

CONFIDENTIAL

249

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 296889

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TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

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INFO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AINF, OREP, GY, CASC

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION: COBYL RYAN-PEOPLES
TEMPLE

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE, DATED
NOVEMBER 21, 1978.

DUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
ARE DEEPLY DISTRESSED AND CONCERNED OVER THE TRAGEDY WHICH
BEFELL THE MISSION TO GUYANA HEADED BY THE LATE HON. LEO
J. RYAN. AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS NEGLIGENT IN THIS AFFAIR.
IN DETERMINING WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN IN THE WAKE OF
THIS MATTER, THE COMMITTEE INTENDS TO LOOK INTO ALL OF THE
CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON THIS TRAGIC
INCIDENT. IT IS THEREFORE, ESSENTIAL THAT THE DEPARTMENT

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PAGE 22 STATE 296889

OF STATE COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE COMMITTEE IN THE CONDUCT
OF THIS INQUIRY.

SPECIFICALLY, WE REQUEST A COPY OF THE FOLLOWING: ALL CABLE
TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN GUYANA AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH AND ITS AGRICULTURAL COMMUNE IN
JONESTOWN SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FACILITY IN
GUYANA; AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED
FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND OTHER
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

ADDITIONALLY, WE NEED ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS
(UNLESS SUCH ANSWERS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MATERIALS
REQUESTED ABOVE):

1. TO WHAT EXTENT WERE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, AWARE OF THE
POTENTIAL PHYSICAL DANGER TO THE RYAN DELEGATION OF A
VISIT BY THEM TO JONESTOWN?

2. WHAT ADVICE DID THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE EMBASSY

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GUYANA GIVE CONGRESSMAN RYAN WITH RESPECT TO THE
POTENTIAL VIOLENCE WHICH COULD ARISE AS A RESULT OF SUCH
VISIT IN VIEW OF THE PRESENCE OF WEAPONS IN JONESTOWN
AND THE MOOD OF ITS INHABITANTS WITH RESPECT TO VISITS
BY OUTSIDERS?

ONCE MR. RYAN MADE KNOWN HIS INTENT TO VISIT JONESTOWN,
DID THE AMERICAN EMBASSY REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
TO PROVIDE THE DELEGATION WITH SECURITY PROTECTION OR

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GE 03 STATE 296289

WAS ASSISTANCE? IF NOT, WHY NOT, AND IF SO, WHAT WAS
THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA?

WHAT COMMUNICATION FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE TO THE
AMERICAN DELEGATION DURING THE MEMBERS' STAY IN GEORGETOWN
AND PORT KAITUMA? WHAT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNI-
CATIONS WITH JONESTOWN, IF ANY, WERE MADE FOR THE RYAN
DELEGATION?

HOW MANY VISITS TO JONESTOWN HAS THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
MADE ON BEHALF OF U.S. CITIZENS' INQUIRIES SINCE THE
RECEPTION OF THE SETTLEMENT? WHAT WERE THE SPECIFIC
FINDINGS AND RESULTS OF THESE VISITS? DID THE EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE FULL AND COMPLETE ACCESS TO THE
INHABITANTS AND FACILITIES IN JONESTOWN?

WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAVE
WITH RESPECT TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT
OF GUYANA, ITS OFFICIALS, AND THE PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH
SETTLEMENT IN JONESTOWN AND ITS FACILITY IN GEORGETOWN?

WAS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND/OR THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY AWARE OF THE PRESENCE IN JONESTOWN OF EXTENSIVE
QUANTITIES OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION? IF SO, WAS THIS
INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE RYAN DELEGATION. DID THE
PRESENCE OF THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION CONFORM TO RELEVANT
GUYANESE LAWS? IF NOT, WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, DID THE
GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE PRESENCE OF
THE WEAPONS?

WERE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH
INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI AND/OR OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES AND, IF SO, WERE THEIR FINDINGS MADE AVAILABLE
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE?

WHAT EFFORTS WERE UNDERTAKEN BY THE U.S. EMBASSY IN

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WAS THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA TO INSURE THAT AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE
JONESTOWN INHABITANTS WERE ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED?

WAS THE U.S. EMBASSY IN GUYANA AWARE OF ANY REPORTS OF
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BEING DIRECTED AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE
PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH AND, IF SO, WAS THIS INFORMATION
MADE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WASHINGTON?

WAS THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA EVER REQUESTED TO
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INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH?
IF NOT, WHY NOT?

2. DID REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY
INTERVIEW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD "DETECTED" FROM THE PEOPLES
TEMPLE CHURCH IN GUYANA? IF SO, WAS THIS INFORMATION
MADE KNOWN TO CONGRESSMAN RYAN?

3. WAS ANY CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO RESTRICTING THE
PASSPORTS OF POTENTIAL INHABITANTS OF JONESTOWN WHO APPLIED
FOR A PASSPORT FOR THE PURPOSE OF GOING TO GUYANA PURSUANT
TO 22 U.S.C. 211A AS AMENDED?

IT IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED THAT THE INFORMATION SOUGHT
BY THE COMMITTEE BE SUBMITTED NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 1,
1978.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, I AM
INCERELY YOURS.

SIGNED: CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI. UNQUOTE.

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PAGE 05 STATE 296889

ACTION:

EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION IT CAN TO ASSIST
DEPARTMENT IN RESPONDING TO CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI AND
THE COMMITTEE. SPECIFICALLY, EMBASSY INPUT ESSENTIAL
TO DEVELOPING REPLIES TO QUESTIONS NO'S ONE, TWO, THREE,
FOUR, SEVEN, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN, AND THIRTEEN. (INPUTS
ALSO BEING OBTAINED FROM MCCOY AND TUMINIA). REPLY BY
NOVEMBER 24 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO FACE
AND FOR WHICH WE WILL REQUIRE EMBASSY INPUT WILL BE
FORWARDED SEPTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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