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SAC CHAS R MCKINNON FBI 450 GOLDEN FATE AVE, SAN FRANCISCO 94102	

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

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CALIFORNIA CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF

PEOPLE'S TEMPLE GROUP

REF: YOUR TELEGRAM DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1978

1. SECRETARY VANCE ASKED THAT I RESPOND TO YOUR TELEGRAM.

ON BE ALF OF THE SECRETARY AND THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT OF

STATE, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES

ON THE TRAGIC DEATHS OF MAYOR MOSCONE AND SAN FRANCISCO

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SUPERVISOR MILK.

2. WE UNDERSTAND YOUR INTEREST IN INTERVIEWING SURVIVORS OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE TRAGEDY IN PURSUING YOUR INVESTIGA-TION INTO POSSIBLE CALIFORNIA CRIMINAL LAW VIOLATIONS BY PRESENT AND FORMER PEOPLE'S TEMPLE MEMBERS. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA IS PERMITTING THE DEPARTURE OF SUR-VIVORS ONLY AS IT DETERMINES THAT THE PRESENCE OF PARTICU-LAR INDIVIDUALS IN GUYANA IS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO THAT GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF THE AFFAIR. AS YOU MAY KNOW, ONE ELDERLY SURVIVOR ARRIVED IN THE U.S. ON NOVEMBER 26 AND SEVEN MORE ARRIVED IN T; E U.S. ON NOVEMBER 29. AT PRESENT. WE ANTICIPATE ; HAT PERMISSION FOR DEPARTURE WILL MOST LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN IN SPORADIC FASHION AS DICTATED BY THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS. IN ANY EVENT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ATTEMPT TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON THE DEPARTURE OF U.S. CITIZENS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

- SURVIVORS TO RETURN TO THE U.S., WE BELIEVE THAT MOST SURVIVORS WILL RETURN TO THE U.S. WE ARE COORDINATING CLOSELY WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ON THE ARRIVAL OF SURVIVORS AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FBI HAS INTERVIEWED SURVIVORS UPON THEIR RETURN AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.
 - 4. WE NOTE THAT YOUR CABLE ALSO WENT TO FBI DIRECTOR
 WEBSTER AND ROY MCKINNON, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, SAN
 FRANCISCO. WE LEARNED FROM OUR MEETING WITH YOUR
 ASSOCIATES THAT YOU ARE ALREADY COORDINATING WITH THE
 FBI IN THIS MATTER. WE ARE SENDING COPIES OF THIS MESSAGE
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TO DIRECTOR WEBSTER AND SAC MCKINNON IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WILL FACILITATE YOUR CONTINUED COORDINATION.

5. SIGNED: JOHN A. BUSHNELL, DIRECTOR, GUYANA WORKING GROUP, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. VANCE