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~~(S//NF)~~ **SUBJ: 1. TERRORISM: ACTIVITIES BY SEYCHELLES' OPPOSITIONISTS TO WEAKEN THE SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT BY THREATENING TO PLACE BOMBS ON AIRLINES SERVING SEYCHELLES; GENERAL UNEASINESS OF SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT REGARDING ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Identifiers:**



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**Dates:**

Date Acquired:   
Date Published: 10-Feb-1986 14:07:00  
Date Received: 10-Feb-1986 19:01:54

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**Coverage:**

CIA Country Code: SYC  
Region: AFRICA, SEYCHELLES

**Publisher:**

Agency Acronym: CIA  
Office Name: NCS

~~(S//NF)~~----- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE -----

(U) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

(U) INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASS S ~~SECRET~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN DIST: 10 FEBRUARY 1986

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~~(S//NF)~~ 1. THE SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT HAS LEARNED OF A CAMPAIGN BY THE SEYCHELLES NATIONAL MOVEMENT (SNM) TO DISRUPT THE SEYCHELLES TOURIST INDUSTRY BY THREATENING TO PLACE A BOMB ON COM- Mercial AIRCRAFT CARRYING TOURISTS FROM EUROPE TO SEYCHELLES, THUS WEAKENING THE CURRENT SEYCHELLES' GOVERNMENT WHICH IS SO DEPENDENT ON TOURISM FROM

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WESTERN EUROPE FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNINGS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE SNM IS A LONDON-BASED GROUP OF SEYCHELLOIS LIVING ABROAD WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE REGIME OF SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT FRANCE ALBERT ((RENE)). THE SNM'S FORMER PRESIDENT, GERARD ((HOARAU)), WAS ASSASSINATED ON 29 NOVEMBER 1985 AT HIS LONDON HOME AND ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS YET BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED BY BRITISH POLICE SERVICES, THE SNM LEADERSHIP HAS PUBLICLY PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE ASSASSINATION SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF RENE AND THREATENED REPRISALS. THE SNM IS SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE MPR.)

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~~(S//NF)~~ 2. THE SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF SNM THREATS TO PLACE BOMBS ON AIR SEYCHELLES FLIGHTS WHICH ORIGINATE IN LONDON AND AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS WHICH ORIGINATE IN PARIS, BOTH OF WHICH SERVICE SEYCHELLES. SINCE HOARAU'S ASSASSINATION, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TWO BOMB SCARES ON PLANES DESTINED FOR SEYCHELLES. ON 26 JANUARY 1986, AN AIR SEYCHELLES FLIGHT FROM LONDON TO SEYCHELLES WAS DELAYED OVERNIGHT IN ROME BECAUSE OF A BOMB THREAT RECEIVED IN LONDON AFTER THE PLANE'S DEPARTURE. THE PASSENGERS DISEMBARKED AND

~~(S//NF)~~ WERE PUT UP IN ROME HOTELS BECAUSE OF THE LATE HOUR OF ARRIVAL IN ROME. MEANWHILE THE PLANE WAS THOROUGHLY INSPECTED BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, WHO FOUND NOTHING SUSPICIOUS. THE FOLLOWING MORNING THE PLANE DEPARTED ROME. ON SUNDAY EVENING, 2 FEBRUARY 1986, AIR SEYCHELLES FLIGHT HM-704 HAD JUST TAKEN OFF FROM SEYCHELLES AIRPORT WHEN A CALLER PHONED THE AIRPORT CLAIMING THAT THE SNM HAD PLANTED A BOMB ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO DETONATE WITHIN FOUR HOURS. THE PLANE WAS RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO THE SEYCHELLES AIRPORT FOR A THOROUGH SEARCH BY SEYCHELLES AUTHORITIES. AFTER TWO HOURS OF SEARCHING, THE PLANE WAS CLEARED TO RESUME ITS FLIGHT, WELL BEFORE THE FOUR HOUR DEADLINE.

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~~(S//NF)~~ 3. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASED NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT SINCE JANUARY 1986 REGARDING ITS OWN INTERNAL SECURITY. THE ABOVE AIRLINE INCIDENTS WERE THE MOST NOTABLE SIGNS OF SNM ACTIVITIES WITHIN SEYCHELLES. ANOTHER RECENT EVENT OCCURRED ON THE ISLAND OF PRASLIN. BARRY ((TIRANT)) WAS ARRESTED DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 1 FEBRUARY 1986 FOR TRYING TO SET FIRE TO A GAS STATION IN GRAND ANSE. TIRANT IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN THE JAIL OF THE SEYCHELLES CENTRAL POLICE STATION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: TIRANT IS WELL-KNOWN OPPOSITIONIST TO THE GOVERNMENT WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE 1982 UNSUCCESSFUL MUTINY OF SEYCHELLES MILITARY DURING WHICH HE LOST A LEG. HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON IN 1985 FOR HIS ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND HAS BEEN CLOSELY WATCHED EVER SINCE.)

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~~(S//NF)~~ 4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THERE IS AN INCREASING FEELING THAT THE SITUATION HAS BECOME A BIT MORE TENSE IN SEYCHELLES DURING JANUARY 1986. SOME EXTRA SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AROUND POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL BUILDINGS. THERE ARE RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT THE

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OPPOSITION IS PLANNING A MAJOR ACTION INSIDE SEYCHELLES FOR MARCH 1986, BUT SO FAR THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE BASED MOSTLY ON RUMOR.)

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**Collection:** CC

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**Creator:**

Agency Acronym: CIA

Office Name: NCS

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**Description:** (U) None

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(b)(3)

**Language:** en

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**Precedence:** P

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**Source:**

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(b)(3)

**Subject:** None

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