WILLIAMS JESSIE M
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TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TA CASC(STOEN, JOHN VICTOR)
SUBJECT: W/W JOHN VICTOR STOEN
REF: STATE A-4386
1. AS POST AWARE, DEPARTMENT RECEIVING NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC CONCERNING CUSTODY CASE OF JOHN VICTOR STOEN. MOST OF THE INQUIRIES ARE EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR STOENS OR PEOPLE'S TEMPLE WITHOUT REAL INTEREST IN ACTUAL PROCEEDINGS. HOWEVER, SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES IN PARTICULAR INVOLVE THE ACTUAL COURT PROCEEDINGS, I.E., WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT AND ARE THE COURTS ACTING IMPARTIALLY AND SPEEDILY TOWARD RESOLUTION.
2. REFAIR OUTLINES CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH PRINCIPAL OFFICER MAY REQUEST AUTHORITY TO RETAIN LOCAL COUNSEL TO ADVISE CONSULAR OFFICER IN WAYS TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES
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(2 FAM 283). DEPARTMENT SHOULD FIND DETAILED ADVICE FROM QUALIFIED GUYANESE ATTORNEY MOST USEFUL IN DEALING WITH DOMESTIC INTEREST IN STOEN CASE. SUCH ADVICE WOULD ALSO PROVE INVALUABLE SHOULD THERE BE OTHER CUSTODY CASES IN THE FUTURE.
3. IF POST BELIEVES 2 FAM 283 SHOULD BE USED TO RETAIN INDEPENDENT LOCAL COUNSEL, PLEASE PROVIDE PERTINENT INFORMATION AS SET OUT IN 2 FAM 283.4 ASAP. VANCE
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