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POST LOUIS TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Telno 36 25 February, 1969

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Addressed to FCO telno 36 of 25 February

Repeated for information to: Seychelles.

Your telno 28: Diego Garcia.

Mauritius Government already faced with unemployment rate of order of 20 per cent are unlikely to welcome return of some 250 families except on generous compensation terms.

2. Lowest resettlement costs we can envisage them considering are

- (a) Low-cost housing rupees five thousand per family. £375
- (b) Say three years relief work payments to head of family at rupees seven hundred and eighty per annum. £58/10/- x 3 = £175/10
- (c) Say three years payment of family allowance at rupees of hundred and twenty per annum. Total per family rupees seven thousand and seven hundred say pounds sterling six hundred. £27 x 3 = £81 x 3 = £243  
£577/10/-

3. Mauritius Government might not regard three years payment of relief work and family allowances as generous or indeed adequate in light of near impossibility of finding suitable employment. There is no Copra industry into which they could be absorbed. They might also argue that party of this size would increase pressure on existing educational and health facilities in whatever area they were settled and additional facilities required should be financed by us. Social and community services excluding relief works cost about rupees 48 per head of population per annum.

4. We have no accurate count of persons from 2107 already in Mauritius. Notes from Prime Minister's Office have referred to 259 adults plus an unspecified number of dependants (see enclosures to Miss Dawson-Moray's letter to E.A.D. of 7 July and Wicken's letter to Porter of 4 October). Social Security Department is vague about their fate but it seems unlikely that many have found employment and Mauritius Government in any case will almost certainly expect them to receive the same treatment as regards resettlement as those coming to Mauritius later.

FCO please pass Seychelles.

Mr. Wooller

[Repetition to Seychelles referred for departmental decision.]

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