Amnesty International has received a response from President France-Albert René, the President of the Seychelles, to the organization's expressions of concern about the alleged torture and ill-treatment of the criminal prisoner John François in Grand Police Military Camp, a civilian prison run by the military. In a letter dated 27 November 1991, the President denied that John François had been ill-treated and enclosed a brief medical report by four doctors who had examined him. Amnesty International is studying the information contained in the report. The President also said that John François has access to his lawyer at all times. It has been reported, however, that as recently as 5 December 1991 John François was denied access to his lawyer by the commander of the Grand Police Military Camp.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express or airmail letters:

- thanking the authorities for their response to Amnesty International's expressions of concern about the alleged torture and ill-treatment of John François;

- expressing continuing concern that John François has still not been given access to his lawyer.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Mr France-Albert René
   President of the Republic of the Seychelles
   State House
   PO Box 655
   Victoria, Mahe
   Seychelles
   Telegrams: President René, Seychelles
   Telexes: 2217 STATE SZ
   Faxes: + 248 24200
   Your Excellency

2) Mr James Michel
   Dear Minister
Minister of Finance and Armed Forces Chief of Staff
Ministry of Finance
State House
PO Box 313
Victoria, Mahe
Seychelles

Telegrams: Minister of Finance Michel, Victoria, Seychelles
Telexes: 2363 STATE SZ
Faxes: + 248 25265

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COPIES TO:

Mr Padiwalla
Attorney-General
Attorney-General's Chambers
PO Box 58
National House
Victoria 24041, Mahe
Seychelles

Mrs Danielle de St Jorre
Minister of Planning and External Affairs
PO Box 656
Victoria, Mahe
Seychelles

and to diplomatic representatives of Seychelles in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 January 1992.