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ORIGIN CIA-15

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DRAFTED BY ARA:JBUSEWELL:SM/JE

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FM SECRETARY WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

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P.O. 11052: N/A

INFO: CASC, ORRP (RYAN, LEO), GY

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF THE SPECIAL BRIEFING ON THE  
GUYANA SITUATION, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1978

ORIGIN TRANSCRIPT:

MR. CARTER: THIS IS A ONE SUBJECT BRIEFING. THE BRIEFER  
IS AGAIN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHWELL. THE SUBJECT  
IS GUYANA AND THE ASSOCIATED INFORMATION THAT GOES WITH  
THAT PARTICULAR TRAGEDY.

MR. BUSHWELL: I THOUGHT THAT WEDNESDAY MIGHT BE THE LAST  
TIME I WOULD BE HERE, BUT I THINK THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH  
DEVELOPMENTS SINCE TO WARRANT GOING OVER THEM AND PUTTING  
THEM IN PERSPECTIVE FOR YOU.

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THE FIRST THING THAT I MIGHT DO IS TO REVIEW OUR LATEST  
 STATISTICS WHICH I HAVE JUST GOTTEN FROM OUR AMBASSADOR  
 IN GUYANA WITHIN THE LAST HOUR.  
 AS WITH ANY NUMBERS, I THINK IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO CON-  
 CENTRATE ON THESE AS BEING RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST ONE OR  
 TWO, BUT IT AT LEAST GIVES A GENERAL FRAME.  
 AS OF ABOUT AN HOUR AGO 485 BODIES HAD BEEN MOVED FROM  
 JONESTOWN TO EITHER A STAGING AREA WHERE THEY WOULD BE  
 LOWERED INTO HELICOPTERS OR FURTHER. SOME BODIES, OF  
 COURSE, HAVE ALREADY--QUITE A NUMBER--HAVE ALREADY AR-  
 RIVED AT DOVER. BUT FROM, IN SOME POINT OF MOVEMENT, 485.  
 TWENTY ADDITIONAL BODIES HAVE BEEN BAGGED AND THEY HAVE  
 JUST MADE THIS MORNING A RATHER CAREFUL HAND COUNT OF 270  
 ADDITIONAL BODIES. THAT GIVES A TOTAL OF 775. THAT DOES  
 NOT INCLUDE THE FIVE BODIES THAT WE HAVE ALREADY IDENTI-  
 FIED; FOUR WHO DIED IN GEORGETOWN ITSELF OF THE PEOPLES  
 TEMPLE MEMBERS, ONE PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBER WHO DIED IN THE  
 INCIDENT AT THE AIRPORT, AND, OF COURSE, IT DOES NOT  
 INCLUDE THE MEMBERS OF THE CODEL.  
 THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THAT IS A FULLY COMPLETE NUMBER.

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... A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER. OR THEY THINK THERE  
... A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER. OF ADDITIONAL BODIES  
... THE JONESTOWN AREA NOT INCLUDED IN THAT COUNT.

... THAT IS WHERE WE STAND AT THE MOMENT AS FAR AS THE  
... ARE CONCERNED; APPROACHING 800. UNTIL THESE  
... ARE MOVED AND PROCESSED WE WILL NOT HAVE A FINAL  
... COUNT. THAT MAY NOT EVEN BE UNTIL SOME TIME  
... AFTERNOON.

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... DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE FOUND AN AREA REMOVED  
... SEPARATE FROM JONESTOWN WHERE THERE WERE A LARGE  
... OF BODIES. THESE BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE  
... AREA.

I WOULD RECALL THAT THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE THAT WE HAD  
... MONDAY AND TUESDAY OF ABOUT 400, OR 410 WAS THE  
... SOME PEOPLE VERY USING WAS A ROUGH PRELIMINARY  
... MADE BY THE GUYANESE POLICE FORCES WHEN THEY  
... INITIALLY CAME INTO THE AREA. IT WAS NOT OBVIOUSLY A  
... HEAD-BY-HEAD COUNT.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA--AND I THINK I CAN ONLY  
... THEM AS BEING VIRTUALLY UNIMAGINABLE, PARTI-  
... AS OF THIS WEEK IN THE TROPICS HAS PROGRESSED--  
... MADE IT A VERY PLEASANT TASK WORKING THERE.  
... PERSONNEL ALL USE GAS MASKS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE  
... GEAR. COUNTING THE BODIES HAS NOT BEEN A HIGH PRIORITY  
... PEOPLE ON THE GROUND. GOING AHEAD WITH THE  
... IDENTIFICATION AND THE BAGGING IN ORDER TO BRING  
... THEM OUT HAS BEEN THE HIGH PRIORITY.

SO, IT HAS ONLY BEEN AS WE HAVE COME DOWN TOWARDS THE END  
... THIS, MOVING THE NUMBER OF BODIES OUT, THAT WE HAVE  
... TO COME TO MORE OF A COUNT.

QUITE A NUMBER OF THE BODIES OF INFANTS HAVE BEEN FOUND  
... UNDER THE BODIES OF ADULTS AND WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT COUNTED  
... IN THE FIRST ROUND. THE PRESENT ESTIMATE IS THAT AMONG  
... THE DEAD ARE 180 CHILDREN, AT LEAST 180 CHILDREN UNDER  
... FIFTEEN.

