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ACTION ARA-15

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 H-01 SS-15 SSO-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 L-03

INRE-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 DODE-00 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/92 BY 1048 DKM/klh

89-4286-659

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 4032

DEC 4 1978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN), GY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO GUYANA OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

REF: ASHLEY HEWITT/AMBASSADOR BURKE TELCON 11/30

58 DEC 5 1978

1. PROPOSAL THAT AMERICAN CLERGYMEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TRAVEL TO GUYANA A FACT-FINDING VISIT WILL OBVIOUSLY CAUSE SOME CONCERN TO THE GOG.

AS YOU KNOW THE GOG IS STILL INTENSELY EMBARRASSED BY THE ASSASSINATION OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND THE MASS MURDERS/SUICIDES AT JONESTOWN. THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT

AIR OF RELIEF DISCERNIBLE IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS AS THE VOLUME OF WORLDWIDE PUBLICITY HAS FINALLY GIVEN EVIDENCE OF SUBSIDING, BUT THERE IS STILL CONCERN THAT GUYANA'S IMAGE WORLD-WIDE HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY DAMAGED.

THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA IS NOT ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE STORY BACK ON THE FRONT PAGES ANYTIME SOON.

FOR THIS REASON THE GOG WILL PROBABLY BE VERY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT A GROUP OF AMERICAN CLERGYMEN LOOKING INTO THE JONESTOWN MATTER THIS EARLY AFTER THE INCIDENT.

2. IN PREPARING FOR ANY VISIT AMERICAN CHURCHMEN SHOULD FIRST OF
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ALL SECURE THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE GUYANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. ONCE IN GUYANA THEY WILL PROBABLY WISH TO TALK TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GUYANA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WHICH IS PRESENTLY HEADED BY ANGLICAN BISHOP RANDOLPH GEORGE OF STABROEK. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS FROM OUR REPORTING EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE GUYANA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HAS BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF SUCH GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AS THE REFERENDUM OF LAST JULY AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNCIL HAS BECOME QUITE STRAINED IN RECENT MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, THE GUYANA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DOES REPRESENT ALMOST ALL OF THE CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS IN GUYANA INCLUDING ANGLICANS, CATHOLICS, METHODISTS, PRESBYTERIANS, LUTHERANS, ETC.

BURKE

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