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b6
b7C per FBI

TO RUESON/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE 3990

RUEHNP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 3106

RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 3796

RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE 0722

RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 4508

RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE 4603

RUEHFB/ FBI WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0060

RUEBWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT *res*

RULPALJ/CINCSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ IMMEDIATE

RUCIMAA/CINCMAC SCOTT AFB ILL IMMEDIATE

RUCJAAA/USREDCOM/RCJ2 MACDILL AFS FL IMMEDIATE

RUCLHTD/USCINCARRED FT MCPHERSON GA IMMEDIATE

RUCLGFA/CDR 18TH AIRBORNE CORPS FT BRAGG NC IMMEDIATE

RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE/J2 IMMEDIATE 89-4286-811

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REC-128

22 DEC 6 1978

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 305308

LONDON FOR MICHAEL FINLEY

SDF

E.O. 116525: 12/1/84 (BRUCE, R.L.)

58 DEC 12 1978

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

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT NO. 27, 12/1/78, 2100 (EST)

1. SIX MORE SURVIVORS WERE RELEASED BY THE GOG TODAY AND WILL BE RETURNING ON SATURDAY'S PAN AM FLIGHT TO NEW YORK. THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT 36 ADDITIONAL SURVIVORS WILL BE RELEASED DECEMBER 2 AND HAS MADE RESERVATIONS FOR THEM ON SUNDAY'S PAN AM FLIGHT.

2. AS THEY HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO DEPART BY THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT, SURVIVORS HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THEY PREFER TO LEAVE GUYANA ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. THEREFORE, STATE HAS NOTIFIED DOD, HEW, FBI, THE SECRET SERVICE AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES THAT PLANS TO FLY SURVIVORS TO CHARLESTON BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. THE REMAINING PRESS CONTINGENT IN THE CHARLESTON AREA HAS BEEN INFORMED.

3. THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY REPORTED THAT LAWYERS REPRESENTING DEFECTORS FROM THE PEOPLES TEMPLE HAVE CHARGED THE DEPARTMENT WITH LAXNESS IN ACTING ON WARNINGS OF THREATS TO THE LIVES OF JONESTOWN RESIDENTS. ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT AGAINST A US FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WERE RENEWED IN FRIDAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. WE ARE PROVIDING MORE FACTS TO THE PRESS IN AN EFFORT TO PUT THE STORY TO REST.

4. US CONSULAR OFFICERS HAVE ATTACHED CONSULAR SEALS TO THE PEOPLES TEMPLE PROPERTY IN JONESTOWN. SEALS WERE

ALSO ATTACHED TO 103 CRATES OF GOODS IN GEORGETOWN CON-
SIGNED TO THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. MINISTER GREEN EXPRESSED
MODERATE DISPLEASURE OVER THE ACTION BUT AMBASSADOR
BURKE REMINDED THE MINISTER HE HAD UNSUCCESSFULLY AT-
TEMPTED TO REACH HIM TO INFORM HIM OF THE NECESSITY TO
TAKE THE STEP.

5. DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY BOTH HERE AND IN GEORGETOWN
TO EXPLORE WAYS THE USG MIGHT RECOUP SOME OF ITS COSTS
FROM THE PROPERTY OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE TASK FORCE, THE LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES FOR MOVING
AGAINST PROPERTY IN THE UNITED STATES; MOST OPTIONS
HAVE MAJOR LEGAL PROBLEMS. OUR LEGAL ADVISOR IN GEORGE-
TOWN IS ALSO GIVING THIS ISSUE HIGH PRIORITY. THE LEGAL
SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTY IN GUYANA IS
COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLES TEMPLE MAY HAVE
BEEN INCORPORATED IN GUYANA AND THE ENSUING DIFFICULTY
OF DEMONSTRATING THAT ANY OF THE PROPERTY WAS PRIVATELY
OWNED BY DECEASED AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE EMBASSY SPECU-
LATES THAT THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION
MAY BE A RECEIVERSHIP PROCEEDING IN WHICH ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES, INCLUDING THE USG, CAN ASSERT CLAIMS.

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6. THE FOUR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE
ARRIVED IN GEORGETOWN AND HAVE ESTABLISHED WORKING RELA-
TIONSHIPS WITH THEIR GOG COUNTERPARTS. THEY WILL NOT,
HOWEVER, BE PERMITTED TO INTERVIEW THE SURVIVORS OR
ANYONE ELSE. THE EMBASSY IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY

OF INVITING INDIVIDUAL SURVIVORS TO COME TO THE EMBASSY,
POSSIBLY WITH ASSURANCES THEY WOULD NOT BE INTERVIEWED
BY THE FBI ON THEIR RETURN TO THE US. JUSTICE HAS NOT
YET MOVED ON PROVIDING A PATHOLOGIST AS REQUESTED BY THE
GOG.

7. DOVER REPORTS THAT 778 BODIES HAVE BEEN EMBALMED AND
A TOTAL OF 255 HAVE BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED. OF THE
FIRST 99 POSITIVE IDENTIFICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEPART-
MENT, NEXT OF KIN IN 81 CASES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND
NOTIFIED. THE PROCESS IS CONTINUING. NO BODIES HAVE YET
LEFT DOVER AFB. THE RELEASE AND SHIPMENT OF BODIES AWAITS
AGREEMENT BETWEEN DELAWARE STATE OFFICIALS, THE USG AND
GUYANESE AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF DEATH

CERTIFICATES. WE ARE EXPLORING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF
ISSUING INTERIM, GENERAL CERTIFICATES TO BE FOLLOWED LATER
BY THE OFFICIAL CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
GUYANA.

8. AID IS STUDYING THE USE OF CONTINGENCY FUNDS TO LEASE
AN AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE THE DAMAGED GUYANA AIRWAYS OTTER.
WE HAVE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH FUNDING THE PURCHASE OF
SPARE PARTS TO REPAIR GUYANESE DEFENSE FORCE HELICOPTERS,
THE HIGHEST PRIORITY OF THE GOG. VANCE

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