OUR GENERAL EFFORT, AS I THINK YOU ARE AWARE FROM OTHER  
... SOURCES, TO MOVE THE BODIES BY HELICOPTERS DOWN TO  
... GEORGETOWN AND THEN BY THE C-141S TO DOVER, IS PROGRESSING.  
... IT IS MOVING AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN. IT WILL CONTINUE

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... THROUGH TOMORROW, PROBABLY INTO SATURDAY, BEFORE WE GET  
... ALL OF THESE BODIES LIFTED OFF FROM JONESTOWN AND GEORGE-  
... TOWN AND INTO DOVER. IT MAY EVEN RUN INTO SUNDAY BEFORE  
... THE LAST PLANES ARRIVE.

... WE TURN TO ONE OTHER ASPECT OF THIS STORY, WHICH I  
... THINK GIVING YOU SOME SPECIFICS WHICH ARE NOT QUITE SO  
... GRUESOME WILL BE USEFUL. THAT HAS BEEN THE QUESTION

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WHAT HAS ARISEN IN A NUMBER OF AREAS: WERE WE DOING ENOUGH TO SEARCH FOR POTENTIAL SURVIVORS WHO MIGHT HAVE LEFT THE CAMP AND BEEN IN THE JUNGLE SURROUNDING THE CAMP?

I WOULD SAY, AND AS I SAID FROM THIS PLATFORM BEFORE AND HAS BEEN CLEAR THROUGHOUT WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WORKING ON THIS IS THAT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE CARING FOR THE LIVING AND THE SEEKING OF SURVIVORS WHO MIGHT ~~BE~~ ALIVE. WE HAVE DONE THAT THROUGHOUT THIS OPERATION AND CONTINUE TO DO THAT TODAY.

BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN UNTIL WE HAVE GOTTEN THESE LATEST COUNTS THAT THERE SEEM TO BE QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE MISSING. HIGH PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SEEKING OF SURVIVORS IN THE JUNGLE AREAS. AS YOU KNOW, ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY A FEW PEOPLE, A SMALL NUMBER, WERE FOUND. U.S. AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO RECONNOITER THE AREA FROM THE AIR AND, IN FACT, THESE SEARCHES AND SCOUTING FLIGHTS CONTINUE. YESTERDAY AIRCRAFT WERE DEVOTED TO GOING UP AND DOWN THE RIVERS. TODAY FOUR HELICOPTERS ARE FLYING SEARCH PATTERNS ANNOUNCING BY BULLHORN THAT HELP IS AVAILABLE.

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HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE CONDITIONS THE MAIN SEARCH EFFORT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT ON THE GROUND BY THOSE WHO KNOW THE COUNTRYSIDE. THIS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA. SINCE TUESDAY THE GUYANESE DEFENSE FORCE HAS BEEN USING A BATTALION-SIZE FORCE, 300 TO 400 PEOPLE, TO CONDUCT GROUND SEARCHES ALONG THE JUNGLE TRAILS IN THE REGION. ALL TRAILS OUT OF JONESTOWN--A LIMITED NUMBER--HAVE BEEN SEARCHED AND THE INHABITANTS ALONG THEM HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED. STARTING WEDNESDAY THEY HAVE BEEN USING GUIDES FROM THE LOCAL INDIAN TRIBES IN THE AREA.

ON THURSDAY A RECONNAISSANCE HELICOPTER WITH A JOINT U.S. AND GUYANESE CREW SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY COMBING THE REGION, TOUCHING DOWN AT CLEARINGS AT INDIAN SETTLEMENTS AND TALKING WITH THE PEOPLE TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE OF ANY SURVIVORS IN THE AREA.

IN THIS EFFORT WE BELIEVE THE REGION HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY COVERED. WE BELIEVE THAT IN TALKING TO THE INDIANS AND THE SEARCH THAT HAS BEEN MADE WE WOULD HAVE TURNED UP ANY HINTS IF THERE WERE SURVIVORS IN THE AREA. NO TRACE OF ANY ADDITIONAL SURVIVORS HAS APPEARED.

MOREOVER, OF THE FEW SURVIVORS THAT RETURNED TO JONESTOWN, DID NOT THEMSELVES, IN TALKING WITH THEM, INDICATE THAT THERE WERE OTHERS IN THE JUNGLE.

NONETHELESS, WE THINK THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED, AND WE ARE CONTINUING THE INTENSIVE SEARCH

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EFFORT WITH THE GUYANESE WITH THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY  
BEING THEIRS.  
I SHOULD POINT OUT THIS IS AN AREA OF JUNGLE CANOPY, SUCH  
AS MANY OF YOU HAVE SEEN IN VIETNAM WHERE IT IS LITERALLY

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IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE EVEN THINGS AS BIG AS TANKS AND TRUCKS  
IN THE JUNGLE CANOPY FROM THE AIR. SO FINDING INDIVIDUALS  
WOULD BE EXTREMELY HARD. THE HELICOPTER SEARCH IS OB-  
VIOUSLY NOT THE BEST WAY TO GO ABOUT THIS.  
OUR MAIN CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEARCH HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE  
NEEDED EQUIPMENT TO THE GUYANESE POLICE AND MILITARY EN-  
GAGED IN THIS WHICH THEY LACKED. I CAN INDICATE WHAT  
SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE SO-  
VIDED SIXTEEN PORTABLE RADIOS, WALKIE-TALKIES, THREE-  
FM BASE STATIONS, TWO SINGLE SIDE BAND RADIOS, A NUMBER  
OF SLEEPING BAGS, BLANKETS, SOME THOUSANDS OF C RA-  
TIONS, FIVE OUTBOARD MOTORS, FIVE POWER GENERATORS, A  
TIONS, FIVE OUTBOARD MOTORS, FIVE POWER GENERATORS, A  
LARGE NUMBER OF FLASHLIGHTS, PONCEOS AND CANTERNS, THE  
SORTS OF THINGS THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE NEEDED TO MAINTAIN  
DEPLOYMENT IN THIS AREA WORKING ON THIS PROJECT OVER THE  
LAST WEEK.

