

17 Feb. 1969

SECRET

CYPHER/CAT A
 ROUTINE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 28

157 159
 RECEIVED IN
 TO MAURITIUS ARCHIVES No. 51
 17 FEBRUARY 1969
 (JEM 10/1)
 15/527/1

SECRET UK EYES ONLY.

ADDRESSED TO PORT LOUIS TELNO 28 OF 17/2 REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO SEYCHELLES.

3P OUR TELEGRAM BIST NO 9 TO SEYCHELLES REPEATED TO YOU. DIEGO GARCIA. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD LET US HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE POSSIBLE REACTIONS OF THE MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT IF ALTERNATIVE (B) IS ADOPTED AND ALL THE ILOIS AND MAURITIANS NOW IN CHAGOS (ABOUT 500 OF WHOM PERHAPS HALF ARE BREAD WINNERS) ARE REMOVED TO MAURITIUS FOR RESETTLEMENT. IF POSSIBLE COULD YOU ALSO MAKE AN INFORMED GUESS ABOUT HOW MUCH RESETTLEMENT COSTS PER HEAD THE MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT ARE LIKELY TO REQUEST? IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO EXPECT US TO ACCEPT (AND WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE) SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ILOIS FROM DIEGO GARCIA ALREADY IN MAURITIUS AND UNEMPLOYED. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS LATTER CATEGORY, E.G. AS FAR AS MAY BE JUDGED HOW MANY ARE INVOLVED AND WHETHER THE MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND THEM EMPLOYMENT.

2. THE DIFFICULTY OF THIS REQUEST IS APPRECIATED ESPECIALLY AS YOU WILL NOT (REPEAT NOT) BE ABLE TO CONSULT THE MAURITIUS AUTHORITIES AT THIS STAGE, BUT NEVERTHELESS GRATEFUL FOR EARLIEST REPLY.

STEWART

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