	11.9	
South Africa	8.5	11.8	
Japan	6.6	6.8	

(c) <u>UK Trade with Mauritius</u>	1974	1979	£m
Total value of exports	19.5	30.4	
Real growth of exports (five years ending	na	4.2	%pa
Position in UK's Export League Table	81 (of 85)	na	

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CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM, PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1980

PERSONALITY NOTE

RAMGOOLAM, DR THE RT HON SIR SEEWOSAGUR GCMG MLA

Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security, Minister of Reform Institutions, and Minister of Communications. GCMG conferred in October 1978.

MLA for Pamplemousses/Triolet (Labour); Leader of the House since 1960.

Born 1900, Belle Rive. Educated Royal College Curepipe; University College, London (Honorary fellowship conferred in 1971). Elected Municipal Councillor 1940-53; re-elected 1956, Deputy Mayor Port Louis, 1956; Mayor 1958; entered Legislative Council for Pamplemousses-Riviere du Rampart, 1948; Member Executive Council, 1948, Liaison Officer for Education 1951-56; Ministerial Secretary to Treasury 1958; Chief Minister and Minister of Finance, 1961; Premier, 1965; Prime Minister since 1967.

Sir Seewosagur, a diabetic, is remarkably fit and active for his age. He needs little sleep, and has surprising stamina. No gathering is too small for him to attend. A short, stocky man, with only one good eye, he can on occasions be almost inaudible.

He was born of humble, but not very poor, parents. His political philosophy derives from his days as a journalist and student in England in the early 30's. He has dominated the Mauritian political scene for 30 years, and led his country to independence. A shrewd political tactician, ready to wait on events, an eminent 'wheeler and dealer'. Loyal - perhaps over loyal - to his old friends, and perhaps out of touch with the younger generation. Exercises a tight personal control over all government business but his age and innate reluctance

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to take decisions have a paralysing effect. Although he has repeatedly talked of stepping down, this no longer seems to be in his mind. Though many people feel it is time he went, he is still widely respected. Can be harsh with his subordinates.

Believes in a mixed economy, opposes further nationalisation and strongly anti-Communist. Essentially non violent. Pro-Commonwealth, and well disposed to Britain. An indefatigable traveller.

East African Department
February 1980

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CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM, PRIME
MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1980

SIR LECKRAZ TEELOCK CBE: High Commissioner for Mauritius
Appointed 12 March 1968

Born 1909. After completing his secondary education at the Royal College of Curepipe went to the United Kingdom for medical studies and qualified at Edinburgh University. Returned to Mauritius in 1939 and set up a flourishing medical practice which he gave up when he was appointed Mauritius Commissioner in London in April 1964. Elected member for Brisee Verdiere in 1959 and represented that constituency until 1963. One of the founders of the Mauritius Family Planning Association and of the Hindu Girls' College, a secondary school open to girls of all races and creeds.

Intelligent but not a forceful personality. Quite conscientious as Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps and Senior High Commissioner.

He and his wife are both very friendly and sociable. She is a Barrister-at-Law (Middle Temple), daughter of the late Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University, India, and a woman of some energy. They have a married daughter now living in Germany and a son at school in London.

East African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

vb

~~B/F8-2-80~~

Mauritius

30 January 1980

Visit by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

You wrote to me on 28 January about the change in Sir S. Ramgoolam's travel schedule. The Prime Minister would be happy to see Sir S. Ramgoolam at 1600 on Monday 11 February and to offer him tea. I should be grateful to know how many people will be accompanying him. The brief should reach us on Friday 8 February.

M O'D B A

R M J Lyne Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

AB



Mrs Stephens : ?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 January 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit by Prime Minister of Mauritius

I wrote to you on 19 January about the call by Sir S Ramgoolam at 4.45 pm on Thursday 31 January. As I have since told you, Sir S Ramgoolam has delayed his arrival.

The Mauritius High Commissioner has now written formally to the Secretary of State to explain that pressing business at home has compelled his Prime Minister to change his travel schedule. Sir S Ramgoolam would now hope to call on the Prime Minister on 8, 11 or 12 February.

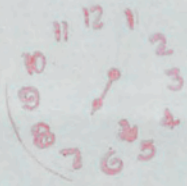
Would it be possible for the Prime Minister to see Sir S Ramgoolam on one of these days?

*yours ever
Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London

29 JAN 1980





10 DOWNING STREET

- 1) Mr Alexander ~~Good~~ ^{Good}
- 2) Miss Stephens ~~cl.~~ ^{cl.}

Roderick Lyne rang,

Rangpolam has postponed
his visit until February.

