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21 JAN 79 02 23z

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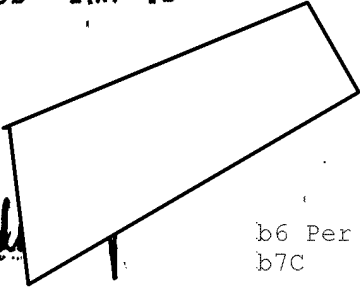
APPROVED BY L:LMMARKS

ARA - JBUSHNELL

JUSTICE - JHIRGIN

ARA/CAR - RMCCOY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/12/92 BY 1048 DMK/pul



b6 Per FBI
b7C

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Leo Ryan

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CURACAO

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89-4286-1709

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JAN 23 1979

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: CASC, GY, (PEOPLES TEMPLE)

1-51
1-22-79
JES/stb

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

PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS IN CURACAO

58 JAN 25 1979

1. DEPARTMENT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HAS DETERMINED THAT EMBASSY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY LODGE WITH GOC A FORMAL STATEMENT OF USG INTEREST IN ANY PEOPLES TEMPLE (PT) ASSETS IN CURACAO.

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 CURACAO. DEPARTMENT 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 CURACAO. WHILE NO FINAL DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING WHETHER USG WILL ULTIMATELY ASSERT SUCH A CLAIM UNDER CURACAO LAW, DEPART-

MENT BELIEVES THAT U.S. SHOULD MOVE PROMPTLY TO PRESERVE ANY RIGHTS IT MAY HAVE UNDER CURACAO LAW. UNLESS STRONG OBJECTIONS ARE PERCEIVED, EMBASSY IS ACCORDINGLY INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY TO GOC THE FOLLOWING NOTE:

3. BEGIN TEXT. EXCELLENCY:

AS YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AWARE, SEVERAL HUNDRED 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 CURACAO 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 CURACAO CAN PROVIDE UNDER ITS LAW IN IDENTIFYING AND IMMOBILIZING ANY PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS IN CURACAO. MY GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE MAY BE APPROPRIATE IN PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE ASSETS.

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AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HAS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE

PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSE WITHIN CURACAO.

THERE IS SAID TO BE AN ACCOUNT IN THE NAMES OF
JIM JONES, CAROLYN LAYTON AND MARIA KATSARIS;
FURTHER DETAILS UNKNOWN.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE) END TEXT.

4M PLEASE ADVISE DEPT OF GOC RESPONSE ASAP.

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

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