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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

8 August, 1984

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 144/84

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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

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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.

cell

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 August, 1984

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*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 SecretaryC D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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:

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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).....

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