

RESTRICTED

R J C Pease Esq  
British High Commission  
PORT LOUIS

HKT 18/2

31 October 1974

## ILOIS

1. Thank you for your letter of 4 October with which you enclosed a copy of the Ilois petition to the Prime Minister. There seems little we can do beyond listening sympathetically to what the Ilois have to say, telling them that we are unable to intervene between a government and its people and, perhaps, drawing their attention to the statements made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius on 2 October of this year, and on 7 November 1972 (copy enclosed).
2. The subsidiary point about ~~allowing two or three people from the Ilois community to go to Diego Garcia to clean the cemetery~~ is one we would have to discuss with the Americans. We do not see any objection in principle, although the mechanics of getting two or three people from Mauritius to Diego Garcia may, on investigation prove to be difficult and costly. We are meanwhile asking our representative on Diego Garcia to check on the condition of the cemetery and the church on the atoll.
3. If Me Duval raises the question of dual nationality we agree that you should follow the line suggested in paragraph five of your letter of 9 September.

  
S G Hinton  
Hong Kong and Indian Ocean Department

Enc

cc: Commissioner BIOT  
(with enc)