

Ref: FCO 31/134

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TOP SECRET RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES No. 61 11 OCT 1968 (PJ 10/10)

SECRET

CYPHER/CAT A PRIORITY COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TELEGRAM NUMBER 423

TO PORT LOUIS 9 OCTOBER 1968

LAST REF.	39.
NEXT REF.	45. 46.

SECRET UK EYES ONLY.

ADDRESSED TO PORT LOUIS TELEGRAM NUMBER 423 OF 9 OCTOBER REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO GOVERNOR SEYCHELLES.

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 387. ³⁹ RESETTLEMENT OF MAURITIANS FORMERLY RESIDENT IN BIOT.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIONS ETC REFERRED TO IN TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE STILL AWAITED BUT MEANWHILE YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT NO (REPEAT NO) FORMAL WRITTEN AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED BETWEEN BRITISH AND MAURITIUS GOVERNMENTS ON THE COST OF RESETTLING MAURITIANS FORMERLY LIVING ON DIEGO GARCIA OR ELSEWHERE IN CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO.

2. NEVERTHELESS AT A LANCASTER HOUSE MEETING ON 23 SEPTEMBER 1965, ATTENDED INTER ALIA BY SECRETARY OF STATE AND RAMGOOLAM, MAURITIANS MINISTERS VERBALLY ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE £3 MILLION COMPENSATION WOULD BE QUOTE OVER AND ABOVE DIRECT COMPENSATION TO LANDOWNERS AND THE BEGIN UNDERLINING COST OF RESETTLING OTHERS ^{TO LANDOWNERS} ~~AFFECTED~~ ~~APPEARED~~ IN THE CHAGOS ISLANDS CEASE UNDERLINING UNQUOTE.

3. THE PHRASE QUOTE OTHERS AFFECTED UNQUOTE REFERS TO PERSONS NECESSARILY REMOVED FROM ONE OR OTHER OF THE ISLANDS BECAUSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENCE FACILITIES THEREON. OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE NOT YET QUOTE ANY PERSONS AFFECTED UNQUOTE IN THIS CONTEXT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW HMG CAN BE HELD IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION TAKEN BY ROGERS AND CO IN 1967 IN DECIDING AGAINST RE-EMPLOYMENT OF THESE MAURITIANS.

4. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU MAKE AN INTERIM REPLY TO THE MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT ON THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE.

5. (FOR GOVERNOR SEYCHELLES ONLY) FOLLOWING IS
 (A) TEXTS OF TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE AND OF
 (B) COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TELEGRAM NUMBER 389. / (A) YOUR

SECRET

SECRET
-2-

(A)
YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 389. RESETTLEMENT OF MAURITIANS FORMERLY RESIDENT IN BIOT. AFTER PRESS CAMPAIGN OF INCREASING INTENSITY MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT HAVE FORMALLY REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS FOR RESETTLEMENT. COPIES OF REPRESENTATIONS AND OTHER BACKGROUND MATERIAL COLLECTED LOCALLY FOLLOWS BY BAG ON MONDAY 2. ALTHOUGH CLEARLY REPRESENTATIONS PREDATE DEVELOPMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THEY STEM PRIMARILY OR MAINLY FROM ANY EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE DISPUTE. INDEED SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION SUGGESTS THE CONTRARY. YOUR TELEGRAM AND FOLLOWING LETTERS ANYHOW DO NOT REPLY TO DAWSON MORAYS LETTER. URGENT GUIDANCE FOR INTERIM REPLY TO MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT AGREEMENTS FOR OUR OWN INFORMATION.

(B)
TELEGRAM NUMBER 389.

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 347.
RESETTLEMENT OF MAURITIANS FORMERLY RESIDENT IN BIOT.
TWO DISTINCT ISSUES ARE INVOLVED HERE:

- (A) THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY FUTURE RESETTLEMENT OF MAURITIANS RESIDENT IN DIEGO GARCIA BECAUSE OF AMERICAN PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP AN QUOTE AUSTERE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY UNQUOTE ON DIEGO GARCIA;
- AND (B) THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE MAURITIUS MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY REFERRED TO IN DAWSON-MORAY'S LETTER 32/5 OF 27 JULY.
- 2. ON (A) LETTERS FROM MORRIS AND COUNSELL IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER 10/32 OF 22 AUGUST FOLLOW IN NEXT BAG.
- 3. AS REGARDS (B) THE PRESENT MAURITIAN REPRESENTATION CANNOT POSSIBLY STEM FROM ANY QUESTION OF THE REMOVAL OF MAURITIAN RESIDENTS CONSEQUENT UPON PROPOSALS FOR THE MILITARY DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA. ON THE CONTRARY THIS APPEARS TO BE A MATTER SOLELY BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE IN WHICH WE WOULD NOT (REPEAT NOT) BE INVOLVED.
- 4. DELAY REGRETTED BUT IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO CONSULT OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

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E.A.D.
P.I.O.D.

