

WILLIAMS JESSIE W
78 GEORGETOWN 3924

2770 EXCISE

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ACTION ABA-15

INFO OCT-11 ISD-10 H-21 SS-15 SP-22 OC-25 CCC-22 L-22

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECRETATE WASHDC VIACT IMMEDIATE 219Z

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INFO 11602: GNS

TAGS: CASC AINE ORFP GY

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION: CODEL RYAN - PEOPLES TEMPLE

REF: STATE 296009

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN REPLYING TO
QUESTIONS IN CONGRESSMAN ZARLOCKI'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 21 TO
SECRETARY ARE AS FOLLOWS (NUMBERS KEYED TO CHAIRMAN'S QUESTIONS):

(1) THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WAS NOT OF THE OPINION THAT
CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN AND HIS PARTY WOULD BE IN PHYSICAL DANGER
DURING A VISIT TO THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AGRICULTURAL MISSION
AT JONESTOWN AS LONG AS PRIOR PERMISSION FOR THE VISIT HAD
BEEN SECURED IN ADVANCE FROM THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. THIS POINT
WAS MADE IN THE EMBASSY'S FIRST CABLE DEALING WITH THE PROS-
PECT OF A CODEL VISIT AND WAS REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THERE-
AFTER BOTH IN WRITTEN FORM AND ORALLY TO THE CONGRESSMAN AND
HIS STAFF. IT WAS CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT SHOULD THE
CONGRESSMAN ATTEMPT TO FORCE ENTRY INTO JONESTOWN, UNFORTUNATE
CONSEQUENCES COULD FOLLOW WHICH MIGHT BE LEGAL OR EVEN
VIOLENT. AS HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE CLEAR THERE HAD BEEN
SEVERAL VISITS TO JONESTOWN BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS GOING
BACK FOR AT LEAST THE LAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS.
THESE VISITS HAD INVARIABLY BEEN PEACEFUL. FURTHERMORE, THE
PEOPLES TEMPLE COMMUNITY HAD RECEIVED VISITS BY MANY

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OTHER OUTSIDERS, SUCH AS GUYANA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS, WITHOUT
REPORTED INCIDENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LT GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA IS KNOWN TO HAVE VISITED THE TEMPLE ON AT
LEAST ONE OCCASION, AS WELL AS CABINET MEMBERS FROM
THE GOC AND THIRD COUNTRY DIPLOMATS.

(2) THE ADVICE GIVEN TO THE CODEL FROM THE FIRST MOMENT
THAT THE EMBASSY WAS APPRISED OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S
TRIP TO GUYANA FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISITING JONESTOWN
WAS CANDID AND COMPLETE. IT WAS WELL-KNOWN THAT THE
PEOPLES TEMPLE WAS SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM WHICH HAD
APPEARED IN CERTAIN QUARTERS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES
REGARDING ITS ACTIVITIES. THE REACTION OF THE TEMPLE
WAS CLEARLY EVIDENT IN MANY PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS BY
PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBERS AND OTHER SPOKESMEN, MOST
RECENTLY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY ONE OF ITS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED BY John Simms DATE 2-26-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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LAVERGNE, DR MARK LANE, ON A VISIT TO GEORGETOWN. THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS REPORTED ON FULLY TO THE DEPARTMENT BY CABLE FROM THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WITH THE ADVICE THAT THESE REPORTS BE MADE DIRECTLY AVAILABLE TO CONGRESSMAN RYAN. IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS GENERALLY WELL-KNOWN MOOD OF ATTITUDE TOWARD CRITICISM THAT THE EMBASSY WAS SO INSISTENT THAT THE CODEL OBTAIN DIRECTLY FROM THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE THE CONGRESSMAN BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY TRIP TO JONESTOWN. INsofar AS THE PRESENCE OF WEAPONS WAS CONCERNED, THE EMBASSY HAD NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT THERE WERE EXCEPTIONAL STORES OF WEAPONS IN THE COMMUNITY. IT WAS, OF COURSE, KNOWN THAT THE COMMUNITY DID POSSESS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FIREARMS, BUT THIS IS NOT UNCOMMON IN THE PARTICULAR PART OF GUYANA IN WHICH JONESTOWN IS LOCATED. THE NORTHWEST REGION OF

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GUYANA OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HUNTING OF WILD GAME AND THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE PEOPLES TEMPLE THAT A PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S MEAT SUPPLY WAS OBTAINED BY HUNTING.

