

CONFIDENTIAL

4



28/12

RECEIVED
REGISTRY No. 51
29 DEC 1972
HKT 18/1

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
SEYCHELLES.

BIOT/157/172 IV

12th December 1972

Dear Allan,

Would you please refer to your letter HKT 18/1 of 12th June about the Chagos plantations. Salomon has now been closed down and we are left with a small labour force on Peros Banhos which is far too small to run the island. They have sufficient rations to last until late March and April and we shall have to send the NORDVAER during March. Moulinie & Co are arranging this. There would be economic advantages in clearing the island at this time. If this is not possible for political reasons in Mauritius is it possible to give some indication of when you expect we can clear the islands. Of course, some may in any case await themselves of the opportunity afforded by the NORDVAER's call to return as happened last time.

2. Moulinie and Co are also anxious to close the island as the fee they receive on the basis of copra produced is very small. They have asked for some other arrangement to be made for the payment of a higher fee but despite my prompting have not yet come forward with their proposals.

3. We can I hope discuss this whole problem in London when you have obtained views from Mauritius on the return of the remaining labourers.

LAST PAGE

(J R TODD)

A F Knight Esq
Hong Kong & Indian Ocean Dept
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
LONDON SW 1