SECRET

Registry No. PJ 10/10
DEPARTMENT

* Date and time (G.M.T.) telegram should reach addressee(s)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION PRIORITY MARKINGS

(Date) 19 October, 1968.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified
SECRET

Emergency }
Immediate }
Priority }
Routine }
PRIORITY

Despatched 0355
CYIPHER

En Cifr.
Code
Cypher

[Security classification] SECRET UK EYES ONLY
-if any

[Codeword-if any]

Draft Telegram to:-

Addressed to PORT LOUIS

Port Louis
No. 423

telegram No. 423 (date) 9 October

(Date) 9/10

And to repeated for information to Governor, Seychelles

And to:-

Saving to

Repeat to:-

GOVERNOR SEYCHELLES

Your Telegram No. 387. Resettlement of Mauritian formerly resident in BIOT.

Local representations etc referred to in telegram under reference still awaited but meanwhile you should know that no (repeat no) formal written agreement was concluded between British and Mauritian Governments on the cost of resettling Mauritians formerly living on Diego Garcia or elsewhere in Chagos Archipelago.

2. Nevertheless at a Lancaster House meeting on 23 September 1965, attended inter alia by Secretary of State and Ramgoolam, Mauritian Ministers verbally accepted in principle that the £3 million compensation would be quote over and above direct compensation to landowners and the cost of resettling others affected in the Chagos Islands unquote.

3. The phrase quote others affected unquote refers to persons necessarily removed from one or ~~more~~ other of the islands because of the development of defence facilities thereon. Obviously there are nor ~~Obviously there are no~~ yet quote any persons affected unquote in this context. ~~Whether or not Rogers & Co., in deciding against re-employment of Mauritians in 1967, were speculating on future defence developments, is a purely metaphysical question and~~ It is difficult to see how HMG can be held in any way responsible for action taken ~~by~~ by Rogers & Co. in 1967 in deciding against re-employment of these Mauritians.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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For your own background information you should also know that statement made by then Premier in WIA on 21 December 1965 appears to envisage a considerably wider interpretation than is our verbal understanding referred to in paragraph 2 above.

4. It is suggested that you make an interim reply to the Mauritius Government on the lines of paragraph 3 above.

5. [For Governor Seychelles only] Following is

(A) re: re: of telegram under reference and of (B) Commonwealth Office Telegrams No. 389 preceding telegram

(A)

NO

YOUR TEL 389. RESETTLEMENT OF MAURITIANS FORMERLY RESIDENT IN BIOT. AFTER PRESS CAMPAIGN OF INCREASING INTENSITY MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT HAVE FORMALLY REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS FOR RESETTLEMENT. COPIES OF REPRESENTATIONS AND OTHER BACKGROUND MATERIAL COLLECTED LOCALLY FOLLOWS BY BAG ON MONDAY 2. ALTHOUGH CLEARLY REPRESENTATIONS PREDATE DEVELOPMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THEY STEM PRIMARILY OR MAINLY FROM ANY EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE DISPUTE. INDEED SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION SUGGESTS THE CONTRARY. YOUR TELEGRAM AND FOLLOWING LETTERS ANYHOW DO NOT REPLY TO DAWSON HORRAYS LETTER. URGENT GUIDANCE FOR INTERIM REPLY TO MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT AGREEMENTS FOR OUR OWN INFORMATION MR. MOOLLER

(B)

SECRET/CAT 1
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
TELEGRAM NO. 389

TO: PORT LOUIS
12 SEPTEMBER 1968 (P) 10

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~

YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 347. RESETTLEMENT OF MAURITIANS FORMERLY RESIDENT IN BIOT. TWO DISTINCT ISSUES ARE INVOLVED HERE:
1. (A) THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY FUTURE RESETTLEMENT OF MAURITIANS RESIDENT IN DIEGO GARCIA BECAUSE OF AMERICAN PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP AN 'AUSTERE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY' ON DIEGO GARCIA; AND
2. (B) THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE MAURITIUS MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY REFERRED TO IN DAWSON-HORRAYS LETTER 32/5 OF 27 JULY.
3. ON (A) LETTERS FROM HORRIS AND COUNSELL IN REPLY TO YOU LETTER 18/30 OF 22 AUGUST FOLLOW IN NEXT BAG.
4. AS REGARDS (B) THE PRESENT MAURITIAN REPRESENTATION CANNOT POSSIBLY STEM FROM ANY QUESTION OF THE REMOVAL OF MAURITIAN RESIDENTS CONSEQUENT UPON PROPOSALS FOR THE MILITARY DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA. ON THE CONTRARY THIS APPEARS TO BE A MATTER SOLELY BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE IN WHICH WE WOULD NOT (REPEAT NOT) BE INVOLVED.
5. DELAY REGRETTED BUT IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO CONSULT OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

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