

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
77 GEORGETOWN 3322

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ACTION SCS-35

INFO OCT-11 ARA-14 ISO-02 CA-01 L-03

231146Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5049
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 3322

I.O. 11552: 8/1

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: W/V

REF: A. STATE 343126

B. STATE 343147

C.

1. EMBASSY CAREFULLY REVIEWED REFEELS A AND B
PERTAINING TO [REDACTED] FAMILY IN GUYANA. IN OUR
JUDGMENT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFEEL A
DOES NOT GIVE CONSULAR OFFICER LEGAL AUTHORITY TO
SEEK REMOVAL OF A 7 YEAR OLD GIRL FROM THE CUSTODY
OF HER GRANDMOTHER. QUITE FRANKLY, WE WERE
SURPRISED THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD INSTRUCT EMBASSY
TO INTERVENE IN A CHILD CUSTODY MATTER AND SEEK
FOR OFFICIAL ACTION IN FAYING CHILD
TAKEN FROM HER GRANDMOTHER AND RETURNED TO US
SOLELY ON BASIS OF A TELEPHONE REQUEST.

2. EMBASSY INFORMED APPROPRIATE GUYANESE
AUTHORITIES OF [REDACTED] DESIRE
TO REMOVE HER DAUGHTER [REDACTED] FROM CUSTODY OF GRAND-
MOTHER. HOWEVER AS EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT ARE
ALREADY AWARE FROM EXPERIENCE WITH THE STORN CASE
DURING AUGUST THIS YEAR, UNDER GUYANESE LAW,
ONLY THE GUYANESE COURTS HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE

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LEGALLY BINDING DECISIONS CONCERNING CUSTODY OF
CHILDREN RESIDENT IN GUYANA. EVEN A US COURT ORDER
WOULD NOT BE LEGALLY BINDING, BUT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS
IMPORTANT MATERIAL EVIDENCE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS HERE.

3. GUYANESE AUTHORITIES WILL NOT REMOVE [REDACTED] FROM
HER GRANDMOTHER WITHOUT A GUYANESE COURT ORDER
EMPOWERING THEM TO DO SO. THEREFORE, UNLESS THE
GRANDMOTHER CAN BE PERSUADED TO VOLUNTARILY RELIN-
QUISH CUSTODY OF [REDACTED] THE ONLY LEGAL REMEDY WOULD
BE FOR ONE OF [REDACTED] PARENTS TO COME TO GUYANA,
ENGAGE A LOCAL LAWYER AND OBTAIN A RULING IN A
GUYANESE COURT.

4. WE ASSUME THAT [REDACTED] HAS MADE
OWN TO THE GRANDMOTHER HER DESIRE TO HAVE [REDACTED]
RETURNED. CONSUL WILL INFORM GRANDMOTHER OF [REDACTED]
MOTHER'S WISHES DURING VISIT TO JONESTOWN IN NEAR

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EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
5-02 7827
1 REVIEWED BY 7/41 DATE
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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FUTURE ASSUMING THAT THE GRANDMOTHER WERE TO
RETURN TO GEORGETOWN FOR RETURN TO THE US WHO
WILL PAY FOR AIR FARE AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR
CHILD DURING TRANSIT?
5. WOULD A RAISER SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT
STATUS WHICH [REDACTED] WILL UNLAWFULLY
BE ASKED IF CASE IS TAKEN TO GUYANEST COURT. FOR
EXAMPLE, WHY WAS [REDACTED] RESIDING WITH GRANDMOTHER
PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FROM THE US AND FOR HOW LONG
HAD SHE BEEN IN THE GRANDMOTHER'S CUSTODY? FOR
WAS SHE BROUGHT TO GUYANA AGAINST PARENTAL WISHT
WAS OBJECTION RAISED AT THE TIME WITH US AUTHORITIES?
WAS AND NOTHER DELAY OVER SIX MONTHS TO REQUEST
HER RETURN?

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[REDACTED] HAS BEEN TO THE EMBASSY ON
TWO OCCASIONS. ON ONE OF THESE VISITS, SHE REPORTED
THE DEATH OF [REDACTED] AND
MADE APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR
HER SURVIVING CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN OF WHOM
[REDACTED] IS ONE. ALTHOUGH QUESTION OF
[REDACTED] WAS NOT AT ISSUE THEN, THE IMPRESSION THAT
[REDACTED] GAVE REGARDING THE GRAND CHILDREN
WAS THAT ALL THESE CHILDREN HAD BEEN RESIDING
WITH HER AND [REDACTED] AND HAD BEEN SUPPORTED
BY HER FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL IN
GUYANA.

7. EMBASSY BY LETTER DATED [REDACTED] AND
REFTEL C INFORMED [REDACTED] OF THE
STATE OF HIS RELATIVES. OUR LETTER ALSO RESPONDED TO
ALLEGATIONS OF ILL TREATMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AT JONESTOWN.
INCOMING LETTER FROM [REDACTED] WAS CO-SIGNED BY 21 INDIV-
DUALS ALL PRESUMABLY RELATIVES OF THE [REDACTED]
FAMILY. REFTEL C GAVE DETAILS PERTAINING TO
[REDACTED] DEATH. CONSUL INFORMED [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CONCERN FOR HER WELL BEING. SHE INFORMED
CONSUL SHE INTENDS TO REMAIN IN GUYANA FOR AN
INDEFINITE PERIOD.

8. CONSUL IS PLANNING TO VISIT JONESTOWN WITHIN
NEXT TWO WEEKS. AT THAT TIME HE WILL ARRANGE
PERSONAL, PRIVATE CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF INDIVI-
DUALS WHO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WELFARE/
WHEREABOUTS INQUIRIES, INCLUDING [REDACTED]
9. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD INFORM
[REDACTED] FAMILY OF CONTENTS OF PARAGRAPHS SIX AND
SEVEN ABOVE AND MAY WISH TO INFORM [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THAT HER DESIRE FOR THE RETURN OF [REDACTED]

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