



GROSS MARGARET A  
76 GEORGETOWN 3929

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BE FERRIED TO THE JONESTOWN SITE, INACCESSIBLY EXCEPT BY AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, THE GOG MINISTRY OF INFORMATION (MOI) ARRANGED SOME FLIGHTS IN GOG AIRCRAFT, STIRRING PROTESTS OF FAVORITISM FROM THOSE NOT INCLUDED. SOME REPORTERS ALSO OBTAINED PRIVATE AIRCRAFT TO TAKE THEM TO THE SCENE, WITHOUT NECESSARILY OBTAINING REQUIRED PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE MOI. THE SECOND PROBLEM IS ONE OF COMMUNICATIONS, OR THE LACK OF IT. MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS DID NOT FUNCTION FOR THE FIRST 36 HOURS, AND EVEN NOW THERE ARE BOTH TECHNICAL AND FUNCTIONAL PROBLEMS IN GETTING FACTS TO THE MEDIA. LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ARE SORELY STRAINED; ONE REPORTER SAID HIS STORY WAS FILED ONLY PARTIALLY BECAUSE THE TELEX OPERATOR SAID IT WAS TOO LONG AND

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OTHERS WERE WAITING.

4. A PRESS BRIEFING SET UP BY USICA NOVEMBER 22 INCLUDED USAF PERSONNEL, A CONSULAR EXPERT FROM STATE, AND AN MOI REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY UNPREPARED. SOME 75 REPORTERS FUMED AND BLUSTERED ABOUT U.S. FAILURE TO INTENSIFY SEARCH EFFORTS, FAILURE TO FERRY THEM TO JONESTOWN (A COVER-UP SHOUTED ONE), FAILURE TO PREDICT THE DANGERS, FAILURE TO REACT QUICKLY ENOUGH. YET THE BRIEFING WAS VALUABLE IN GETTING SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO MOST OF THE MEDIA, AS WELL AS CLARIFYING THE MILITARY MISSION.

5. USICA SET UP PRESS CENTER AS FOCAL POINT FOR MEDIA. WORKING WITH EMBASSY, USAF AND MOI TO COORDINATE INFORMATION. CARACAS ACAA PAT MOSER AND AR DEPUTY POLICY OFFICER FRED SHAVER WORKED WITH USICA STAFF IN HANDLING QUERIES, COORDINATING INFORMATION EFFORTS, AND PULLING TOGETHER AVAILABLE MATERIAL IN ONE LOCATION.

6. LOCAL MEDIA HAVE REACTED WITH SHOCK AT JONESTOWN INCIDENT, WITH MASSIVE COVERAGE IN GEORGETOWN BY NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS (THERE IS NO TELEVISION). BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF THE U.S. OR ANY ASPECT OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AS YET BEYOND DETAILS OF HANDLING OF CONSULAR AND MEDIA AFFAIRS. AND POST HAS IMPRESSION BASED ON PERSONAL CONTACTS THAT DESPITE OPPOSITION PARTY'S EFFORTS TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL OF IT, THERE IS NO TENDENCY TO MAKE OF THIS MORE THAN THE PERSONAL TRAGEDY OF MASSIVE PROPORTIONS IT ACTUALLY IS.

7. THERE MAY IN FACT BE SOME GAIN FROM ALL THIS. A REPORTER ASKING USAF ABOUT POLITICAL PROBLEMS INTERFERING

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WITH SEARCH AT PRESS BRIEFING WAS TOLD BY AN EXPERIENCED  
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