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ORIGIN SCS-36

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 FBIF-00 CIAF-00
INR-10 NSAF-00 PA-02 TRSE-00 MCT-02 DODE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00
USSS-00 H-02 AID-05 SS-15 CCO-00 OC-06 JUSE-00
SVC-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY CA/OCS:JLWARD/BGROVE

APPROVED BY ARA:BGROVE

CA:EMWATSON (PHONE)

L/CA:RHENDERSON (PHONE)

S/S-O:JTHYDEN

CA/OCS:AAGISE

-----109159 210700Z /16

O 210611Z NOV 79 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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F.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, GT

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF REMAINS AT THE JONESTOWN SITE
1. THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM OF
ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
AT THE JONESTOWN SITE HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING,
AMONG OTHER, CIRCUMSTANCES:

A) MORE THAN 48 HOURS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE DEATHS
OCCURRED;
B) RESOURCES NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AND THEN TRANSPORT
THESE REMAINS FROM JONESTOWN TO GEORGETOWN WILL NOT BE
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AVAILABLE FOR AT LEAST 12 MORE HOURS AND WILL NOT BE
OPERATIONAL AT THE JONESTOWN SITE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY
96 HOURS FROM THE TIME OF THESE DEATHS;

C) HIGH TEMPERATURES AND RAIN-FALL CONDITIONS AT
JONESTOWN SINCE THE TIME OF DEATHS HAVE ALREADY CAUSED
SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF DECOMPOSITION;

D) THERE IS NO ADEQUATE REFRIGERATION OR RETARDANT
STORAGE CAPACITY EITHER IN JONESTOWN OR GEORGETOWN TO
ACCOMMODATE THE REMAINS OF MORE THAN 400 DECEASED
PERSONS; AND,

E) THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY
DIFFICULT BY THE HOUR, AND MAY NOT BE COMPLETED FOR AN
EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME, IN SOME INSTANCES PERHAPS NOT
AT ALL.

2. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT THE
ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION IS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND
DIGNIFIED INTERMENT OF REMAINS AT THE JONESTOWN SITE BY
PROMPT BURIAL OF IDENTIFIED REMAINS, PREFERABLY AT AN
ESTABLISHED GRAVE SITE IF ONE EXISTS, AND EVENTUALLY

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INTERMENT OF ALL DECEASED AT JONESTOWN IN SUCH A GRAVE SITE.

3. THE EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE ADVISE THE GOC THAT THE USG REQUESTS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL LAW, THAT FOR HUMANE, SANITARY, AND PRACTICAL REASONS INTERMENT OF THE DECEASED AT JONESTOWN SHOULD BEGIN AT ONCE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL MARKERS AND RELOCATABLE GRAVE

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SITES. IF IDENTIFICATION CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED, BURIAL SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL EVERY EFFORT AT FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION HAS BEEN MADE. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTS THAT GUYANESE DEATH CERTIFICATES BE ISSUED IN EACH POSSIBLE CASE. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT SUCH CERTIFICATES SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSES OF DEATH EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE A THOROUGH, CONCLUSIVE AUTOPSY OR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION IDENTIFIES THE EXACT CAUSES OF DEATH, INCLUDING DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN HOMICIDE AND SUICIDE. THE EMBASSY SHOULD SUGGEST TO THE GOC THAT CAUSES OF DEATH THAT CANNOT BE DETERMINED SHOULD BE CERTIFIED AS "UNKNOWN."

5. PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER EMBASSY PERCEIVES DIFFICULTIES IN THE FOREGOING PROCEDURES, OR HAS ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION. VANCE

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