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Mr. Johnstone

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Resettlement of Population of Chagos

The final appendix to Mr. Todd's letter BIOT/157/172/II of 3 July to Mr. Matthews makes it clear that the BIOT administration propose to resettle the population of the Chagos when it becomes necessary in the following stages:

- (a) six months' notice to be given to the contract labourers on the Diego Garcia plantations;
- (b) after six months' <sup>notice</sup> the Seychellois contract labourers to be returned to the Seychelles;
- (c) after six months' <sup>notice</sup> the Mauritian citizens who also possess citizenship of the UK and Colonies (Ilois) to be sent to Peros Banhos and Salomon;
- (d) the Seychellois contract labourers on Peros Banhos and Salomon to be returned to the Seychelles;
- (e) the Mauritian contract labourers on Peros Banhos and Salomon to be gradually resettled in either Agalega or Mauritius.

2. I note, however, that BIOT Administration intend to make a distinction in resettlement arrangements between mono-Mauritians and Ilois: the mono-Mauritians on Diego Garcia being returned directly to Mauritius after the six months' notice has expired and not sent to Peros Banhos and Salomon with the Ilois in the first instance. Since we are anxious not to make any distinction in the eyes of the Mauritian Government between mono-Mauritians and Ilois, I wonder whether this is wise. The number of mono-Mauritians in the Chagos is so small (only 12 on Diego Garcia and 9 on Peros Banhos and Salomon) that there would be no difficulty in including them in the resettlement arrangements for the Ilois unless they themselves personally wished to return to Mauritius rather than go initially to Peros Banhos and Salomon.

(J. Thomas)  
23 July, 1969.

c.c. PIOD (Mr. Matthews)  
East African Dept. (Mr. Counsell) ✓  
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