

PASEK MICHAEL S
78 GEORGETOWN 3761

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 SCS-06 SS-15 CA-01

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O 171450Z NOV 78

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8052

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN LEO) GY

SUBJ: GODEL RYAN AND PEOPLE'S TEMPLE: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH
"CONCERNED RELATIVES."

REF: STATE 289798 AND PREVIOUS.

1. IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST, AMBASSADOR MET AFTERNOON
NOV. 16 WITH FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF THE "CONCERNED
RELATIVES" GROUP WHO HAD ARRIVED IN GEORGETOWN IN THE SMALL HOURS
OF WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15, ABOARD THE SAME PANAM FLIGHT WHICH
BROUGHT CODEL RYAN TO GUYANA. GROUP CLAIMS (WITH ONE
EXCEPTION) TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES AT THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE
COMMUNITY AT JONESTOWN WITH WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED
CONTACT. THEY HAVE TRAVELED TO GUYANA IN COMPANY WITH
CONGRESSMAN RYAN IN HOPE THAT THEY MAY BE PERMITTED TO VISIT
JONESTOWN OR MEET WITH THEIR RELATIVES IN GEORGETOWN. SINCE
THEIR ARRIVAL THEY HAVE SEPARATELY AND COLLECTIVELY BEEN IN
CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE GEORGETOWN OFFICE, WITH THE
PRESSMEN WHO ARRIVED WITH CODEL, AND WITH CONGRESSMAN RYAN
AND HIS STAFFERS.

2. WHEN "CONCERNED RELATIVES" GROUP ARRIVED AT EMBASSY
THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY AMERICAN PRESSMEN WHO HAD
ARRIVED GEORGETOWN WITH CODEL. THROUGH THERE HAD BEEN
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PRIOR UNDERSTANDING THAT MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WOULD
BE PRIVATE, GROUP'S SPOKESMAN ON ARRIVAL INSISTED THAT
PRESS SHOULD BE INCLUDED. AMBASSADOR DECLINED TO MEET
WITH GROUP WITH PRESS PRESENT ON GROUNDS THAT THERE
WERE SENSITIVE LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED.
GROUP THEN CAUCUSED TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WOULD
ACCEPT MEETING ON THIS CONDITION AND EVENTUALLY AGREED
TO MEET IN PRIVATE. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE CONGRESSMAN
RYAN, HIS TWO STAFFERS, DCM AND CONSUL.

3. MEETING OPENED WITH A SHOWING OF AMATEUR COLOR SLIDES
OF JONESTOWN WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN (WITH PEOPLE'S TEMPLE
PERMISSION) DURING ONE OF THE CONSUL'S ROUTINE VISITS
TO JONESTOWN. AMBASSADOR THEN BEGAN THE DISCUSSION WITH
A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE OUTLINED BRIEFLY AN EMBASSY'S
OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS AMERICAN
CITIZENS RESIDING ABROAD BOTH TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT.
PRINCIPAL POINT WAS THAT ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS ENJOYED

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AN EQUAL CLAIM ON THE EMBASSY' PROTECTION AND SERVICES
BE THEY RESIDENTS OF JONESTOWN OR VISITING "CONCERNED
RELATIVES."

4. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP PROCEEDED TO DESCRIBE
ALLEGED CONDITIONS IN
JONESTOWN AND TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THEIR INABILITY
TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THEIR RELATIVES. AMBASSADOR
THEN DESCRIBED FOR THE GROUP THE SERIES OF REGULAR
CONSULAR FLIGHTS TO JONESTOWN WHICH HAD BEEN INSTITUTED
SINCE HIS ARRIVAL DURING WHICH WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS
INQUIRIES WERE LOOKED INTO ON BEHALF ON NEXT-OF-KIN,
NOTING THAT IN EACH CASE TO DATE CONSUL HAD BEEN ABLE
TO INTERVIEW PERSONALLY AND PRIVATELY THE INDIVIDUAL
CONCERNED AND TO REPORT BACK TO NEXT-OF-KIN.

