

Exhibit 1

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Andrew Pocock meeting with Mauritian High Commissioner, 26 May

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2010 15:24
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] Andrew Pocock meeting with Mauritian High Commissioner, 26 May

Dear All,

1. Andrew Pocock met the Mauritian High Commissioner, Mahen Kundasamy, on 26 May 2010. The HC was accompanied by Rakesh Bhuckory, First Secretary. [REDACTED]

2. The HC stressed the importance Mauritius attached to the bilateral relationship, particularly given our political and historical ties. Andrew said the bilateral relationship was also important to the UK, with Mauritius being a fellow member of the Commonwealth and having a strong democracy and progressive economy. To develop this relationship with the new UK Government, the HC requested ministerial meetings for the Mauritian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister during their planned visit the UK from 2-4 June (my separate email refers).

3. [REDACTED]

4. The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) was only mentioned in passing as an issue on which we needed to work together, but that it "wasn't the be all and end all" of the relationship. The HC said the Minister for Africa had indicated to him at the AU reception that BIOT was an issue that the new Government would consider. But the HC reiterated that BIOT was only one part of the wider bilateral relationship.

Comment

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Desk Officer for Botswana, Comoros Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles & Zambia | Africa Directorate - Southern | Foreign and Commonwealth Office ☒ | email: [REDACTED] ☎ telephone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ☎ fax: [REDACTED]

Exhibit 2

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Foreign Secretary's meeting with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, 3 June

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2010 09:25
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED] Foreign Secretary's meeting with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, 3 June

**** REGISTERED ****

[REDACTED],

1. The Foreign Secretary met Dr Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, on 3 June. Dr Ramgoolam was accompanied by Seebaluck Suresh (Secretary to the Cabinet), High Commissioner Abhimanu Kundasamy, and Rakesh Buckhory (First Secretary, Mauritian High Commission). Henry Bellingham, Andrew Pocock, Colin Roberts and I accompanied the Foreign Secretary.

2. The Foreign Secretary welcomed Dr Ramgoolam as his first visitor to 1 Carlton Gardens. He was also the first African leader that the Foreign Secretary had met since his appointment. Ramgoolam congratulated the Foreign Secretary on the elections and forming a coalition government. The Foreign Secretary described the benefit of a fixed term government and the majority that the coalition enjoyed.

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5.

6. Ramgoolam raised the Marine Protected Area (MPA) commenting that it had not been good for the bilateral relationship. He had not wanted to embarrass Gordon Brown but Brown had promised to 'freeze' the consultation on the MPA. There had been no record of this and the Mauritian account of the meeting had been ignored, along with requests for bilateral talks. Ramgoolam thought the Chagossian community would contest the decision through judicial review. He commented that he thought there might be other motivating factors for this, sharing his suspicion that some of the Chagossian groups had funding from groups in the Middle East. He was concerned that the recent elections had resulted in Mauritius' first elected member of Hizbollah.

7. The Foreign Secretary told Ramgoolam that he would familiarise himself with the issues surrounding the MPA but would not raise Ramgoolam's hopes. The UK position on sovereignty of BIOT was clear: sovereignty would be ceded to Mauritius once the US no longer needed it for defence purposes. Ramgoolam insisted that he would be pragmatic: the territory could be handed over now and Mauritius would not object to the US using it as a military base. The Foreign Secretary stressed that he could not give Ramgoolam any reason to hope for a change in policy but that he and Mr Bellingham did want to work closely with Ramgoolam and his government.

8.

| Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | London
| FTN: | www.fco.gov.uk

Exhibit 3

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Andrew Pocock's meeting with Mauritian High Commissioner, 15 June 2010

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 June 2010 16:51

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED] Andrew Pocock's meeting with Mauritian High Commissioner, 15 June 2010

**** REGISTERED ****

Dear All

1. Andrew Pocock met the Mauritian High Commissioner, Mahen Kundasamy, on 15 June 2010. The HC was accompanied by Rakesh Bhuckory, First Secretary. I also sat in.

