

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

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JFK Assass. Rec. Collection Act of 1992

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NARA date 11/9/00 By KCH

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of Mauritius
Satscam Boolell, Minister of Agriculture, Natural
Resources, and Environment
Dr. Beergoonatn Churburrun, Minister of Labor
Pierre Guy Balancy, Mauritian Ambassador
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the
President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Tuesday - September 30, 1975
10:00 a.m. (30 minutes)

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

The President: This is a delightful time of year here.

First, let me thank you for your kind message about the incident in San Francisco.

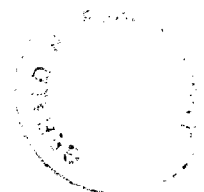
Ramgoolam: We were very distressed to hear it.

The President: It happened so quickly. We have a limited number of irrational people who pop up and seek recognition and publicity. I was on the Warren Commission. We studied all the assassination attempts on American Presidents. They follow the pattern of these two women. You can't put them in jail for not doing something, so you can just watch them.

We also appreciate your attitude toward our naval visits.

Ramgoolam: It is nothing.

The President: I was a sailor, so I appreciate what it means.



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Ramgoolam: We have been friends for years and years. You know there was an American Consul in Mauritius long ago -- about 1835. It was a stop on the way to the Far East.

The President: Do you have a number of good ports?

Ramgoolam: No, only one natural port. The other port, which was the first port, now is a depressed area. We want to reopen it. Our port is quite good and we are enlarging it. I want to thank you for all the things you have done for us.

The President: You have had a long tenure -- since 1964.

Ramgoolam: I have been in parliament since 1940.

I have been the leader of the party since 1948, when the system was reformed.

The President: I notice that your Agriculture Minister is with you. What are your main crops?

Ramgoolam: Sugar and some tea.

The President: Did you have a good crop this year?

Ramgoolam: No, we had a bad cyclone.

Boolell: But we usually sell 35,000 tons to the U.S.

The President: I want you to know our interest in Diego Garcia is logistic, not offensive. I know you are interested in a zone of peace.

Ramgoolam: Yes, this was originally the idea of the Prime Minister of Australia and is now supported by most of the nations of the Indian Ocean basin.

We all want peace -- you want it; we want it.

I don't know what my colleagues will think, but I think by holding out for so long in Vietnam you have done a service that the world doesn't yet appreciate. You have stopped the advance of repression. I don't like the new regime. It is not free. Lee Kuan Yew feels strongly about this.

The President: I am glad to hear your observation. I agree. I always thought we should have done more earlier, but I think what we did did help in Indonesia and elsewhere to prevent the rush of Communism.

Ramgoolam: We would have been overrun.

The President: It is interesting to see how the various Communist governments are jockeying for power.

Ramgoolam: I hope it doesn't break out between South and North Korea.

The President: We are strongly behind the South Koreans. As you know, we have had a tough time in the UN.

Ramgoolam: The UN supports South Korea. The North Koreans came to see me before I left. The North doesn't want to admit the South to the UN. If they are going to reunite, it must be with dignity, not by force. We must help them that way.

The President: The time is not ripe yet.

Ramgoolam: No, that is why we say both the North and South should come into the UN.

Boolell: If we could make some arrangement like we have with the EC.

Ramgoolam: We are going to have good elections next year.

The President: So are we. Can you call them any time?

Ramgoolam: Yes. It's like Great Britain. Our biggest party is mine, and we have five other parties, including the Communists. They have one member in Parliament. The Communists are very weak and are now exploiting Diego Garcia.

Boolell: What is actually happening in Diègo Garcia?

The President: What it is is just a landing field and a better harbor. It is not for offensive use, but just to let planes land and ships dock.

Ramgoolam: The British -- you are not involved -- gave us 600,000 for the people who were resettled. But the people didn't want it, so we never put it into effect. Now if we were to do it, it would cost twice as much.

Boolell: Wouldn't it be possible to provide employment for some of those people on Diego Garcia?

The President: We will look into it.

Boolell: The island is sort of an international issue now and has become our problem. The British said the settlement was final. But it is not enough now, and the opposition is taking advantage of it. If we could meet with you and the British.

The President: We will look into it.

Ramgoolam: I think now perhaps going back is not so easy. There is no copra anymore -- perhaps some fishing.

The President: How many are there?

Ramgoolam: About 1,000. So far they have not accepted the resettlement scheme. We give them relief help.

Boolell: They were used to the copra industry, and we have some on Mauritius.

The President: How many islands have you.

Ramgoolam: There are three main ones, with some smaller ones. We could use some food aid.

I want to thank you for sending the Enterprise after the cyclone. It was much help. Many thousands became homeless. We lost many beautiful trees also.

The President: I have never seen anything worse in weather than a cyclone. I once saw a destroyer roll right over and sink.

Boolell: We lost 40 percent of our crops. That is a serious loss.

Ramgoolam: I hope the Enterprise comes again so we can receive them properly.