AS WE HAVE GOTTEN THE LATEST FIGURES, IT DOES NOT SUGGEST  
THAT THERE IS ANY LARGE NUMBER OF SURVIVORS OUT THERE, BUT  
EVEN IF THERE ARE ONLY A FEW WE WANT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT  
TO IDENTIFY THEM AND DO WHAT WE CAN TO RESCUE THEM.  
THIS EFFORT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL WE ARE QUITE SURE THAT  
THERE ARE NOT ANY FURTHER SURVIVORS. IN PART THAT WILL  
COME ABOUT AS WE ARE ABLE TO PROCESS SOME OF THE DOCUMEN-  
TATION THAT WE HAVE RECOVERED FROM THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AND  
CAN GET SOME BETTER LISTING OF NAMES AND MORE PRECISE  
INFORMATION OF HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE IN THE TEMPLE IN THE  
JONESTOWN SETTLEMENT ON LAST SATURDAY.  
WITH THAT I WILL STOP THIS INTRODUCTION AND TAKE QUESTIONS.

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Q YOUR FIGURE OF 775, YOU SAID IT DOES NOT INCLUDE HOW  
MANY PEOPLE WHO DIED IN GEORGETOWN AND THE OTHERS? HOW  
MANY IS IT; FIVE IN TOTAL?

A THERE WERE FIVE BODIES WHICH WE TOOK OUT OF GEORGE-  
TOWN WHO DID NOT DIE IN JONESTOWN. THIS CONSTITUTED FOUR  
PEOPLE IN ONE FAMILY WHO DIED IN GEORGETOWN ITSELF LAST  
SATURDAY AND ONE PERSON FROM THE TEMPLE WHO DIED WITH  
THE CODEL.

Q AND HOW MANY SURVIVORS HAVE THERE BEEN BITEEN THAT  
HAVE SHOWN UP IN GEORGETOWN OR SOMEWHERE ELSE? BECAUSE YOU  
MENTIONED 72 THIS WEEK.

A THERE IS NOW SOMETHING BETWEEN SEVENTY AND EIGHTY  
PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDES, AS I SAID, SEVERAL CATEGORIES.

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SOME WHO WERE AT THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE IN GEORGETOWN LAST SATURDAY. THEY WERE NOT IN JONESTOWN. SOME WHO WENT TO THE AIRPORT--TO PORT KAITUMA--WITH THE CODEL AND NEVER WENT BACK TO JONESTOWN. SOME WHO ESCAPED FROM JONESTOWN, WHICH IS A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER, AT THE TIME OF THE EVENTS THERE LAST SATURDAY. BUT THE SUM TOTAL OF THAT IS IN THE VICINITY OF 75 TO 80. I AM NOT SURE OF A PRECISE FIGURE ON THAT.

Q IN ADDITION TO THIS LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THAT YOU MENTION, OUR GIVING THE GUYANESE DEFENSE FORCES, ARE WE PAYING THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA ANYTHING OR PROVIDING ANY SORT OF SUBSIDY FOR THEM TO CARRY OUT THE SEARCH OR TO DO ANYTHING ELSE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INCIDENT?

A NO, WE ARE NOT. THEY ARE MEETING THEIR OWN EXPENSES BEYOND THE SORTS OF THINGS THAT WE ARE PROVIDING TO THEM, AND THEY HAVE MADE NO REQUEST FOR FINANCING. THEY HAVE MADE REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS WHICH THEY

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NEEDED.

Q MR. FUSHNELL, TO CLARIFY WERE THESE ADDITIONAL BODIES WERE COUNTED. THEY WERE ALL PRESUMABLY AROUND THE SEED WHERE THE OTHER BODIES WERE OR WERE ANY IN THE JUNGLE? COULD YOU ELABORATE A LITTLE ON THAT?

A I DON'T HAVE FULL DETAILS ON THIS. THEY WERE ALL IN THE SETTLEMENT. THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THEY WERE AROUND THE PAVILION. I THINK SOME REPORTS I HAVE SEEN SUGGEST SOME WERE FOUND IN THE HOSPITAL, SOME MAY HAVE BEEN FOUND IN OTHER BUILDINGS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

I SUPPOSE IT IS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR WHERE THE DEFINITION OF THE SETTLEMENT AND THE JUNGLE BEGINS, BUT ESSENTIALLY THEY WERE NOT FOUND AT A DISTANCE FROM THE JONESTOWN SETTLEMENT. THEY WERE FOUND IN THE IMMEDIATE REGION, BUT NOT NECESSARILY ALL AROUND THE PAVILION, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY THAT IS WHERE THE LARGEST NUMBER WAS.

Q DID THEY SEEM TO HAVE DIED FROM POISONING OR WERE THERE ADDITIONAL GUNSHOT CASES?