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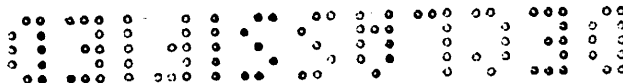
5. INDIVIDUALS IN THE GROUP WERE INCLINED TO DISMISS
AS INCONCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL JONESTOWNIANS
AND CONSUL, ALLEGING "BRAINWASHING" AND "CONDITIONING"
TO EXPLAIN STATEMENTS FROM INTERVIEWEES THAT THEY WERE
HAPPY IN JONESTOWN AND CONTENT TO REMAIN THERE. VARIOUS
MEMBERS WITHIN THE GROUP THEN RETURNED TO A RECOUNTING OF
ALLEGED CHARGES AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S
TEMPLE BOTH IN GUYANA AND THE UNITED STATES.
AMBASSADOR ATTEMPTED TO RESPOND BY REITERATING THAT
EMBASSY HAD NO POLICE OR ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OVER
PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS IN GUYANA AND THAT ONLY
GUYANESE JUSTICE AND ADMINISTRATION HAD DIRECT
APPLICATION.

6. SESSION WHICH LASTED AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF ENDED WITH
AMBASSADOR PROMISING GROUP THAT IF THEY WOULD PROVIDE
CONSUL WITH
NAMES OF NEXT-OF-KIN HE WOULD MAKE CONTACT
DURING HIS NEXT CONSULAR VISIT TO THE COMMUNITY. ALSO,
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GROUP, AMBASSADOR CALLED PEOPLE'S
TEMPLE OFFICE IN GEORGETOWN IN AN EFFORT TO VERIFY
STATEMENT WHICH SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SAID THEY HAD
BEEN TOLD WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO MAKE CONTACT: VIZ.,
THAT THE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH
THE EMBASSY TO MEET WITH THEIR RELATIVES AT JONESTOWN.
IN RESPONSE TO HIS CALL AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD BY SPOKESMAN
THAT PT HAD RECOMMENDED THAT "CONCERNED RELATIVES" SHOULD
ARRANGE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THEIR NEXT-OF-KIN
THROUGH THE EMBASSY, REFERRING TO THE REGULAR CONSULAR
VISITATION. AMBASSADOR TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CALL TO
URGE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE REPRESENTATIVE EITHER TO PERMIT
A VISIT BY "CONCERNED RELATIVES" TO JONESTOWN AS LONG
AS THEY WERE PHYSICALLY IN GUYANA OR ARRANGE FOR NEXT-OF-KIN
TO TRAVEL TO GEORGETOWN FOR MEETINGS IF FORMER COURSE WAS
NOT POSSIBLE. PT SPOKESMAN PROMISED TO REFER THIS

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REQUEST TO JONESTOWN. (DURING THIS CALL, PT SPOKESMAN
FREQUENTLY MADE REFERENCE TO ALLEGED "HARRASSMENT"
PEOPLE'S TEMPLE WAS EXPERIENCING FROM CODEL THEY CITED
CONGRESSMAN RYANS VISIT TO PEOPLE'S TEMPLE GEORGETOWN RESIDENCE
EVENING

NOVEMBER 15, / AMERICAN PRESSMEN/ THEY CHARGED THAT A
JOURNALIST FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE HAD VATTLED
THE FENCE AROUND THEIR COMPOUND AND FORCED HIS WAY
INTO THE HOUSE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 16/, AND GROUPS AND
INDIVIDUALS OF "CONCERNED RELATIVES" HAD BEEN SHOWING
UP AT THEIR GATE UNANNOUNCED SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL.)

7. MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR BROKE UP AFTER THIS
THOUGH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MADE SEPARATE
APPOINTMENTS WITH CONSUL FOR NOV. 17 TO ASK HIS
ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING THEIR RELATIVES WHEN NEXT HE
IS IN JONESTOWN. SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, HOWEVER,
SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE GOING TO JONESTOWN WITH OR
WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE AND
FORCE ENTRY IF NECESSARY.

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