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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/18/92 BY 1098 DKM/pdm

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

DRAFTED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL:MG

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Leo Ryan

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO) GY

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SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ENTITLED "GUYANA SAYS

IT BELATEDLY RECEIVED TAPE OF THE JONES CULTISTS DYING"

✓ 58 DEC 14 1978

FOLLOWING IS TEXT NEW YORK TIMES DECEMBER 9 STORY BY

NICHOLAS M. HORROCK:

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, DECEMBER 8 -- A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT GIVEN A COPY OF A TAPE RECORDING OF THE DEATH SCENE AT JONESTOWN, FOUND BY THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, UNTIL LAST WEDNESDAY, NEARLY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE MASS DEATHS AT THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE COMMUNE.

JACK GALINAS, A DIRECTOR OF A NEW YORK PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM WHO REPRESENTS THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT, CONFIRMED THAT SUCH A TAPE HAD BEEN FOUND AT JONESTOWN AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE TAPE WAS DISCOVERED BY A MEMBER OF THE CONSULATE STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HERE.

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OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WHO HAVE LISTENED TO THE TAPE SAID IT APPEARED TO BE SCRATCHY AND PARTS OF IT WERE NOT CLEAR.

AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, USING SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, HAVE APPARENTLY MADE A TRANSCRIPT OF THE CASSETTE-STYLE TAPE AND SUPPLIED IT TO THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT.

ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE HOUR-LONG TAPE RECORDING IS THE FINAL HOUR OF THE MASS DEATHS OR SIMPLY A PORTION COVERED BY THE RECORDING MACHINE.

SHREIKS AND GUNSHOTS

CHILDREN'S SHRIEKS CAN BE HEARD ON THE TAPE RECORDING,
SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SAID, AND GUN-
SHOTS CAN BE HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND.

WORD THAT TAPE RECORDINGS HAD BEEN RECOVERED RESULTED
IN NEW GROUPS OF REPORTERS ARRIVING IN THIS HUMID
FORMER BRITISH COLONY AND STRONG DEMANDS BEING PLACED
ON THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE CONTENTS PUBLIC.

BUT GUYANESE OFFICIALS SAID THAT, BECAUSE THE TAPE
HAD BEEN RECOVERED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT
THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED A COPY BELATEDLY,
THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD MAKE THE TRANSCRIPT
PUBLIC.

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BOTH GUYANESE AND AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT THE TAPE MIGHT BE USED AS EVIDENCE IF A PROSECUTION WAS CONSIDERED AGAINST PERSONS WHO COMPELLED THE SUICIDES BY DRINKING A SOFT DRINK MIXED WITH POISON OR WHO KILLED THE CHILDREN.

AMERICAN SOURCES REPORTED THAT THERE WERE WORDS ON THE TAPE THAT INSTRUCTED THE MOTHERS TO SHOOT THE POISON DEEP INTO THE THROATS OF THE CHILDREN, PRESUMABLY USING THE SYRINGES THAT WERE FOUND LITTERING THE PAVILION IN JONESTOWN, WHERE MOST OF THE 900 CULT MEMBERS DIED.

SURVIVORS OF THE JONESTOWN KILLINGS AND SUICIDES SAY THAT THE REV. JIM JONES, THE CULT'S LEADER, WAS METICULOUS IN RECORDING ALL OF HIS ACTIVITIES, EITHER ON TAPE OR ON PAPER.

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"EVERYTHING HE SAID PRACTICALLY WAS PUT ON TAPE
UNLESS HE SAID NO, AND THE ONLY TIME HE SAID NO WAS
WHEN SOMETHING WAS REALLY INSIGNIFICANT," SAID MICHAEL
CARTER, A 20-YEAR-OLD FORMER RADIO OPERATOR IN
JONESTOWN.

"A LOT OF STUFF HAD BEEN ERASED," HE ADDED, "BUT NOTHING
IMPORTANT. I KNOW THAT FOR A FACT. THOSE TAPES CAN
GIVE A LOT OF INSIGHT TO JONESTOWN." ONE GUYANESE
POLICE OFFICIAL SAID IT WOULD TAKE WEEKS TO LISTEN TO
ALL THE TAPES THAT HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. CHRISTOPHER

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