

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
Rodric 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 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

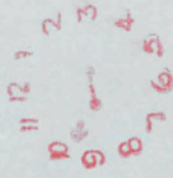
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

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30 JUN 1980



FILE

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Manuscripts

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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

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

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

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

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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- 5 -

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

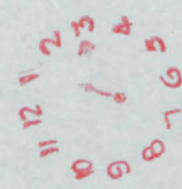
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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM,
PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS, MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY

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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- 2 -

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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TELEGRAM NUMBER 133 OF 28 JANUARY .

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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

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- 2 -

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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- 2 -

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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SECRET



SECRET

- 3 -

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 accomodation. 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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SECRET



SECRET

- 4 -

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

SECRET

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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

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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

CONFIDENTIAL


CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

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

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

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 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 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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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

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

CONFIDENTIAL



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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

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