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FCR ARA/CAR: MESSRS HEWITT/MCCOY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, CREP (RYAN), GY

SUBJ: MISSION CONTACTS WITH JONESTOWN.

MIZ NOV 29 1978

1. IN RESEARCHING MISSION FILES IN AN EFFORT TO DOCUMENT ANY AND ALL MISSION CONTACTS WITH PEOPLES TEMPLE AGRICULTURAL MISSION AT JONESTOWN. WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT JONESTOWN WAS VISITED BY THE AID RUAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IN SEPT. 1977 DURING THE COURSE OF A BROADER TRIP TO THE NORTH WEST EXCERPTS FROM HIS TRIP REPORT REPORTING ON F GUYANA. THE JONESTOWN VISIT ARE QUOTED BELOW:

REC-126

issoc, Dir. Dep. AD Adm. Dep: AD Inv. eral Coun. Plan, & Insp. Training JUSE- PZPublic Affs. Off. Alamhone Rm.

2. OUOTE

WE TRAVELED BY BOAT DO PORT KAITUMA WHERE WE VISITED THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE FARM WHILE WAITING FOR OUR RIDE TO MATTHEW'S RIDGE WITH THE REGIONAL MINISTER.

WE MET BISHOP JIM JONES AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND
WERE CONDUCTED ON A TOUR OF THE PROJECT FACILITIES/ THIS
AGRICULTURAL PROJECT WAS BEGUN IN 1973 ON A GOVERNMENT
ALLOCATION OF 3,824 ACRES IN THE NORTH WEST DISTRICT.
THREE HUNDRED ACRES HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND 280 ACRES
ARE UNDER CULTIVATION. HOUSING FOR 700 (THE CURRENT
UNCLASSIFIED



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CAMP POPULATION) HAS BEEN BUILT AND SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN MADE (TEMPORARILY) OF LARGE TARPUALINS FOR THE OVER 135 CHILDREN RANGING IN AGE FROM 3-18 YEARS. VARIOUS SKILLS NEEDED HAVE BEEN RECRUITED SO THE FARM IS WELL STAFFED. A FULL TIME DOCTOR IS IN ATTENDANCE (A SECOND ONE IS NEEDED AS THE PRESENT DOCTOR IS OVERWORKING HIMSELF). THERE ARE 7 R.N. NURSES AND 3 MIDWIVES.

DIRECT RADIO CONTACT WITH THE U.S. IS MAINTAINED ON A DAILY BASIS.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IN GENERAL THE FARM POPULATION

IS MADE UP OF ABOUT ONE THIRD CHILDREN, ONE-THIRD WORKING

AGE AND ONE-THIRD OLD PEOPLE. FOR THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED

IT WOULD SEEM A BIT HEAVY ON THE OLD PEOPLE SIDE..

OLDEST IS A 106 YEAR OLD WOMAN AND A 103 YEAR OLD MAN.

HOWEVER, THE 103 YEAR OLD DAILY BUILDS CHAIRS AND IS

HEALTHY AND ACTIVE. HOWEVER, THE MAIN BURDEN HERE IS

ON THE HEALTH STAFF WHICH APPEARS ADEQUATE (EXCEPT

FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED SINGLE DOCTOR).

FARM OPERATIONS ARE GOOD. CROPS HAVE BEEN PLANTED

FARM OPERATIONS ARE GOOD. CROPS HAVE BEEN PLANTED

AND HARAVESTED OF ALL INDIGENOUS FOODS, WITH GOOD

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF PROCESSING AND PRESERVING OF

FOOD PRODUCTS.

DISHOP JONES AND STATE WERE HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE

OF OUR INTEREST. THEY ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN

SECURING SEED OF THE WINGED BEAN AND OTHER IMPROVED

CROPS WHICH THEY MIGHT USE. THIS I WILL DO. (N.B.

IN FACT, SEEDS WERE NEVER SUPPLIED.)

IN THE MEANTIME, THE LEVEL OF OPERATIONS, THE

QUALITY OF FIELD WORK PERFORMED AND RESULTS BEING

ACHIEVED WILL SERVE AS A MODEL FOR SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT

EFFORTS IN THE HINTERLAND.

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