(3) THE EMBASSY DID NOT REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA PROVIDE THE CODEL WITH SECURITY PROTECTION OR OTHER ASSISTANCE, NOR DID THE CODEL RAISE THE SUBJECT OF SECURITY PROTECTION. IT WAS FELT THAT AS LONG AS THE CODEL HAD THE PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE JONESTOWN COMMUNITY TO A VISIT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SUCH PROTECTION IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SO MANY OTHER OUTSIDERS HAD PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT INCIDENT. AS A MATTER OF COURTESY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED OF THE CODEL VISIT WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S ARRIVAL AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF GUYANA RECEIVED CONGRESSMAN RYAN FOR AN HOUR LONG MEETING THE DAY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN GEORGETOWN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS MOST CORDIAL IN HIS RECEPTION OF THE CONGRESSMAN, AND, IN FACT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN GUYANA ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE CONGRESSMAN PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AND HAD ACTUALLY SCHEDULED AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM FOR THE MORNING OF NOV 19. (THE CODEL'S ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO DEPART GUYANA ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOV 19). IN HIS MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONGRESSMAN RYAN MADE BRIEF MENTION OF THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, BUT MADE NO REQUEST FOR SECURITY AND, IN FACT, SPENT MOST OF THE HOUR WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSING BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. FOR ITS PART, THE JOT SENT ALONG WITH THE CODEL ON ITS VISIT TO JONESTOWN AN OFFICIAL FROM ITS MINISTRY OF INFORMATION (NEVILLE ANNIBOURNE) WHO WAS WITH THE CONGRESSMAN DURING HIS ENTIRE TIME IN THE

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JONESTOWN COMMUNITY. THIS OFFICER ACCOMPANIED THE

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CODEL INTO JONESTOWN, SPENT THE NIGHT THERE, AND LEFT
WITH THE CODEL FOR THE AIRSTAIR THE FOLLOWING DAY.
HAD SECURITY PROTECTION BEEN REQUESTED FROM THE COG
FOR THE CODEL, IT WOULD VERY LIKELY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED
THROUGH THE COG AS GCHQ HAVE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AS
TO WHY PROTECTION WAS NEEDED TO ENABLE AN AMERICAN
CONGRESSMAN TO MEET WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS.
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IT SHOULD ALSO BE RECALLED THAT THE CODEL

TRAVELED TO PORT KAITUMA FROM GEORGETOWN IN COMPANY WITH TWO AMERICAN LAWYERS WHO WERE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF BISHOP JONES AND THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. IN FACT, THESE TWO ATTORNEYS WENT INTO JONESTOWN IN COMPANY WITH CONGRESSMAN RYAN IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF ENTRY FOR THE PRESS AND "CONCERNED RELATIVES" GROUP ACCOMPANYING THE TO PORT KAITUMA.

THESE MEN, WHO HAD VISITED JONESTOWN IN THE PAST, WERE PRESENT AT JONESTOWN FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE CODEL'S VISIT TO THE AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT. THEIR PRESENCE APPEARED TO PROVIDE YET AN ADDITIONAL GUARANTEE THAT THE VISIT BY CONGRESSMAN RYAN WOULD BE WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

(4) WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE CODEL'S ARRIVAL IN GEORGETOWN IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS STAFF THAT TENSIONS BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND PORT KAITUMA WERE PRIMITIVE AT BEST. IT WAS FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE ONLY COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND JONESTOWN WERE IN THE FORM OF AN AMATEUR RADIO LINK BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND ITS GEORGETOWN OFFICE. NO SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR THE RYAN DELEGATION NOR WERE THEY REQUESTED BY THE CODEL. HOWEVER, ON THE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY, NOV 17, WHEN THE CODEL WAS ON ITS WAY INTO