A UNTIL ALL THE BODIES ARE PROCESSED WE CANNOT BE DEFINITIVE ON THAT. BUT THUS FAR WE HAVE FOUND ONLY A HAND FULL THAT HAVE GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

Q ARE THESE NEW BODIES?

A OF THE BODIES THAT HAVE BEEN PROCESSED. WE CANNOT SEPARATE NEW FROM OLD. ESSENTIALLY OUR TEAMS HAVE GONE IN THERE AND HAVE BEGUN PROCESSING THE BODIES

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ONE AT A TIME. THEY HAVEN'T SELECTED ANY NEW VERSUS OLD. THEY PROCESSED THEM AS THEY COME TO THEM.

Q BY ALL INDICATIONS AND THESE NEW FIGURES, IT WOULD

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INDICATE THAT THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, SURVIVORS AT ALL. HOW MANY WOULD YOU ESTIMATE BASED ON HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE WERE AT JONESTOWN?

A. WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT RECOVERED ABOUT 870 PASSPORTS. THAT MAY INCLUDE, OF COURSE, SOME DUPLICATIONS, OLD PASSPORTS, NEW PASSPORTS, UNTIL WE PROCESS THEM. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL PEOPLE COUNT THE NUMBERS OF BEDS IN THE JONESTOWN COMMUNITY AND THE COUNT IS ABOUT 600 SINGLE BEDS.

WE HAVE A PETITION WHICH WAS SIGNED SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH THE REVEREND JONES, WHICH WAS SIGNED IN EARLY NOVEMBER, WHICH HAS BETWEEN 600 AND 700 NAMES SIGNED ON IT.

IF WE TAKE THESE SORTS OF INDICATIONS I THINK THE SUGGESTION IS THAT THERE IS NOT A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNACCOUNTED FOR. THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY TO SAY THAT THERE ARE NO PEOPLE UNACCOUNTED FOR, ALTHOUGH THAT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT WE HAVE NONE UNACCOUNTED FOR. BUT WE CERTAINLY HAVE NOW A NUMBER OF BODIES WHICH SEEMS TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF WHAT OTHER INDICATIONS AND SOURCES WOULD SUGGEST WERE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE IN JONESTOWN LAST SATURDAY.

Q. MR. BUSEWELL, THAT PETITION YOU REFERRED TO, IS THAT THE ONE THAT PROTESTED THE EMINENT VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN OR THE PROJECTED VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN?

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A. I HAVE NOT READ THE TEXT OF THAT, SO I CANNOT SAY WHETHER IT PROTESTED IT OR NOT. IT IS A PETITION, I GATHER, THAT WAS EXECUTED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR REVEREND JONES AND I GATHER IT WAS DONE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE VISIT OF THE CODEL.

Q. IS THAT AVAILABLE HERE, THE TEXT OF THAT?

A. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE TEXT IS AVAILABLE HERE. I THINK THAT OUR EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN HAS A COPY OF IT. BUT I AM NOT SURE IT IS AVAILABLE HERE. I HAVEN'T MYSELF SEEN IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FIGURE FOR THE COST OF THE WHOLE OPERATION, INCLUDING TRANSPORT TO DOVER, SENDING DOWN THE AIRPLANES, THE WHOLE THING?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE FIGURE ON THAT. IN FACT, TO COME UP WITH ANY RELIABLE FIGURE WILL TAKE A LOT OF TIME TO GET ALL THE ACCOUNTING DONE.

FURTHERMORE, I THINK THERE ARE SOME VERY MAJOR CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS IN HOW ONE LOOKS AT THE COST. MOST OF THE MANPOWER INVOLVED HERE--IN FACT, ALL OF IT ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SIDE--ARE PEOPLE THAT ARE ALREADY EMPLOYED, ALREADY BEING PAID, EITHER IN THE MILITARY OR IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE OR IN THE FBI OR WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE THAT ARE WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM. SHOULD ONE

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INCLUDE THEIR SALARIES FOR THIS TIME OR SHOULD ONE NOT?  
THAT IS A CONCEPTUAL PROBLEM WHICH WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT  
DIFFERENCE IN THE COST.

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SIMILARLY, VERY LITTLE NEW EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN BOUGHT FOR  
THIS OPERATION. WE ARE USING AIRPLANES, HELICOPTERS, EVEN  
A MORTUARY, ALL OF WHICH WERE IN THE INVENTORY, IN EFFECT,  
AND ARE BEING USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOW SHOULD ONE CON-  
SIDER IN DOING COST DEPRECIATION ON THIS, IF AT ALL?  
THERE ARE CLEARLY COSTS, SUCH AS THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE,  
THE PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL PER DIEM, WHICH HAVE A SPECIAL  
RELATIONSHIP TO THIS MISSION.

BUT EVEN BEYOND THIS THERE IS THE QUESTION OF TRAINING  
THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE RATHER DIFFICULT RESPONSIBILITIES  
ARE GETTING THROUGH WITH, TRAINING WHICH WOULD IF  
THERE WERE A TRAINING EXERCISE HAVE BEEN COSTLY.

SO, TO COME UP WITH FIGURES ON THIS IS VERY HARD.

MY INDICATION IS THAT, THE LAST THING THAT THE PEOPLE  
WOLD BE AS HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE, IN TERMS OF THE COST  
NOW BEING ACCUMULATED WE ARE BETWEEN TWO AND THREE MILLION.

THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL COSTS OBVIOUSLY COMING IN. WE  
MIGHT HAVE MORE FLIGHTS TO RUN IN TERMS OF BRINGING OUT  
ADDITIONAL BODIES AND IN TERMS OF RETURNING THE EQUIPMENT  
WHICH IS DOWN THERE. JUST WHERE THIS FIGURE WILL COME  
OUT EVENTUALLY AND ON WHAT CONCEPT IT SHOULD BE DONE, I  
THINK ARE QUESTIONS THAT WILL REQUIRE A LOT OF SORTING  
OUT.

Q CAN YOU CLARIFY, THOUGH, WHERE YOU GET THE \$2 MILLION  
OR \$3 MILLION FIGURE? IS THAT THE GASOLINE AND PER DIEM  
FIGURE AS DISTINCT, THEN, FROM THE SALARIES YOU WERE  
TRYING NOT TO COUNT?

A THAT IS CORRECT. THOSE ARE THE COSTS THAT ARE IDENTIFIED  
IN THE CURRENT JOB SYSTEM AS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH  
THIS OPERATION.

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Q MR. BUSEWELL, YOU SPEAK OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN  
BURIED UNDERNEATH THEIR PARENTS OR OTHER ADULTS. WHAT  
OTHER REASONS WOULD YOU HAVE FOR THIS RATHER DRAMATIC  
RISE IN THE FIGURES THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, OR IS  
THAT THE SOLE REASON?

A I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE SOLE REASON. I THINK THAT,  
AS I SAID AT LEAST WHEN I FIRST GAVE OUT THE 400 FIGURE,  
THAT WAS A FIGURE QUICKLY DONE BY THE GUYANESE PEOPLE WHO  
MOVED INTO THE AREA INITIALLY IN THE DARK AND IN THE RAIN;  
THE RAIN CONTINUED AND THIS WAS A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION.  
IT IS NOT CLEAR ON WHAT PRECISE BASIS THEY CAME UP WITH  
THAT FIGURE. IT WAS NOT EVER PRESENTED AS A CAREFUL  
COUNT, AND GIVEN THE SITUATION AND THE BASIC UNPLEASANT

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NESS OF THE SITUATION THERE, I DON'T THINK THAT IT IS TOO SURPRISING THAT THE NUMBER WAS OFF. OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS OFF BY A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT.

ALSO, I DO NOT HAVE A FEEL YET AS TO HOW MANY BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN OTHER BUILDINGS AND SO FORTH. WEICE THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE OF AT THE TIME THEY GAVE THEIR FIRST ESTIMATE. NOTE THE GUYANESE FORCES AND OUR OWN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RATHER CAREFUL THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, AS IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THERE WERE MORE BODIES, THAT UNTIL THEY HAD TIME TO DO SOMETHING SOMEWHAT MORE SYSTEMATIC NOT TO SIMPLY GIVE OUT ANOTHER ESTIMATE WHICH MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN TOTALLY WRONG. EVEN TODAY, AS I SAID, WE ARE NOT SURE THAT WE HAVE COUNTED ALL THE BODIES. UNTIL MORE ARE PROCESSED AND THEY CAN REALLY COME THE AREA, AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE PROCESSED ALL THE BODIES THERE, WE WILL NOT HAVE A FINAL FIGURE.

Q SO, YOU'RE SUGGESTING THE NUMBER HAS BEEN RISING

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STEADILY OVER THE PAST COUPLE DAYS?

A LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: IT SEEMS THAT ALL THE BODIES THAT WERE THERE ON SATURDAY WAS THE POPULATION OF BODIES. AS WORK HAS PROCEEDED AND HAS BECOME APPARENT TO PEOPLE WORKING THAT AS THEY HAD PROCESSED 300 THERE WERE MORE THAN 100 LEFT. PRECISELY HOW MANY WERE LEFT WOULD REQUIRE COUNTING, AND THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR SCHEDULES AND MEET THE ABILITY TO MOVE THE BODIES OUT OF THERE THAN TO GO AROUND AND COUNT.

Q WAS THE FIRST COUNT, THE ONE THAT CAME UP WITH THE 200 FIGURE ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY, WAS THAT DONE ON THE GROUND OR FROM THE AIR?

A IT IS MY INFORMATION THAT THAT WAS AN ESTIMATE MADE BY THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND.

Q GIVEN THE NEW COUNT, MR. BUSHNELL, AND THE RATE AT WHICH THESE BODIES ARE BEING PROCESSED AND FLOWN TO DOVER, WHEN WOULD YOU THINK THE OPERATION WOULD BE COMPLETED?

A WE HAVE A NUMBER OF UNCERTAINTIES IN THIS SITUATION. WE WILL TRY TO PROCEED, OBVIOUSLY, JUST AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT GET THE LAST BODIES OUT OF JONESTOWN UNTIL SOMETIME VERY LATE TOMORROW OR SUNDAY. THAT WILL PUT THEM IN DOVER, OF COURSE, WITH A LAG FOR LOADING IN GEORGETOWN ON THE SEVEN-HOUR FLIGHT. IF THINGS GO WRONG, IF THE WEATHER TURNS BAD ON US, IT COULD SLIP FURTHER. IF WE GET THESE TORRENTIAL DOWNPOURS, THEN THE HELICOPTERS CANNOT FLY.

