

MP 014 - 2020

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius and has the honor to refer to the December 22, 2019, discussion between Prime Minister Jugnauth and Ambassador Reimer regarding the potential maritime incursion into the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). The United Kingdom, as the coastal state, has not authorized this visit. As Prime Minister Jugnauth requested, the United States is providing its views in writing, and again urges Mauritius to cease support for such actions.

As conveyed to Prime Minister Jugnauth in the meeting on December 22, 2019, the United States would consider an incursion into the BIOT for the purpose of challenging the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the BIOT a provocation that will severely damage relations between the United States and Mauritius. The United States has made clear, including in President Trump's May 29, 2019, letter, that the United States unequivocally recognizes UK sovereignty over the BIOT. Its status as a UK territory is essential to the value of the joint U.S.-UK base on Diego Garcia and shared security interests.

The United States thus requests that the Government of Mauritius prevent any maritime provocation for the purpose of challenging UK sovereignty. The

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strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Mauritius – centered on mutual interests in trade and maritime security – could suffer should the Government of Mauritius enable such a provocation. The United States urges the Government of Mauritius to cease support for the maritime provocation and to address this sovereignty dispute between Mauritius and the United Kingdom bilaterally through diplomatic channels.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Port Louis, February 3, 2020.

