

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
77 FORGETOWN 3498

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EXCISE

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ACTION 009-16
INFO 007-11 150-10 0027 #

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

0 214222 Z DEC 77
BY AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO DESTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5779
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 3498

U.S. 11502: 47A
CLASS: OAS. (GRIFFITH, EMMITT)

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS: EMMITT GRIFFITH

1. POST WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONTACTING A MEMBER OF THE
[REDACTED] OR [REDACTED] FAMILIES LOCATED AT [REDACTED] AND INFORMING THEM THAT REMAINS OF
EMMITT GRIFFITH WERE BURIED IN GEORGETOWN OVER ONE MONTH AGO.
EMBASSY WAS INFORMED UNOFFICIALLY THAT CAUSE OF DEATH WAS SKIN
OR BONE CANCER.

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2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TWO TELEGRAMS FROM INDIVIDUALS AT
THE ABOVE ADDRESS REQUESTING GRIFFITH'S REMAINS BE RETURNED TO
THE U.S. FOR BURIAL AND THAT THIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY ACCOMPANY
THEM. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT GRIFFITH WAS AND HIS
FAMILY STILL ARE MEMBERS OF THE CONTROVERSIAL PEOPLE'S TEMPLE
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION THAT WAS ESTABLISHED A COMMUNAL
AGRICULTURAL PREMISE IN GUYANA'S NORTHWEST DISTRICT. POST
BELIEVES DEPARTMENT SHOULD INFORM ADDRESSEE OF DEATH AND
SUGGEST THEY CONTACT MRS. MARY GRIFFITH, WIFE OF THE DECEASED
AT BOX 809, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, OR BY RADIO TELEPHONE IN
JONESTOWN, NORTHWEST DISTRICT, GUYANA (NUMBER UNKNOWN) TO
DISCUSS THIS SITUATION.

3. WE EXPECT MARY GRIFFITH TO APPEAR AT THE EMBASSY IN THE
NEAR FUTURE TO COMPLETE THE PROCESSING OF THE OFFICIAL
REPORT OF DEATH, AND APPLY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH

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BENEFITS. IRONICALLY, A CHILD WAS BORN TO AN IMMEDIATE
RELATIVE OF THE DECEASED ONE WEEK BEFORE HE DIED SO WE
ANTICIPATE ALSO DOING A REPORT OF BIRTH.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO ASSUME GRIFFITH'S DEATH
WAS BY OTHER THAN NATURAL CAUSES. CONSUL WAS INFORMED HIS
DEATH WAS CERTIFIED BY COMPETENT LOCAL AUTHORITY.

5. EXI - EXPLANATION OF REMAINS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED AT ANY TIME.
DEPARTMENT SHOULD REFER TO OUR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT
DATED MAY 19, 1977, FOR INFORMATION RELATIVE TO COST INVOLVED.

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