Q MR. BUSHNELL, MANY OF THE RELATIVES OF THESE DEAD PEOPLE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FINANCIAL HARSHIP THEY WILL HAVE TO ENDURE ONCE THEY CLAIM THE BODIES AND

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FLY THEM BACK TO SAN FRANCISCO AND MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR  
A FUNERAL. IS THERE ANY CONTEMPLATION GIVEN TO THE CHANCE  
OF LOADING THESE BODIES ONTO A PLANE AND FLYING IT TO  
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE SOMEWHERE NEAR SAN FRANCISCO WHERE  
MOST OF THESE PEOPLE, WHERE THEIR HOME TOWN WAS LOCATED,  
SO THAT IT WOULD EASE THE HARDSHIP ON THESE RELATIVES?  
LET ME DEFINE HOW WE HAVE AT THIS POINT DECIDED WHAT  
IT IS REASONABLE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PAY FOR AND  
WHAT SHOULD BE PAID IN SOME OTHER WAY. THIS HAS BEEN, NO  
MATTER WHICH NUMBER ONE USES, A TERRIBLE CALAMITY VIRTUALLY  
UNPRECEDENTED IN RECENT TIMES. IT HAS HAPPENED IN A REMOTE  
AREA OF A RELATIVELY POOR COUNTRY WHICH ITSELF DID NOT  
HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO HANDLE THIS SORT OF SITUATION IN  
TERMS OF IDENTIFYING BODIES AND PROCESSING THEM AND WORKING  
THIS PROBLEM OUT. MOREOVER, THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WERE  
ALMOST ALL AMERICANS. IN FACT, PROBABLY THE ONLY ORGANIZA-  
TION IN THE WORLD THAT COULD HAVE COPEL WITH THIS PROBLEM  
IN A REASONABLE TIME IS THE U.S. MILITARY. SO THAT WE  
FELT THAT IT WAS ONLY REASONABLE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT  
TO USE THE RESOURCES THAT WERE AVAILABLE IN TERMS OF  
TRANSPORTATION. IN TERMS OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND BODY  
PROCESSING, BOTH IN GUYANA AND THEN AT THE DOVER FACILITY.  
IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF THESE PEOPLE.  
WE HAVE PROCEEDED TO DO THAT AT THE TAXPAYERS' COST WITH  
GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

ONCE THE REMAINS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND PROCESSED AT  
DOVER, THEY CAN THEN BE HANDLED BY THE NORMAL COMMERCIAL  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY  
ARE EXPERIENCED AT DOING THIS. THEY HAVE ARRANGEMENTS TO  
RECEIVE THEM AT DOVER AND TO PROCESS THEM. FROM THAT  
POINT ON, THE INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE, OF COURSE, DIFFERENT

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DEPENDING ON THE VARIOUS BELIEFS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF  
NEXT-OF-KIN. WE FELT THAT THAT WAS REALLY THE POINT AT  
WHICH WE SHOULD TURN IT OVER. THAT IS THE SITUATION IN  
WHICH THE INCIDENT, AS FAR AS REMAINS GO, CEASES TO BE  
SO UNUSUAL THAT ONLY A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH  
ITS SPECIAL FACILITIES COULD HANDLE IT, AND IT COULD THEN  
BE HANDLED IN THE NORMAL WAY.  
I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE STANDARD IS FOR AMERICANS  
DYING OVERSEAS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE REMAINS OR FOR BRINGING THEM HOME--  
THIS IS LEFT UP TO THE FAMILIES.

SO, ON THE ONE HAND, I SUPPOSE, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, WE  
WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN THOSE PEOPLE WHO THINK WE  
SHOULDN'T HAVE MET ANY EXPENSES AND THOSE WHO THINK WE  
SHOULD MEET ALL THE EXPENSES UNTIL FINAL INTERMENT. BUT  
IT SEEMS TO US THAT A REASONABLE AND LOGICAL BREAK IN  
THAT PROCESS WAS AT THE POINT AFTER THE PROCESSING. IN

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DOVER WERE THE ESTABLISHED FUNERAL DIRECTOR INDUSTRY IN THIS COUNTRY CAN REASONABLY ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY.

MANY OF THESE FAMILIES WERE POOR BLACK FAMILIES WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THERE. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE SAYING YOU HAVEN'T SET UP ANY WAY SO THAT EVEN THESE FAMILIES CAN GET SOME TYPE OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IF THEY ABSOLUTELY CAN'T AFFORD TO HANDLE THE --

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT REALLY ADDRESSED THAT ISSUE, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE STATUS WOULD BE IN TERMS OF THAT IF THESE FAMILIES ARE IN A WELFARE SITUATION, HOW IN THE VARIOUS STATES, WHICH I SUPPOSE ARE DIFFERENT, WOULD HANDLE THE SITUATION; BUT I THINK THAT IS THE AREA IN WHICH THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT, AND I SUPPOSE IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE STATES AND THE VARIOUS LOCALITIES

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AND SO FORTH.

Q WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH UNCLAIMED BODIES, IF ANY?

A TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE ARE UNIDENTIFIED--AND WE CANNOT RULE THAT OUT; THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY HORRENDOUS IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY OF CHILDREN-- UNIDENTIFIED BODIES OR UNCLAIMED BODIES THAT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE THEM A DECENT AND DIGNIFIED BURIAL IN THE DOVER AREA.

Q YOU SAID A FEW MOMENTS AGO THAT ALMOST ALL THE VICTIMS WERE AMERICANS. WERE THERE ANY NON-AMERICANS AMONG THEM?

