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MAURITIUS: RELATIONS
JUNE 1982



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T236AA/82

*Prime Minister
Mauritius*

10th December 1982

Your Excellency,

It was indeed a pleasure to meet you during my short stay in London in October last and to exchange with you views on issues of mutual interest to our two countries. I should like to thank you in particular for your prompt attention to my request for the release of funds for the Ilois.

During our discussions, we touched upon the subject of the possible involvement of your Government in the financing of the Plaisance Airport Redevelopment Project. We deeply appreciate the interest of your Government in participating in this important infrastructure project. We feel that British financial assistance would be useful in procuring equipment and services of British origin for this project.

It will be possible to determine the nature and extent of the involvement of your Government once the Master Plan which has been commissioned becomes available in mid-March 1983. We also need to finalise negotiations with the Chinese Government on the project components which can be implemented using the very soft loan of UK £13.0 million with the Chinese Government is making available for this project. Once these are finalised, we will be in a position to indicate the specific components in which your Government can participate.

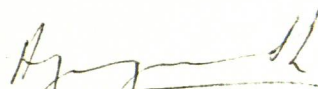
Meanwhile, we have been given to understand by the representatives of Plessey Airports Ltd that your Government would be prepared to give us a grant of UK £5 million, in addition to an ECGD loan for the various components of the project. It was brought to our attention that prevailing ECGD rates will be revised upward as from January 1983, in particular the interest rate chargeable would be increased in line with the OECD consensus. We would be grateful if your Government could consider freezing these terms for Mauritius as far as the Plaisance Airport Redevelopment Project is concerned.

I take/

Her Excellency Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10, Downing Street
London

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance which your Government has been providing to help us in our development efforts. I hope that the friendly relations, which exist between our two countries, will be strengthened further in the years to come.

With warm personal regards.


Anerood Jugnauth
Prime Minister