



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

26 October 1982

To note.

New York

mf

A.J.C. 27/10

Visit by the Prime Minister of Mauritius

In your letter of 11 October you asked us to follow up two points arising from the Prime Minister's conversation with Mr Jugnauth. The question of the Ilois claims has been followed up separately. I am sorry that we have been a little slower in responding to the question about scholarships in this country.

The number of training awards offered to Mauritius under our government to government aid programmes varies from year to year depending on the money available within the country programme, and the demands on it by 'continuers', that is existing award-holders who continue on to second or later years of courses. The awards also vary in value according to the length of the courses they cover. The 1982-83 allocation of £200,000 enabled 34 new awards to be offered to Mauritius; there were three continuers. For 1983-84 a sum of £225,000 has been earmarked for Mauritius which should enable 25 new awards to be offered. In addition the British Council, who administer the ODA training programme, offer Mauritius one scholarship from their own resources (the funds have stretched to two scholarships in 1981-82 and 1982-83).

When the Prime Minister mentioned to Mr Jugnauth a £10 million fund for overseas students she perhaps had in mind the additional aid funds (rather less than £10 million in fact) which were allocated to training programmes in 1981-82 and which were intended to restore the numbers of new awards for that year under certain schemes to approximately the levels of 1978 and 1979. Mauritius did not, in the event, draw from these extra funds. This was because the Mauritian Government were slow in taking up all the 33 awards which had been offered to them in 1981-82 under the existing allocation. Indeed, at the end of that financial year, the programme was £10,000 underspent.

I should perhaps add that Mr Jugnauth may have been referring to difficulties faced by undergraduate students from overseas, to whom of course these training awards under government to government aid programmes do not apply.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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