

CYPHER/CAT A

S E C R E T

PRIORITY WASHINGTON

TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 529

20 FEBRUARY 1969

SECRET.

154
26 FEB 1969

ADDRESSED TO FCO TELEGRAM NUMBER 529 OF 20/2 REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO PORT LOUIS, SEYCHELLES (BIOT) AND SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK, JOHNSTONES LETTER OF 7 FEBRUARY TO WILFORD (NOT TO ALL); DIEGO GARCIA.

ON 19 FEBRUARY THE STATE DEPARTMENT INDICATED TO US THAT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO GIVE A FIRM REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR THEIR AGREEMENT THAT MOULINIE SHOULD BE GIVEN A GUARANTEE OF 20 YEARS UNDISPUTED EXPLOITATION OF PEROS BANHOS AND SALOMON. THEY FEEL UNABLE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ABOUT FUTURE AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS IN THE AREA. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THEIR CONSIDERED REPLY IS LIKELY TO BE THAT MOULINIE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN SUCH SECURITY OF TENURE THAT IF IT WERE LATER DECIDED TO USE THE TWO ISLANDS FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES, AND IF THIS MEANT CLOSING THE PLANTATIONS, HE WOULD BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM COMPENSATION. HE SHOULD OF COURSE GET REASONABLE NOTICE. AS TO THE AMERICANS PAYING ANY PART OF COMPENSATION TO MOULINIE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THEY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY PAID QUITE HANDSOMELY IN PROVIDING HALF OF WHAT THE MAURITIAN AND SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED. THEY WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO BE WILLING TO GO TO THE CONGRESS FOR MONEY FOR COMPENSATION.

*A

2. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE POPULATION PROBLEM WHICH MINIMISES THE SCOPE FOR POLITICAL MISCHIEFMAKERS. IT SEEMS TO US THAT, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SET OUT IN PARA 1 ABOVE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S PREFERENCE MAY WELL BE DIRECTED TOWARDS SOLUTION B OF SYKES' LETTER OF 6 FEBRUARY (DP15/527/1) RATHER THAN TO SOLUTION A.

X

FCO PASS PORT LOUIS AND SEYCHELLES (BIOT).

MR. TOMKINS

[REPETITION TO SEYCHELLES REFERRED FOR DEPARTMENTAL DECISION, REPEATED AS REQUESTED TO OTHER POST].

FILES
P.I.O.D.
D.P.D.
FFFFF

S E C R E T