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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA:GBROWN:JE

APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL

S/S-O:SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

*AS*

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STATE 295999  
28 1978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO), GY

SUBJECT: FBI INVESTIGATION

1. NEW YORK TIMES STORY NOV 22 ON FBI INVESTIGATION OF  
MURDER OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN CONTAINED FOLLOWING WITH  
RESPECT TO GUYANA:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE INVESTIGATION WAS STARTED UNDER A 1971  
LAW THAT GIVES THE DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION TO INVESTIGATE  
CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATIONS, ACCORDING TO ROBERT HAVEL,  
THE SPOKESMAN. HE SAID THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA-  
TION HAS ALREADY PLACED ONE AGENT "ON THE GROUND" IN

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GUYANA, WHERE MR. RYAN WAS MURDERED AND WHERE MORE THAN  
400 AMERICANS IN THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE SECT COMMITTED  
SUICIDE.

THE AGENT, WHO WILL PROBABLY BE JOINED BY OTHERS, WILL  
BE WORKING WITH GUYANESE AUTHORITIES, MR. HAVEL SAID. BUT  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION  
ACT, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT CAN PURSUE INVESTIGATIONS  
OUTSIDE UNITED STATES TERRITORY. END QUOTE.

2. AT NOON BRIEFING BUSHNELL RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ON  
THIS SUBJECT AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: Q. MR. BUSHNELL, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS  
IN PROGRESS ON AN INVESTIGATION OF VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL  
LAW INVOLVING THE ASSASSINATION OF A CONGRESSMAN. YESTER-  
DAY GUYANESE AUTHORITIES DECLINED TO ADMIT TO 10 FBI  
AGENTS WHO WERE PREPARED TO GO DOWN THERE. ARE THE  
GUYANESE AUTHORITIES COOPERATING WITH THE ONE FBI AGENT  
ON THE SPOT IN THEIR CURRENT INVESTIGATION OR ARE THEY  
PASSING ON TO HIM THE RESULTS OF THEIR INVESTIGATION OR  
ALLOWING HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT INVESTIGATION?

A., THIS MORNING THE LEGAL ATTACHE FROM CARACAS MET WITH  
THE GUYANESE OFFICIALS, MET WITH THE GUYANESE POLICE  
CHIEF, INVESTIGATING CHIEF, IN GEORGETOWN. THE LAST  
REPORT I HAD WAS THAT HE WAS STILL MEETING WITH THEM,  
THAT HE WAS COOPERATING IN THIS INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE  
MADE CLEAR TO THE GUYANESE THAT AS IN OTHER AREAS, WE  
ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL,  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE TO HELP THEM IN GUYANA. WE  
ARE PREPARED TO FOLLOW UP WITH NECESSARY INTERVIEWS AND  
INVESTIGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT THE FULL COOPERA-  
TION OF THE FBI WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THIS CASE. UNTIL

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THE LEGAL ATTACHE WHO IS WORKING WITH THEM AND THE GUYANESE OFFICIALS THEMSELVES ASSESS PRECISELY WHAT SORT OF HELP IS NEEDED, WHAT SORT OF EXPERTISE, THE GUYANESE HAVE FELT THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO SEND DOWN A GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE TEAM. IT'S THEIR INVESTIGATION, THE INVESTIGATION IN GUYANA. THEY ARE A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY AND WE ARE NOT TRYING IN ANY WAY TO TAKE IT OVER. ,

I THINK, FROM THE CONVERSATIONS THAT I HAVE HAD AND THAT OUR AMBASSADOR HAS HAD, THAT THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FBI IN ASPECTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION. THE INVESTIGATION IS, OF COURSE, MAKING PROGRESS, AS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN THE FIRST ARREST AND CHARGE, AND THAT WE ARE EXPECTING OTHERS TO PROCEED FAIRLY PROMPTLY.

Q. IF I COULD FOLLOW UP MY OWN QUESTION, THE THRUST OF YOUR REPLY IS THAT THE FBI IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH GUYANESE AUTHORITIES. WHAT I ASKED WAS: ARE GUYANESE AUTHORITIES PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE FBI IN THEIR INVESTIGATION?

A. I THINK THE ANSWER IS CLEARLY YES IN THE FACT THAT THEY ARE WORKING RIGHT NOW WITH THE FBI MAN. SO THAT, NOT ONLY ARE THEY PREPARED TO COOPERATE, THEY ARE COOPERATING. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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