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B. I. O. T.
VICTORIA,
SEYCHELLES.

20th November, 1971.

Mr. Richardson,

In view of the latest developments on resettlement and in particular the claim of Ilois status likely to be made in Mauritius, it may be useful to you to have in one letter the factual position so far as we can determine it from our records here.

2. The first figures we have come from the report made in 1959 by Mr. M.N. Lucie-Smith who was then Director of Agriculture in Mauritius. In paragraphs 125 and 126 he deals with the population position as follows:

125. As at the end of December 1958, the position was as under:

	Diego Garcia		Salomon		Peros Banhos		Agalega	
	Workers	Total Population	Workers	Total Population	Workers	Total Population	Workers	Total Population
Men	216	226	{ 119	?	{ 187	?	181	182
Women	163	171	?	?	?	?	107	122
Children	15	192	?	?	?	?	33	246
Total	394	589	?	?	?	?	321	550

126. Of the total population in Diego Garcia of 589, which figure includes the families of the staff, 262 are Mauritian born and 327 Seychellois. Since then, 47 adults and 10 children have been repatriated to the Seychelles and 9 adults and 3 children to Mauritius."

3. As you can see the figures are not in the form most useful for this present exercise but I have attempted to analyse them on the following assumptions.

- a) The proportion of male workers to total workers in Peros Banhos and Salomon was the same as in Diego Garcia.
 - b) The proportion of total workers to total population in Peros Banhos and Salomon was the same as in Diego Garcia.
 - c) All those in Peros Banhos and Salomon were of Mauritian origin.
- The first two assumptions are I think reasonable, whilst the third may over-estimate the number of those of Mauritian origin. Peros Banhos and Salomon have however always had a much more predominantly Ilois population than Diego Garcia and it should not unduly inflate the figures.

4. Working on these assumptions the estimated figures become:

Island	Mauritian Origin	
	No. of adult males	Total population
Diego Garcia	96	262
Peros Banhos	65	117
Salomon	102	279
Total	263	658

If we now make another assumption that each family contains one male worker this gives us a total of 263 families of Mauritian origin on Cragos in December 1958.

5. The next report available here is Newton's Report on his visit in 1964. Again he does not give a detailed breakdown in all cases but the

following/

1959
pop
#5

following figures give the approximate position.

<u>Mauritian Origin</u>		
Island	No. of adult males	Total population
Diego Garcia	92	166
Peros Banhos	150	260
Salomon	51	205
Total	293	631

On this basis there seem to have been about 290 families of Mauritian origin in Chagos in 1964.

6. The next figures we have are those which I have collected myself and of which you have already had copies. I am attaching a consolidated table including the figures in the previous paragraphs of this letter.
7. You will recall that in 1968 the Mauritian Government produced a list of 55 persons born in Chagos who had asked to return there and also stated that there were 81 adults and 56 children who had arrived in Mauritius in 1968 (Prime Minister's note 1158/2 of 17th September 1968). The totals in these lists come to 112 adults and 95 children, a total of 207 persons. Adding these to the figures for those of Mauritian origin still in Chagos in 1969 gives a total of 562 persons, a figure midway between the 1964 and 1967 figures in attachment A to this letter. The lists also show 62 adult men which added to the 1969 figures gives 137 adult men, a figure again between the 1964 and 1967 figures.
8. The only other details readily available here are lists for the last 75 years showing those born in Chagos who are of Mauritian descent. They do not of course provide a means of deciding who is an Ilois as many Ilois wives have given birth to their children whilst in Mauritius. Thus whilst they may enable us to establish a claim to belong to Chagos they will not normally enable us to repudiate such a claim.
9. The figures as you can see are not very reliable for the pre B.I.O.T. period and I am afraid we are not going to be able to submit claims to be Ilois to as careful a scrutiny as we should like. They may however be of use in assessing the size of the problem.

(J.R. Todd)

R.C. Cox, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London, S.W.1.

Copy to P.A. Carter, Esq., C.M.G.,
British High Commissioner,
Port Louis, Mauritius.

POPULATION OF MAURITIAN ORIGIN IN CHAGOSTOTAL POPULATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>Diego Garcia</u>	<u>Peros Banhos</u>	<u>Salomon</u>	<u>Total</u>
1958	262	117	279	658
1964	166	260	205	631
1967	176	183	147	506
1968	150	179	161	490
1969	94	125	136	355
1970	109	114	126	349

ADULT MALES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Diego Garcia</u>	<u>Peros Banhos</u>	<u>Salomon</u>	<u>Total</u>
1958	96	65	102	263
1964	92	150	51	293
1967	42	36	33	111
1968	35	46	45	126
1969	28	24	26	75
1970	31	26	22	76

pop
#s
1958-
1970