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JONESTOWN, THE CONSUL WENT TO THE GEORGETOWN OFFICE OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AND USED THEIR SHORTWAVE FACILITIES TO CONFIRM THAT THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS PARTY HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO JONESTOWN AND THAT THINGS WERE "GOING WELL". THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THROUGH THIS CHANNEL THAT DUE TO ITS LATE ARRIVAL AT PORT KAITUMA THE CODEL HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO STAY OVERNIGHT AT JONESTOWN. DURING THESE TRANSMISSIONS OVER THE SHORTWAVE LINK, OUR CONSUL SPOKE DIRECTLY WITH DCM DWYER WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING CODEL; THUS, THE MESSAGES WERE NOT PASSED THROUGH ANY PEOPLES TEMPLE INTERMEDIARY.

(7) THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WAS NOT AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF EXTENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IN

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Jonestown. As stated earlier, the community was known to have a certain number of firearms as well as bows and arrows which the community explained were used for hunting game in the region, a not uncommon practice in that part of Guyana. According to the COG a total of four separate licenses had been issued to members of the community. It now appears that there may have been as many as thirty more weapons which were unlicensed, but this number was not known at the time of the COG's visit. (In this nation which has so much jungle and virgin land many residents possess sporting guns.)

(9) American citizens resident in Guyana are subject to the laws and regulations of that government just as are all private American citizens residing abroad in any sovereign nation. It would be beyond the authority of the Embassy to intrude on or attempt to

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EXERCISE CONTROL OVER SUCH CITIZENS. ITS ONLY FUNCTION VIS-A-VIS INDIVIDUALS IN THIS CATEGORY INVOLVES THE PROVISION OF CONSULAR SERVICES AND APPROPRIATE PROTECTIONS WHEN CALLED UPON BY THE INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES.

(10) THE PEOPLES TEMPLE, AS IS WELL-KNOWN, HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND MANY ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS BOTH FAVORABLE TO AND CRITICAL OF THE ORGANIZATION. ARTICLES IN THE LATTER CATEGORY OFTEN CONTAIN LETALLY UN-SUBSTANTIATED CHARGES AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION OF WHICH THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WAS GENERALLY AWARE. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME A LARGE AMOUNT OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM PRIVATE CITIZENS IN THE US WHICH HAS BEEN STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF, AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF, THE PEOPLES TEMPLE. THE EMBASSY DID NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONDUCT ANY SORT OF INVESTIGATION OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE NOR WOULD IT HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE OR EVEN LEGAL FOR THE EMBASSY TO ATTEMPT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION IN VIEW OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. ALL OF THE INFORMATION ON THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY WAS OF COURSE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

DURING THE TWO DAYS HE WAS IN GEORGETOWN PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO JONESTOWN, CONGRESSMAN RYAN REVEALED THAT HE HAD AN IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE US WHICH FAR EXCEEDED ANY SUCH KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN.

(11) INsofar AS IS KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, THE COG HAS NEVER RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH.

II. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING THE EMBASSY HAS THE

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FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS AS TO POINTS WHICH MIGHT ASSIST
IN PREPARING REPLIES TO SOME OF THE OTHER QUESTIONS
POSED BY CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI:

