

PASEK MICHAEL S
78 GEORGETOWN 3734

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ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ISO-00 CA-01 SSO-00 H-01 L-03 PA-01
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O 151830Z NOV 78

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8038

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO) CY

SUBJ: DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ARRIVING IN
GEORGETOWN WITHOUT VISAS.

REF: A. GEORGETOWN 3729 B. GEORGETOWN 3714.

1. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE SEVERAL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS
WHO ARRIVED IN GEORGETOWN IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF
NOV. 15 ON PA 227 (THE SAME PLANE THAT BROUGHT CODEL RYAN)
HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES WITH GUYANESE IMMIGRATION. THE
PROBLEM TURNS AROUND THE POINT THAT THESE JOURNALISTS HAD NOT
OBTAINED VISAS FROM THE GUYANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BEFORE
DEPARTING FOR GEORGETOWN. IN MANY CASES -- BUT NOT ALL -- THE
PAPERWORK TO OBTAIN VISAS HAD BEGUN BUT HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED.
NEVERTHELESS, IT APPEARS THAT THE JOURNALISTS DECIDED TO
TRAVEL TO GEORGETOWN, APPARENTLY HOPING THAT THE FACT THAT THEY
WERE ON THE SAME PLANE WITH CODEL RYAN WOULD ENABLE THEM TO
OBTAIN ENTRY EVEN THOUGH VISAS HAD NOT BEEN OBTAINED.

2. SINCE BECOMING AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM SHORTLY AFTER
ARRIVAL OF THE AIRCRAFT, EMB HAS GONE TO EXTRAORDINRRQ
LENGTHS TO ARRANGE FOR ENTRY OF THESE JOURNALISTS. THIS
HAS INCLUDED CALLS TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, DIRECTOR
OF IMMIGRATION AT THE AIRPORT AND OTHER OFFICIALS

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BETWEEN 2:00 AND 4:00 A.M. NOVEMBER 15. SINCE 8:00 A.M.

THE AMBASSADOR HAS SPOKEN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER

PERSONALLY ON THE MATTER. THE PAO HAS ALSO BEEN IN

CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS IN AN EFFORT

TO ARRANGE FOR THE ENTRY OF THESE VISA-LESS JOURNALISTS.

AS OF ONE O'CLOCK P.M. NOV. 15 (WASHINGTON TIME), ALL OF

THE JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO GUYANA AND THE MINISTRY

OF HOME AFFAIRS ASSURES US THAT EACH WILL RECEIVE A VISA FOR

FIVE DAYS (DURATION OF THE CODEL VISIT). THE GUYANESE

CHIEF OF INFORMATION OFFICER WILL MEET WITH THE JOURNALISTS

AT 2 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME.

3. BY CONTRAST WITH THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY

THE PRESSMAN WHO CHOSE TO TRAVEL WITHOUT GOG VISAS, THE

NBC CAMERA TEAM FROM SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH HAD OBTAINED

VISAS WELL IN ADVANCE, HAS APPARENTLY HAD NO DIFFICULTY

IN ENTERING THE COUNTRY. THE ONLY INCONVENIENCE THEY

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SUFFERED WAS THE REQUIREMENT THAT THEY RETURN TO THE AIRPORT DURING BUSINESS HOURS TO ARRANGE FOR THE DUTY FREE ENTRY OF THEIR EQUIPMENT THROUGH GUYANESE CUSTOMS. THIS TOO HAS NOW BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

4. THE EMBASSY COULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE HELPFUL IN THIS MATTER IF WE HAD BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS OF THE JOURNALISTS WHO ARRIVED HERE THIS MORNING.

BURKE

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