A WE HAVE FOUND FOUR NON-U.S. PASSPORTS AMONG THE PASS- PORTS THAT WE HAVE LOOKED AT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WERE SOME CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN IN GUYANA WHO WERE LIVING IN THE CAMP. WE HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AND ASSUMED AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP OR NOT. THESE NUMBERS, AS YOU SEE, ARE VERY SMALL, BUT THERE DOES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN A RATHER SMALL NUMBER --

Q WHAT KIND OF PASSPORTS?

A I DON'T RECALL PRECISELY WHAT THE FOUR NON-U.S. PASS- PORTS WERE.

Q MR. BUSHELD, WHY WERE THESE BODIES NOT FLOWN DIRECTLY TO CALIFORNIA? WHY WERE THEY FLOWN TO A POINT 3,000 MILES AWAY FROM WHERE MOST OF THE PARENTS AND RELATIVES WERE FROM?

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A WE FACED THE PROBLEM OF MOVING THESE BODIES AS RAPIDLY AS WE COULD FROM WHERE THEY WERE IN GUYANA TO THE CLOSEST FACILITY WHICH COULD REASONABLY HANDLE THEM WHICH WAS DOVER AND WHICH WE CAN MAKE WITH THE C-141 IN ONE HOP. THIS WAS THE FACILITY WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FELT WAS BEST SET UP, THE MOST ADEQUATE TO SERVE THEM. THEREFORE, GIVEN

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THESE LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THAT IS THE FACILITY THAT  
WE DECIDED TO USE. IF YOU RECOGNIZE THAT GUYANA IS QUITE  
EAST, THEIR TIME IS TWO HOURS AHEAD OF OURS, AND YOU  
RECOGNIZE THAT, GEOGRAPHICALLY, THERE IS A LOT OF EAST-  
WEST DISTANCE BETWEEN GUYANA AND CALIFORNIA AS WELL AS,  
OF COURSE, THE NORTH-SOUTH DISTANCE, WHICH IS ABOUT THE  
SAME WHETHER YOU'RE GOING TO DELAWARE OR TO CALIFORNIA.  
THEREFORE, THAT WAS THE LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATION THAT MOVED  
US TO CHOOSE DOWER, AS WELL AS THE CONSIDERATION, FOR  
REASONS WHICH AREN'T COMPLETELY CLEAR IN DETAIL TO ME,  
THAT THIS FACILITY SEEMED TO BE THE BEST DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE FACILITY TO HANDLE THIS TASK.

Q WHO PAID FOR THE SHIPMENT OF THE BODIES OF THE NEWS-  
MEN BACK TO CALIFORNIA?

A I BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE MOVED ON THE SAME PLANE AS  
THE CONGRESSMAN, AND WHETHER THAT WILL BE PAID FOR OUT OF  
CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS OR OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE  
BRANCH WE'LL WORK OUT. THE MOVEMENT OF THE REMAINS OF  
THE CONGRESSMAN HOME IS, OF COURSE, DONE AT GOVERNMENT  
EXPENSE.

Q MR. BUSHNELL, THE ORIGINAL REPORTS FROM JONESTOWN  
SAID THAT AMERICAN PERSONNEL THOUGHT THAT THEIR TOP  
PRIORITY WAS LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS. WAS THERE ANY  
SORT OF CHANGE IN MISSION? WERE THEY ORIGINALLY TOLD  
TO GO DOWN AND DO ONE THING AND THEN, IN MID-STREAM, TOLD  
TO DO SOMETHING ELSE, OR WAS THAT JUST A MISINTERPRETATION?

A I THINK THAT'S A MISINTERPRETATION, AND I SUPPOSE IT

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DEPENDS ON WHOM YOU ARE TALKING TO. THE GRAVES IDENTIFI-  
CATION UNIT, THE PEOPLE WHOSE JOB IT IS TO PROCESS BODIES.  
IF YOU TALK TO THEM, THEIR JOB--MEANING THE JOB OF THAT  
UNIT--WAS, OBVIOUSLY, TO GO DOWN AND GET THE BODIES OUT.  
THEY WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH AND RESCUE SORT OF  
OPERATION, SO AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, YOU COULD FIND PEOPLE  
WHOSE JOB, IF THEY SPOKE FOR THEM OR THEIR UNIT, WAS TO  
GET THE BODIES OUT, AND THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE THAT WAS  
NEEDED FOR THAT WAS SENT DOWN THERE.

WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT WAS THE PRIORITY IN TERMS OF THE  
TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORT WAS, FIRST OF ALL, TO LOOK  
FOR SURVIVORS AND TRY TO HELP THEM, AND ONLY THE SECONDARY  
PRIORITY WAS FOR MOVING THE BODIES.

Q THERE IS A STORY TODAY IN THE POST QUOTING MR. MARK  
LANE AND SUGGESTING THAT HE KNEW MORE ABOUT JONESTOWN THAN  
HE TOLD THE NEWSMEN BEFORE THEY WENT IN THERE. IS ANY  
IDEA BEING GIVEN OF TALKING TO HIM AS PART OF THE WHOLE  
INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT?

A I CAN CONFIRM THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM THE  
EMBASSY TALKED TO HIM WHEN HE WAS IN GEORGETOWN. WHAT  
HE SAID IS COVERED BY THE PRIVACY ACT--WHAT HE SAID TO US.  
WHAT HE SAID TO YOU AND OTHERS WE'LL ALL READ.