FCO will write when a
new date is suggested.

S. Baldwin

22.1.70.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 January 1980

Dear Michael,

Miss Stephens

L.F.A.

Ames

Visit by Prime Minister of Mauritius

The Mauritius High Commissioner has informed us that his Prime Minister, Sir S Ramgoolam, will be arriving in the United Kingdom on Monday 28 January. You have agreed that the Prime Minister can receive him for three quarters of an hour at 4.45pm on Thursday 31 January.

The High Commissioner tells us that, among other things, his Prime Minister would wish to discuss India and Pakistan, and the effects on Mauritius of Cyclone Claudette (22/23 December 1979).

We shall send you briefing accordingly.

yours ever

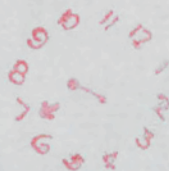
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

19 JAN 1950



B/F 30.1.80.

18 January 1980

Dear Mr. Pringle,

Further to our conversation on the telephone this afternoon, I am writing to confirm that Mr. Ramgoolam, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, is coming to see the Prime Minister at 1645 on Thursday, 31 January.

Could we please have a brief to reach this office not later than Wednesday, 30 January?

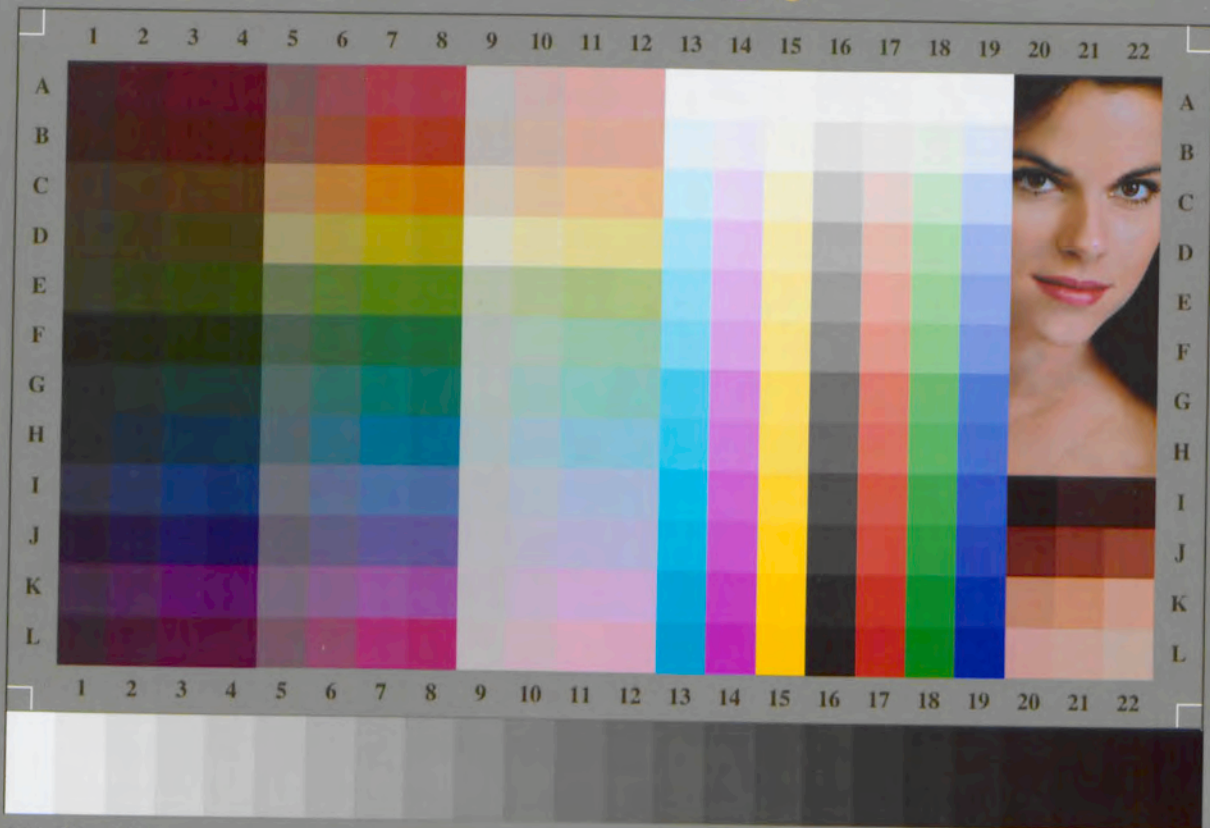
Yours sincerely,

Car
PP CAROLINE STEPHENS

R.E. Pringle, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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