2. [REDACTED]

3. The HC pointed out that the Chagos Islands were only one part of the bilateral relationship with the UK. But it was important to continue to have dialogue on this issue and to discuss how it could be taken forward. Andrew highlighted that while the Foreign Secretary had said he would look at this issue, he had made clear we would not change our position on sovereignty. The HC said that Mauritius was not against the principle of establishing a Marine Protected Area, but disagreed with what it saw as the unilateral nature of the process.

4. As a follow up to the Mauritian PM's visit, the HC raised the possibility of the Foreign Minister having a substantive meeting with the Minister for Africa in the UK, possibly in July. Andrew mentioned it was likely the Minister would be in the region at the end of July for the African Union Summit in Kampala. The HC said he would check whether the FM would be attending but agreed this might be a good opportunity for them to meet. I will take this forward with the Minister's office, and ASU (who are collating AU summit bilateral bids).

5. The Chagos Islands would clearly be an item on the agenda, but the HC said discussion would be much wider than this [REDACTED]

Comment

6. [REDACTED]

7.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Desk Officer for Botswana, Comoros Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles & Zambia | Africa
Directorate - Southern | Foreign and Commonwealth Office ☒ | email: [REDACTED] ☎ telephone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ☎ fax: [REDACTED]

Exhibit 4

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Records of [REDACTED] and Mauritian Foreign Minister meetings with Mr Bellingham at AU Summit

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 August 2010 12:47

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED] Records of [REDACTED] and Mauritian Foreign Minister meetings with Mr Bellingham at AU Summit

Dear all

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Meeting with Mauritian Foreign Minister, 22 July

1. On BIOT, the Minister set out the position as explained by the Foreign Secretary to the Mauritian Prime Minister in London some weeks earlier, noting that the Government was keen to work with Mauritius and consult them on the implementation.

2. The Foreign Minister was robust on BIOT, that it was essential that these issues were discussed properly. As Mauritius was not against environmental protection or the principle of an MPA, but wanted to be involved in the policy discussion. Mauritius was happy to continue the lease - to both US and UK - but, again, wanted to be involved in discussions in 2014. He was firm that Mauritius could not and would not be sidelined. Henry Bellingham noted clearly that there would be a dialogue with Mauritius that the Government would maintain from now and through the years as the BIOT lease discussions with the US commenced, but gave no promises of Mauritian involvement or consultation. (comment: [REDACTED])

3. As for resettlement, it could not be decoupled from the sovereignty issue, which was clear that sovereignty would be ceded to Mauritius when the island(s) were no longer needed for defence purposes. Mauritius saw the islands (presumably including the Mauritius archipelago) as one country.

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Private Secretary to Henry Bellingham MP**

Ministerial portfolio: Africa, UN, Conflict, Piracy, Global Economic Issues and Business, Climate Change, Overseas Territories, Protocol & FCO Services.

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED] K126, King Charles St

[REDACTED]

Exhibit 5

eGram



11532/10

Classification [REDACTED]
eGram Number 11532/10
From PORT LOUIS
Date Created 14/09/2010 05:14:00
Date Registered 14/09/2010 05:21:03
Action Immediate eP FCO
Action Routine
Info Immediate
Info Routine

FCO Distribution [REDACTED]

Lead

Military Action Imm
Military Action Rtn
Military Info Imm
Military Info Rtn

Subject

Summary

[REDACTED] MAURITIUS: BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY (BIOT)
I present my credentials to the Mauritian President and meet the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. All take the opportunity to raise BIOT. Some signs that the Mauritians want to move on from recent strong rhetoric.