(A) IN PREPARING THE REPLY TO QUESTION 6 DEPARTMENT
SHOULD BE SURE TO REVIEW GEORGETOWN 2287 OF SECT 1,
1977, REPORTING ON CONSUL MCCOY'S FIRST VISIT TO
JONESTOWN, AND PARTICULARLY THE REFERENCE TO THE FACT
THAT JONES APPARENTLY PAID FOR THE REPATRIATION OF
ONE OF THE JONESTOWN RESIDENTS [REDACTED] AT THAT TIME. E 26
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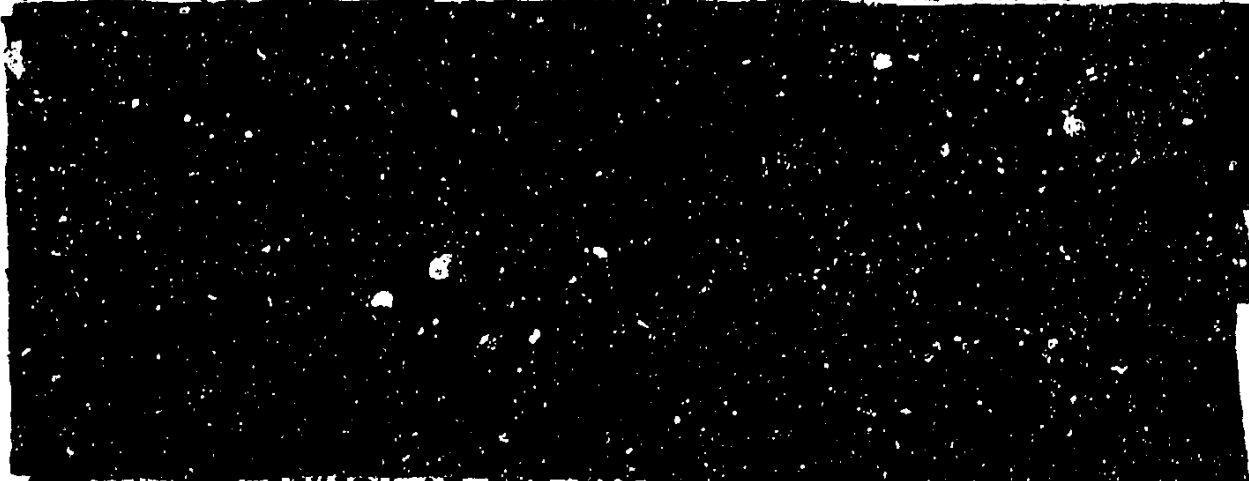
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(C) IN ITS REVIEW OF THE FILES ON PEOPLES TEMPLE THE
DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE OF VARIOUS
INTERVENTIONS BY ONE JOSEPH A MAZOR, A PROFESSIONAL
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FROM SAN FRANCISCO. IN 1977
MAZOR HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH THEN CONSUL MCCOY ON
BEHALF OF CERTAIN CLIENTS IN CALIFORNIA WHO WERE
CONCERNED ABOUT NEXT-OF-KIN AT JONESTOWN. MAZOR CAME
TO GUYANA DURING SEPT OF THIS YEAR AND ACTUALLY PAID
A VISIT TO JONESTOWN FROM SEPT 11 TO 13. ON HIS RETURN
TO GEORGETOWN ENROUTE BACK TO THE US MAZOR MET WITH
CONSUL ELLICE AND SHARED WITH HIM HIS IMPRESSIONS OF

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JONESTOWN. THE MEMCOY INTERVIEW RESULTING FROM THIS
INTERVIEW WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY SEPTEL.
THE MAZOR CASE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANCE
BECAUSE OF MAZOR'S PROFESSIONAL AND THE FACT THAT HE
HAD REPRESENTED NEXT-OF-KIN IN CALIFORNIA WHO WERE
QUITE CRITICAL OF THE TEMPLE AND ITS ACTIVITIES.

(D) IN RECORDING EMBASSY GEORGETOWN CONTACTS WITH THE
PEOPLES TEMPLE IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FORMER
AMBASSADOR MAX KREBS PAID A VISIT TO JONETOWN IN
OCTOBER OF 1975. (THE PRECISE DATE IS UNCERTAIN;
HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR KREBS MAY BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IT
IF THE DEPARTMENT WERE TO CONTACT HIM AT HIS RETIREMENT
ADDRESS.) ON THE BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS HERE, IT IS
BELIEVED THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE MADE A

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VISIT IN COMPANY WITH TWO JUYANESE COUPLES.
EMBASSY HOPES THAT THE FOREGOING INFORMATION WILL
BE OF VALUE IN FRAMING THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO
CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S LETTER.

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