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Q HODDING, HAS THERE BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CALLS AND LETTERS THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS RECEIVING FROM RELATIVES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF OTHER CULTS EXPRESSING CONCERN?

MR. CARTER: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. I CAN FIND OUT, HOWEVER, AND JUST PUT IT TO

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THE PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE DIVISION.

Q ANOTHER PART OF THAT QUESTION, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING CHANGING ITS POLICY SO THAT IT BECOMES A LITTLE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN INVESTIGATING THESE COMPLAINTS, OR IS IT GOING TO STICK WITH THE POSITION THAT IT TOOK ON JONESTOWN, THAT THIS WAS BASICALLY A FREEDOM-OF-RELIGION CASE?

MR. CARTER: I THINK, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, I COULDN'T ACCEPT THE PREMISE OF THE QUESTION—THAT IN FACT WE DID PURSUE THE COMPLAINTS.

Q I'M SAYING "MORE AGGRESSIVELY"; NOBODY IS SAYING THAT YOU DIDN'T—

A I GUESS EVEN THERE, I HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY. "MORE AGGRESSIVELY", MEANING WHAT, SENDING SPECIAL TEAMS OUT WHEN YOU HAVE THIS KIND OF THING?

Q MAKING AN EFFORT TO ARRIVE UNANNOUNCED, OR WHATEVER.

A THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS INHERENT IN A LOT OF THIS, INCLUDING WHAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE IN RELATION TO AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD, OR AT HOME FOR THAT MATTER. I BELIEVE THAT, OBVIOUSLY THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO EXAMINE WHAT HAPPENED HERE AND LOOK AT IT VERY CLOSELY. BUT I HAVE TO START WITH THE PREMISE THAT IN FACT THE CONSULAR SERVICE, AND THE CONSULAR OFFICERS SPECIFICALLY IN GEORGETOWN WHO WENT TO JONESTOWN, DID INVESTIGATE AGGRESSIVELY AND MADE EVERY EFFORT THAT THEY COULD TO FIND OUT WHAT THE SITUATION WAS. BUT LET ME, ON YOUR OTHER QUESTION, IF YOU DON'T MIND, JUST GIVE A CHECK BACK ON THE NEWS ROOM AND TO THE PRESS OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON.

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Q COULD I ASK JUST ONE QUESTION ABOUT THE COST OF THE TRANSPORT OF THE BODIES FROM DOVER TO CALIFORNIA. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO USING WHAT I BELIEVE IS A SUM OF MONEY FOUND IN JONESTOWN FOR THIS PURPOSE?

MR. BUSHNELL: THERE ARE VERY COMPLICATED ESTATE AND RELATED QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO THAT MONEY. IT IS ALSO NOT CLEAR WHAT ROLE THE PEOPLES TEMPLE ORGANIZATION IN CALIFORNIA WILL PLAY IN THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE SURVIVORS OF THIS GROUP ARE MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE, AND CONCEIVABLY, THAT COULD BE AN OUTCOME. BUT

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THAT IS REALLY UP TO THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED TO DECIDE.  
AND WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THEM.

Q HAS THERE BEEN SOME DISCUSSION IN GEORGETOWN AMONGST  
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISERS AND THE GUYANESE  
OF HAVING TO RAZE JONESTOWN AND BURN IT TO THE GROUND  
BECAUSE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS?

A THE GENERAL STATUS OF THE HEALTH PROBLEM HAS BEEN  
KEPT UNDER CONTINUAL REVIEW. THEY HAVE NOT COME TO THE  
CONCLUSION THAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS NECESSARY AT THIS  
TIME, AND I THINK BY THE NATURE OF THAT PROBLEM, IT WILL  
NOT BE ABLE TO BE ASSESSED UNTIL ALL THE BODIES ARE  
REMOVED AND THERE IS A CERTAIN PASSAGE OF TIME. THEN THAT  
ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED, DEPENDING ON THE SITUA-  
TION AT THAT TIME.

Q BUT IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED?

A TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THAT HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AMONG

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PEOPLE THERE. I THINK THEY HAVE HAD OTHER MORE URGENT  
PROBLEMS TO BE THINKING ABOUT IN THE STATE THAT WE ARE  
NOW IN.

Q WAS THERE ANY EXPERT PATHOLOGIST WHO EXAMINED THE  
BODY OF JIM JONES SPECIFICALLY THERE, OR WILL ANY SPECIAL  
MEDICAL ATTENTION BE PLACED ON HIS BODY IN DOVER?

A THE GUYANESE MEDICAL EXAMINER, I THINK IT IS SAFE  
TO SAY, FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON HIS CASE AT THE SITE. I  
CANNOT COMMENT ON WHAT WILL BE DONE AT DOVER. YOU WOULD  
HAVE TO GET THAT FROM THE PEOPLE THERE.

MR. CARTER: SINCE WE ARE NOT HAVING A BRIEFING, I WOULD  
JUST REMIND YOU THAT WE DO HAVE A SKELETON STAFF IN THE  
PRESS OFFICE. IF THERE ARE OTHER SUBJECTS THAT CONCERN  
YOU, PUT THEM. ON THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION, I'LL SEE  
WHETHER I CAN'T GET THE PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE DIVISION  
TO ANSWER IT.

Q THANK YOU. END TRANSCRIPT. CHRISTOPHER

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