MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:
- President Ford
- Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of Mauritius
- Satcam Boollell, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment
- Dr. Beergoonam 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 messages 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.
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.

Boolen: 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.

Boolen: What is actually happening in Diego 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. This is delightful time of year isn't. Could you think your funeral as a benefit to me?

R. We were very much that.

P. It happened so quickly. How have things been with people who are getting married as quickly as possible? Do you think anything bad is going to happen in the future? We've seen a great deal of progress in the past.

R. I am very excited.

P. I wasn't sure to appreciate what it means.

R. We have been friends for years. You know that women are coming into their own. It was a long time, but it's been.

P. Do you think it's going to be different?

R. We only see natural fact. The other fact, which was 1st fact, has been one of differences. We want it to mean. Our past is going to be a part of our future.

P. You have had myanmar - since 10-
I have been in Parliament since 1940.
I have been member of party since 1945, when a system was formed.

I notice that you are running to one year.
What are your main aims?

Singer + more tea.

A general election in 1951?

We will decide that in due course.

Again soon. But as usually, will be away to-night.

I want you to have a look at what we are doing in Singapore.

A log of our own success. I hope you will not have a look at what is done.

Yes, this was a great - _ of all.

Australia is now _ up by most

of the far-off land.

We are going to get _ you want it, we want it.

I don't know what my colleagues will think, but I think is better to all

in your hands. A bit of a nuisance would n't

get worse. You have a lot of

representation. I think the - on you -

it is not for the Government to

From over there.

I would have your criticism. I agree

I always think we should have a law -

here, but I think we did still

help in the - and - in the - prevent

a breach of loans.
We would have been a better
I'm not sure how many
Small role for Tony in the game
ought to discuss this with the UN Security
The UN supports S. Korea. They have a tough time in UN.
It was not easy. It's not easy to admit S. to the UN. The UN
It was not easy to admit S. to the UN. It was
It wasn't easy to admit S. to the UN. We can't rely on that now.
It's not easy yet.
I'm not sure why I say both N. is think
It was the UN.

A Quebec convention made some arrangement
afternoon with EC.
A very brief and effective meeting.
I see you can have a better
I'm sorry. I can't answer any questions.
Yes, it's true. But the situation is now
We have a better feeling, and a team. They
Some of the smaller cities. The climate and
Very warm and now differently.

A very brief meeting in Beijing.
What we actually happen in Beijing.
When it is just a training field and a
Better climate. But for problems, just
A few planes leave and stay abroad.
Two British ships are not in the area.
No luck yet for a people who were involved.
But people didn't want it too much more.
but it won't affect. How if some men do it, it would not harm much.

Again We will try to present employment for some of these people in America.

P We will look into it.

Again The declared war is with various men over the damage our part. The dispute that a settlement was found. But it is dangerous to say it is taking advantage of it. If we could make a

promises.

P We will look into it.

R I think perhaps your part is not too
desirable. I see no reason for one feeling

P How many are there?

R About 100. So you think these are not accepted as a settlement and hence we shall try

Again They may need to bring everything to make

P How many do you know you?

R There are 3 main ones that came together to receive food and I went to their farms for a tour or two. It was very helpful. Nearly 1000 became homeless. We lost many beautiful type acts.

P Instantly all property were in the form of a system. Some a distant hill right away to work.
We had 40% fewer exp. That's a serious loss. Hope Enterprise comes again to our
conference from January.
I will send it again. It is a very big
step.
It has been very much the same, to meet all
open and to know more. What is we are
the good.
Yes a good time. Wished
I hadn't sent mine. But I still do hers
best efforts.
Yes remember him, M.P. He is a
time now.
Of course, I just forgot. I have
must of him a couple times, over
us.
It was a great honor to meet you
and wish you a great
vacation ever