

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 October 1982

Prime Minister

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

John [unclear]

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.



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, <sup>to</sup> 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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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.

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.T. Collins

Duty clerk

2/8/82