The President: We will send it again. It is a very big ship.

It has been very nice to see you, to meet all you and to know our relations are so good.

Ramgoolam: You have a good Ambassador -- Manhard.

The President: I haven't met him but I am glad to hear he is effective.

Scowcroft: You remember him, Mr. President, he is the former POW.

The President: Of course, I just forgot. I have met with him a couple of times, once as Vice President.

Ramgoolam: It was a great honor to meet with you and we wish you and your great country all the best.

✓ P/Ronzaloni

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10⁰⁰ am

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P This is a wonderful time for you here.
First let me thank you for your kind
very close incident in SF

R We were very disturbed

P It happened so quickly. We have treated
presidential people who pay up & talk
newspapers & publicity. I was on Warner
know. We studied all assassination attempts
on US Pres. They follow a pattern of these
2 women. You must put them in jail
for not doing something, so you can put
death on them.

We also appreciate your attitude toward our
moral issues

R It is exciting

P I was a rider so I appreciate what it
means.

R We have been friends for years & years.
You know there was an Am Counsel
in Mountain View - about 1955.
It was a stop on a way to the East

P Do you have a # of good parts?

R No, only one natural part. The other part,
which was 1st part, was too ice
depressed area. We want to reopen it. Our
part is quite good & we are enlarging it.
I want to thank you for all the things you
have done for us.

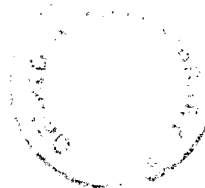
P You have had long terms - since 64

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NARA date 11/9/00 By 1234



R I have been in parliament since 1940.
I have been leader of party since 1948, when
a system was imposed

P I notice that you give minutes as w/you -
what are your ~~main~~ ^{main} crops?

R Sugar + sorghum

P @ good crop this year?

R No, we had a bad year.

Q give min. But we usually sell 30000 tons to US.

P Would you to have our interest in Digo
is logistic, not offensive. I know you
interested in zone of peace

R Yes, this was originally a idea of PM of
Australia & is now supported by most
of a nations of a basin.
We are about place - you want it, we
want it.

I don't know what my colleagues will think,
but I think by holding out so long in
VN you have done a service & would doubt
not agree. You have stopped a chance
of regression. I don't like a war regime -
it is not fair. See @ war you feel
strongly about this.

P I glad to hear your observation. I agree.
I always thought we should have done more
earlier, but I think what we did did
help in Indonesia & elsewhere to prevent
a crash of crown

R We would have been over

P It is interesting to see how the various Court

and will be going for justice

R Hope it doesn't break out but S & N Korea

P We are strongly behind S Korea. As you know we have a tough time in UN.

R The UN supports S. Korea. The N. Koreans come to us and before I left, the N. didn't want to admit S. to UN. If they going to renege it must be w/ dignity, not by force. We cannot help them that way.

P Time not ripe yet.

R Well, that is why we say both N & S should come into UN.

Q Agri If we could make some arrangement like we have w/ EC,

R We going to have good elections next year.

P So we are. Can you call them any time.

R Yes, like G.B. Our biggest party is mine, & we have 5 other parties, incl a Communist. They have 1 member in parliament. The Courts are very weak & are now appointing Diego Amaro.

Q Agri What is actually happening in Dujia.

P What it is is just a landing field and a water harbor. Not for offensive use, just to get planes landed & ship docked.

R The British - you are not interested - you are interested for people who were resettled. But people didn't want it so we involve



put it into effect. Even if we were to do it,
it would cost twice as much.

Ayer: Wouldn't be possible to purchase employment
for some of these people on Ouzo?

P: We will look into it.

Ayer: The Island is sort of over with respect to
become an job. The Brits since a settlement
was found. But it not long now & a operation
is taking advantage of it. If we could meet w/
you & Brits...

P: We will look into it.

R: I think your perhaps going back is not so
easy. There is no extra any more - perhaps
some fishing.

P: How many are there?

R: About 10250. So far they have not accepted
a settlement scheme. We give them whif
half.

Ayer: They were used to extra industry & we have
none on the mountain.

P: How many islands have you?

R: There are 3 main ones, w/ some smaller ones.
We could use some food aid. I want to thank you for a enterprise of the
C. Ouzo. It was much help.

Nearly 1000 become homeless. We lost
many beautiful trees also.

P: I have never seen anything worse in my than
a cyclone. Is not a destroyer roll right
over & south.

Q: We lost 40% of your exp. That a serious loss.

R: I hope Enterprise works again to not
concerned from properly.

P: We will send it again. It is a very big
ship.

It has been very nice to meet all
you and to know our relations are
so good.

R: You have a good Aunt - Muriel

P: ~~Yes~~ I haven't met her but I'd like to hear
how she is.

S: You remember him, M.P., he is a
former POW.

P: ~~Oh~~ O course, I just forgot. I have
met w/ him a couple times, once or
twice.

R: It was a great honor to meet w/ you
& we wish you & your great
family all the best.

