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ACTION SCS-06  
INFO    OCT-01    ARA-10    ISO-00    HA-05    PA-01    /023 W

-----049775   021325Z /72/16

R 011700Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6913  
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)  
E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, GY

SUBJECT: US MEDIA TELEPHONE ENQUIRY REGARDING PEOPLE'S TEMPLE  
REF: A. GEORGETOWN 1718, B. GEORGETOWN 1754

1. SHORTLY BEFORE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS (1630 HOURS LOCAL) ON  
MAY 31 THE EMBASSY RECEPTIONIST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM  
THE UNITED STATES BY A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A MR. STEVE  
LITTLE OF CBS RADIO NEWS, SAN FRANCISCO, WHO ASKED TO SPEAK  
TO THE CONSUL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING EMBASSY INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR DEALING WITH MEDIA INQUIRIES, MR. LITTLE WAS REFERRED TO THE  
EMBASSY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER.

2. MR. LITTLE ASKED THE PAO FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPERATION  
OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE IN GUYANA. THE PAO REPLIED THAT HE HAD  
NO FIRST HAND INFORMATION REGARDING THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE COMMUNITY  
WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE REMOTE NORTHWESTERN SECTION OF GUYANA.  
MR. LITTLE THANKED THE PAO, SAYING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
HAD SUGGESTED HE CALL THE EMBASSY.

3. MR. LITTLE THEN, SHORTLY AFTER THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS,  
TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY ONCE MORE AND AGAIN ASKED FOR THE CONSUL.  
WHEN TOLD THAT THE CONSUL WAS NOT AVAILABLE,

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MR. LITTLE ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE AMBASSADOR. IN THE  
ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS MEETING WITH THE ACTING  
FOREIGN MINISTER, DCM TOOK MR. LITTLE'S CALL.

4. MR. LITTLE INFORMED THE DCM THAT HE WISHED INFORMATION  
CONCERNING THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE'S OPERATIONS IN GUYANA. THE  
DCM SUGGESTED THAT HE SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH THE PEOPLE'S  
TEMPLE OFFICE IN GEORGETOWN. MR. LITTLE THEN SAID THAT  
HE HAD SPOKEN WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE BY TELEPHONE,  
THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES HAD VISITED  
THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE COMMUNITY IN JONESTOWN ON THREE OCCASIONS,  
THAT HE WISHED TO KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION WAS THERE, AND THAT  
THIS WAS WHY HE WANTED TO SPEAK WITH THE CONSUL. DCM  
EXPLAINED TO MR. LITTLE THAT THE CONSULAR SECTION  
OF THE EMBASSY PROVIDED STANDARD CONSULAR SERVICES TO  
MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE AS IT DID TO ALL AMERICANS  
IN GUYANA REQUIRING SUCH SERVICES. UNDER THE PRIVACY ACT,  
THE DCM CONTINUED, CONSULAR OFFICERS WERE CONSTRAINED FROM  
PROVIDING DETAILS OF ANY SUCH CONTACTS WITHOUT THE EXPRESS  
PERMISSION OF THOSE PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS DIRECTLY

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CONCERNED. FURTHERMORE, HE EXPLAINED. ALL EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE PROHIBITED FROM REPORTING ON THE PERSONAL ACTIVITIES OF ANY PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN ABROAD. THE TELEPHONE CONNECTION DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY BAD, AND THE DCM IS UNCERTAIN HOW MUCH OF THE CONVERSATION WOULD BECOME INDISTINCT FOLLOWING MR. LITTLE'S QUESTION "WHAT IS THE PRIVACY ACT?" MR. LITTLE SHORTLY THEREAFTER EITHER HUNG UP OR WAS DISCONNECTED.

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