SIC

DETAIL

1. I met President Jugnauth on 9 September to present my credentials (my second day in Post) and was able to meet Foreign Minister Boolell and Prime Minister Ramgoolam on the same day. The talks were wide-ranging, and other bilateral points will be reported separately to Africa Directorate. However, they all took the opportunity to raise Chagos/BIOT, which remains an irritant following the decision to establish a Marine Protection Area (MPA) in BIOT.
2. Jugnauth said that he understood that the UK position was that sovereignty would be ceded to Mauritius once Diego Garcia was no longer needed for military purposes. But Mauritius had always understood that this meant the Cold War. The Cold War was now over, so was Diego Garcia still needed for military purposes? And if so, would there not always be a reason why the island was still needed? Jugnauth later added that the UK should just hand back the Territory; Mauritius had no problem with the US continuing to use the base, but they should pay rent to Mauritius.
3. Prime Minister Ramgoolam said that he appreciated you seeing him at Carlton Gardens on his recent visit to London. He rehearsed his disappointment following his CHOGM meeting with Gordon Brown, where he felt he had been promised that the MPA would be put on hold. But he was in "more sorrow than anger" mode. I said that we did not want to raise any hopes of a change of policy. The UK recognised the Mauritian position on sovereignty, and we trusted that the Mauritians understood ours. But, aside from sovereignty, there were a number of issues which could be discussed, and we hoped for a resumption of bilateral talks. The excellent and important relationship between the two countries should allow constructive discussions. You would be writing to set out the position. Ramgoolam said he would wait for the letter before considering his next move, but if there was no progress he would "have to do something".
4. Foreign Minister Boolell was grateful that Mr Bellingham had met him in Kampala at the recent

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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

EU summit. On BIOT, he said that the MPA consultation had marred the relationship, but if there was a will we could make progress. Mauritius was keen to restart bilateral talks, but 2014 was just around the corner and this was an important date under the UK/US agreement. They would like more clarity on this - the Government was under increasing pressure "from African Union friends" to take action ahead of that date. Boolell also mentioned Mauritius' responsibilities under the Pelindaba Treaty (which says that there should be no nuclear weapons on the territory of AU members).

5. Boolell recognised that the US base was here to stay, but Mauritius wanted to exercise its "legitimate rights" over the territory. They wanted to be part of any discussions, and were unhappy that the US refused to engage with them and kept telling them to discuss all BIOT issues with us. Boolell drew attention to the Chagosian case in the ECHR, and said that this was a rare case where the Mauritian government and opposition were united. He also hinted at "mobilising world opinion", an ICJ case, and seeking "compensation for lost revenue" since independence.

COMMENT

6. [REDACTED]

Sign Off
Contact Name
Contact Telno.
Attachments

Leake
Nick Leake
FTN [REDACTED]



Original eGram

Exhibit 6

[REDACTED]

Sent: 13 September 2010 15:23
Subject: Tim Hitchens' Meeting with the Mauritian High Commissioner, 10 September 2010

Dear All,

1. Tim Hitchens met the Mauritian High Commissioner, Mahen Kundasamy on 10 September 2010. The HC was accompanied by Haymangoyal Dillum, DHM, and Rakesh Bhuckory, First Secretary. I also sat in.

2. The HC began by congratulating Tim on his appointment as Africa Director, and stressed the importance that Mauritius attaches to the bilateral relationship. He said Tim should feel free to call on him at any time. He extended this invitation to Nick Leake, our new HC to Mauritius, who he had met before Nick went out to Post. It was important that there was a good relationship between the two HCs.

3. [REDACTED]

4. On the British Indian Ocean Territory, the HC said he was aware of Lord Howell's recent statement that the UK Government stood ready to restart bilateral talks on this issue. However, Mauritius had not yet received a copy of a proposed agenda from the UK Government. The HC stressed that Mauritius was keen to take things forward, and said we should go back to the agenda that included the right of return and sovereignty. He said that the FS had told PM Ramgoolam during their meeting in June 2010 that he would be reviewing the policy. This issue was also raised at the AU summit in Kampala in July 2010 (he provided us with a copy of a statement that had been issued from the summit). He highlighted that there had recently been progress with the French on the issue of Tromelin, although he noted that BIOT was more complex. He recognised the issues around Diego Garcia, but said we needed to look at the outer islands. Tim said that BIOT was an Overseas Territories Directorate lead. However, we had an interest from a bilateral perspective and recognised that it was an important issue. Tim mentioned that as the FS had said in his meeting with PM Ramgoolam in June he would be looking in to the issues. The FS had held a recent meeting, and Ministers would soon be in touch directly.

6. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

Comment

12. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Desk Officer for Botswana, Comoros Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles & Zambia |
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