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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister

DATE, TIME June 5, 1991, 11:00 - 11:15 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President and Prime Minister Jugnauth met briefly in the Oval Office and proceeded to the Cabinet for the Plenary Session.

Prime Minister Jugnauth: There are a couple of things I would prefer to discuss here. (U)

First, thank you. It is a great honor for me and my country. (U)

The President: I am pleased to have you here. (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: The first item is the Chagos Islands. The Brits acted accordingly on these. However, it is a fact that BIDT was created. We will claim it. The UK has written that a territory will be returned whenever it is not needed for the defense of the west. (U)

The President: (Looks at the Atlas.) (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: There has been a problem with civil aviation and military aircraft not notifying. That now is solved. We now are expanding our civil aviation. If there is an emergency, we would like permission to land at the base. (U)

The President: Brent, will you check on this? (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: Next we would like the use of one of the Chagos Islands far from Diego. We want to put a cold storage plant there for the fishing industry. (U)

The President: How does Great Britain feel? (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: They don't have a problem with it in principle, exploiting our own natural resources. (U)

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The President: Let me check on it. (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: As far as use by the U.S., we have no problem. During the Gulf War, there were some groups as in my country. We have a lot of Muslims, who are basically pro-Saddam. (Ø)

The President: Is there good commercial fishing? (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: Yes. The northern islands are very rich in fish. We are just beginning to exploit them in a big way. (U)

Second point, I wanted to mention is my people hope this visit will result in tangible results. (Ø)

The President: Like what? (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: We were in a different position several years ago. Now we have good economic progress but still we have our problems. Our roads are badly congested. We would like to build a light railway. (Ø)

The President: Isn't that expensive? (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: Yes, and we would like more help. (Ø)

The President: What would that cost? (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: \$300,000,000 (U)

The President: I don't know right now what we can do, but we will look into it. Does it have to be government owned? (Ø)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: We plan it that way but not necessarily. (U)

The President: Privatizing might attract workers. Have you asked World Bank? (Ø)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: Yes. (A bit of a vague answer!) (U)

The President: We will get right on it. (U)

Prime Minister Jugnauth: It would take three years to build. (U)

The President: Shall we continue this conversation next door? (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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2000-0429-F

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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: National Security Council
Series: Presidential Memcon Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: CF01728
Folder ID Number: CF01728-012

Folder Title:
[Memorandum of Conversations (Memcons) - January 1991-June 1991]: June 1991
