

PAGE 01

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Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
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Tech. Servs.	
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Public Affs. Off.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ISO-02 INVESTIGATION USE-00 FBIE-00 CA-01 SS-15

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

/031 R

DRAFTED BY L/T:LBAUMANN:KG

APPROVED BY L:LMMARKS

ARA - JBUSHNELL

JUSTICE - JHIRGIN

ARA/CAR - RMCCOY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/17/92 BY 10680RM

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

b6 Per FBI  
b7C

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

Leo Ryan

WLB

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E.O. 12065: N/A

SI 109

REC-9

89-4286-1707

TAGS: CASC, VE, GY, (PEOPLES TEMPLE)

JAN 23 1979

SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS

PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS IN VENEZUELA

58 JAN 25 1979

1-51  
1-22-79  
DES/SH

1. DEPARTMENT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF

JUSTICE, HAS DETERMINED THAT EMBASSY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY  
LODGE WITH GOV A FORMAL STATEMENT OF USG INTEREST IN  
ANY PEOPLES TEMPLE (PT) ASSETS IN VENEZUELA.

2. DEPARTMENT IS OF THE VIEW THAT BECAUSE OF SUBSTANTIAL  
USG EXPENDITURES IN CONNECTION WITH JONESTOWN INCIDENT  
INCLUDING REPATRIATION AND DISPOSITION OF REMAINS OF PT  
MEMBERS, USG HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN CONSERVATION AND  
EVENTUAL DISPOSITION OF PT ASSETS IN VENEZUELA. DEPART-  
MENT OF JUSTICE IS EXPLORING POSSIBLE LEGAL MEANS THROUGH  
WHICH USG MIGHT RECOVER EXPENSES INCURRED. IN CONNEC-

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TION WITH THIS EFFORT, USG MAY WISH TO FILE A CLAIM  
AGAINST PT ASSETS IN VENEZUELA. WHILE NO FINAL DETER-  
MINATION HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING WHETHER USG WILL ULTI-  
MATELY ASSERT SUCH A CLAIM UNDER VENEZUELAN LAW, DEPART-  
MENT BELIEVES THAT UMS. SHOULD MOVE PROMPTLY TO PRESERVE  
ANY RIGHTS IT MAY HAVE UNDER VENEZUELAN LAW. UNLESS

STRONG OBJECTIONS ARE PERCEIVED, EMBASSY IS ACCORDINGLY  
INSTRUCTED TO COM TO GOV THE FOLLOWING NOT

3. BEGIN TEXT. EXCELLENCY:

AS YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AWARE, SEVERAL ;UNDRED UNITED STATES CITIZENS, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE, LOST THEIR LIVES UNDER TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES ON NOVEMBER 18, 1978 IN JONESTOWN, GUYANA. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES EXPENDED A CONSIDERABLE SUM IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENTS AT JONESTOWN AND INTENDS TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT OF SUCH EXPENSES FROM ASSETS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE.

IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THERE MAY BE FUNDS IN YOUR COUNTRY DERIVED FROM THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. MY GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMATION THAT CERTAIN PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS MAY HAVE BEEN FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED OR IMPROPERLY DISTRIBUTED. SOME UNITED STATES CITIZENS MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE DISPOSITION OF PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS. HOWEVER, MY GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS INFORMATION THAT CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS MAY NOW ATTEMPT TO IMPROPERLY OBTAIN THESE ASSETS. UNLESS THESE FUNDS ARE IMMOBILIZED UNTIL THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP CAN BE DETERMINED, THE PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS IN YOUR COUNTRY MAY BE IMPROPERLY DISTRIBUTED.

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MY GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL CLAIMS AGAINST THE PEOPLES TEMPLE FOR COSTS INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY INCLUDING REPATRIATING THE REMAINS AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA. TO THAT END, I WISH TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE UNITED STATES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUBMIT SUCH A CLAIM IN VENEZUELA IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND PROCEDURES.

A CIVIL LAWSUIT ON THIS MATTER IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PEOPLES TEMPLE ITSELF HAS FILED DISSOLUTION PROCEEDINGS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION IS ALSO PENDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST WHATEVER ASSISTANCE THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA CAN PROVIDE UNDER ITS LAW IN IDENTIFYING AND IMMOBILIZING ANY PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS IN VENEZUELA. MY GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE MAY BE APPROPRIATE IN PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE ASSETS.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HAS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE  
PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS WITHIN VENEZUELA.

THERE IS AN ACCOUNT (BELIEVED TO BE A CHECKING  
ACCOUNT) AT THE BANCO UNION, CARACAS, SAID TO BE  
IN THE NAME OF ASOCIATION RELIGIOSA PRO SAN PEDRO;  
SIGNATORIES SAID TO BE TERRI BUFORD AND CAROLYN  
LAYTON. THE ACCOUNT NUMBER IS  AND  
CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY 81NURT KGUYANESE) WHICH IS  
APPROXIMATELY 33,757 US DOLLARS. THERE ARE ALSO  
ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 2,000,000

b6 Per Dept. of State  
b7C

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US DOLLARS OF PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS IN VENEZUELAN  
BANKS.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE) END TEXT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE DEPT OF GOV RESPONSE ASAP.

5. PLEASE SLUG REPLY PASS JUSTICE, JIM HIRGIN. VANCE

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