

DELETED 165

GROSS MARGARET A
78 GEORGETOWN 3619

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GEORGE 03619 051640Z

ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 H-01 /017 W

-----022000 051648Z /42

0 051340Z NOV 78

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7982
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 3619
FOR ARA/CAR JOHN GRIFFTH

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN LEO) GY

SUBJ: CODEL RYAN VISIT TO GUYANA

REF: AMBASSADOR/MCCOY TELECON NOVEMBER 4, 1978

1. AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH GUYANESE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON

LAURENCE MANN AFTERNOON NOV 4

REGARDING PROPOSED VISIT OF CODEL RYAN TO GUYANA FOR THE PURPOSE
OF MAKING CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE (PT) COMMUNITY AT
JONESTOWN. AMBASADOR

TOLD MANN THAT AMERICAN CONSUL HAD BEEN INFORMED BY PT REPRESENT-
ATIVES IN

GEORGETOWN THAT IT WAS NOW PT INTENTION NOT RPT NOT TO RECEIVE
CONGRESSMAN

RYAN AT JONESTOWN. MANN SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD OF THIS DECISION
AND HAD TOLD THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE THAT HE PERSONALLY CONSIDERED
IT TO BE ILLADVISED.

NEVERTHELESS, HE WENT ON, IT WAS THEIR DECISION AND GOVERN-
MENT OF GUYANA COULD NOT FORCE PT TO RECEIVE CODEL WITHIN THEIR
COMMUNITY JUST AS GOG COULD NOT DICTATE TO ITS CITIZENS WHOM
THEY RECEIVE IN THEIR HOMES. MANN WENT ON TO SAY THAT PT SEEMED
CONVINED THAT CODEL WAS HOSTILE, WOULD BE ARRIVING WITH WELL-
DEVELOPED PRE-JUDICES AGAINST PT AND MERELY WANTED AN ON-THE-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GEORGE 03619 051640Z

SPOT VISIT TO ENABLE CODEL TO RETURN TO U.S. AND REITERATE
PREJUDICED VIEW OF PEOPLE'S TEMPLE COMMUNITY WITH MORE AUTHORITY
THAN BEFORE. PT OFFICIALS HAD APPARENTLY CITED TO MANN CONCIDENT
VISIT BY NBC CAMERA TEAM AS PROOF-POSITIVE OF CODEL'S BAD FAITH.

2. AMBASSADOR REPEATED FOR MANN'S BENEFIT WHAT CONSUL HAD ALREADY
CONVEYED TO PT REPRESENTATIVES RE CODEL'S VISIT: IT WAS TO GIVE
CONGRESSMAN RYAN AN OPPORTUNITY TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF PERSONALLY
WITH A COMMUNITY WHICH HAD GENERATED GREAT INTEREST IN HIS CONSTITUENCY.

FURTHERMORE, CONGRESSMAN HAD MADE NO SECRET OF HIS INTENTIONS
AND IN FACT HAD SENT A MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO THE PT ASKING THAT HE BE
PERMITTED TO VISIT JONESTOWN. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED TO MANN,
AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY, THAT CODEL VISIT TO JONESTOWN WOULD APPEARRED
TO BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE'S TEMPLE TO RESPOND TO
CRITICISM IN THE U.S. ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY EFFORT IN GUYANA. ON
THE OTHER HAND, A FLAT

REFUSAL TO RECEIVE THE CODEL AT JONESTOWN MIGHT HAVE JUST THE
OPPOSITE EFFECT. AS FOR THE NBC CAMERA TEAM, AMBASSADOR INFORMED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

GROSS MARGARET A
78 GEORGETOWN 3619

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MANN THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE REFTELECONS, IT WAS THE EMBASSY'S CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONGRESSMAN HAD NOT INVITED THE TEAM TO COME AND THAT NBC SAN FRANCISCO HAD ONLY BECOME INTERESTED IN COVERING THE STORY WHEN NEWS OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S PROPOSED TRIP BECAME KNOWN. FURTHER, IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT NBC HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO CLEAR ANY TRIP TO JONESTOWN WITH PEOPLE'S TEMPLE AND ANY VISIT BY A CAMERA TEAM TO THE GUYANESE HINTERLAND WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA.

3. AMBASSADOR MANN PROFESSED TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS BUT REPEATED HIS STATEMENT THAT GOG WAS POWERLESS TO FORCE PT TO RECEIVE CODEL AT JONESTOWN IF TGROUP WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED. HE EXPRESSED AGAIN HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT HE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GEORGE 03619 051640Z

FELT THAT THE PT WAS WRONG TO REFUSE. HE WANTED IT EMPHASIZED TO CONGRESSMAN RYAN THAT GOG, FOR IT PART, WOULD WELCOME HIS VISIT TO GUYANA AND THAT FORMIN RASHLIGH JACKSON AND OTHER OFFICIALS WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE HIM IF HE DECIDED TO COME.

4. WITHIN AN HOUR OF THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH MANN, A PT REPRESENTATIVE CALLED THE CONSUL TO TELL HIM THAT AMBASSADOR'S IMPRESSION WAS NOT ACCURATE: PT HAD NOT DEFINITELY CLOSED THE DOOR TO A VISIT

BY CONGRESSMAN RYAN, BUT WERE SETTING THREE CONDITIONS:

- A) THAT CODEL MUST HAVE BALANCE (I.E. THAT IT INCLUDE REPRESENTATION SYMPATHETICALLY DISPOSED TO PT);
- B) THAT THERE BE NO MEDIA COVERAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CODEL'S VISIT TO JONESTOWN;
- C) THAT ATTORNEY MARK LANE BE PRESENT FOR CODEL VISIT TO GUYANA AND JONESTOWN.

5. PT REPRESENTATIVE ALSO INFORMED CONSUL THAT THEIR RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S CABLE WOULD BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH ATTORNEY MARK LANE.

BURKE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE