

1069

LEE ELMER E
79 STATE 296856

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 296856

ORIGIN SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ISO-00 CA-01 SIG-03 DODE-00 PM-05
FRIF-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAF-00 PA-02 TRSE-00
MCT-02 INRE-00 SY-05 USSS-00 H-02 AID-05 SS-15
SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 OC-06 JUSE-00 ICAE-00 CG-00
L-03 DOTE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY CA/SCS:JDIETERICH:ACM

APPROVED BY ARA:JBUSHNELL

S/S-O: RCASTRODALE

043709 232121Z /64

O 232043Z NOV 78
PM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
UNCLAS STATE 296856
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

Q. TO WHAT EXTENT ARE US MILITARY FORCES INVOLVED IN SEARCH EFFORTS IN GUYANA?

A. ALTHOUGH ACTUAL GROUND SEARCH EFFORTS IN THE JONESTOWN AREA ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GUYANESE POLICE AND MILITARY. THE US MILITARY IS PROVIDING ANY SUPPORT THEY REQUIRE. IN PARTICULAR, WE HAVE MADE AVAILABLE HELICOPTERS INCLUDING ONE WITH LOUDSPEAKERS. WE HAVE ALSO FURNISHED WALKIE TALKIES AND OTHER SUPPLIES.

Q. WHY AREN'T U.S. FORCES BEING USED FOR GROUND SEARCH?

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 296856

A. BOTH THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT AGREE THAT SEARCHING IN THE JUNGLE AROUND JONESTOWN CAN BEST BE HANDLED BY THOSE LOCAL FORCES FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA AND THE PREVAILING JUNGLE CONDITIONS. BOTH ALSO AGREE THAT US MILITARY FORCES CAN BE USED MOST EFFICIENTLY IN AIR SEARCH AND SUPPLY ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE DECEASED FROM GUYANA TO THE U.S.

Q. WHAT IS THE COST TO THE US GOVERNMENT OF ALL THESE OPERATIONS RELATED TO THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY?

A. THESE ARE OBVIOUSLY VERY COMPLEX OPERATIONS INVOLVING VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE US GOVERNMENT AND MANY SUBDIVISIONS WITHIN THOSE DEPARTMENTS. AT ANY RATE IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH A DEFINITIVE COST SINCE MANY ELEMENTS INVOLVED ARE IN FACT ONGOING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE ALREADY FUNDED. IT WILL TAKE TIME TO DEFINE AND IDENTIFY WHICH PARTS OF THOSE ACTIVITIES ARE SPECIFICALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GUYANA SITUATION.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE RETURN OF SURVIVORS TO THE US?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AR

REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____

FOR IDENT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____

ENDORSE (EXISTING REASON(S)) _____

DECLASSIFYING AUTHORITY _____

RELEASE DATE _____

FA OF 101 _____

LEE ELMER E
79 STATE 296856

UNCLASSIFIED

THE SURVIVORS, EXCEPT THOSE AGAINST WHOM THERE ARE
GUYANESE LEGAL CHARGES PENDING, WILL BE RETURNING TO THE
US. HOWEVER, I HAVE NO SPECIFICS FOR YOU AT THIS TIME.

CHRISTOPHER
UNCLASSIFIED