

GROSS MARGARET A
78 GEORGETOWN 3951

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 FEIE-00 JUSE-00 L-03
H-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15
SSO-00 /053 W

-----090539 262153Z /14

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0221

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 3951

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, UREP, GY

SUBJECT: VERIFYING REMOVAL OF ALL HUMAN REMAINS FROM JONESTOWN SITE

REV: (A) STATE 299118 (B) BUSHNELL/WARD TELCON 11/26/78

FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO PARA 2 OF REFTEL (A):

2. ACTIONS TAKEN BY U.S. MILITARY:

A) UPON ARRIVAL AT SITE, THE JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF)

MET WITH NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS AND THE COMMANDANT OF THE

GDF BATTALION WHO HAD ARRIVED AT THE JONESTOWN SITE SUNDAY

NIGHT. THESE OFFICIALS TOOK THE JTF THROUGH THE AREA,

EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD ALREADY SEARCHED EVERY RESIDENCE AND

BUILDING, AND POINTED OUT THE LOCATIONS OF THOSE BODIES NOT

AMONG THE MAIN GROUP AROUND THE CENTRAL PAVILION. THESE

OFFICIALS ALSO PROVIDED THE JTF WITH THE FIRST ESTIMATED COUNT.

B) THE JTF THEN MADE THEIR OWN SEARCH, ENTERING EVERY

BUILDING AND COVERING EVERY INCH OF TERRAIN.

C) THE JTF REMOVED THE ISOLATED REMAINS FIRST, BEFORE

ADDRESSING THE TASK OF REMOVING THOSE PILED AROUND THE PAVILION.

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D) ALTHOUGH THE PRESENCE OF UNDISCOVERED BODIES WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS FROM THE STRONG ODOR ALONE, THE JTF MADE ANOTHER COMPLETE SWEEP OF ALL BUILDINGS AND THE AREA AFTER ALL BODIES HAD BEEN BAGGED. COL. WILLIAM GORDON, USA, ADVISED THE AMBASSADOR SATURDAY NIGHT THAT A CHECK PRIOR TO FINAL DEPARTURE OF THE JTF DISCLOSED NO REMAINS OR EVIDENCE OF REMAINS OTHER THAN THE FIVE GRAVESITES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

3. ACTIONS TAKEN BY EMBASSY OFFICERS:

A) CONSULAR OFFICER RICHARD MARTIN WAS AT THE SITE

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. DURING THESE TWO VISITS HE COMBED THE

AREA LOOKING FOR ANY IDENTIFIABLE PERSONAL EFFECTS WITH ANY

VALUE. HE ENTERED ALL OF THE ADMIN. BUILDINGS IN WHICH BODIES

HAD INITIALLY BEEN DISCOVERED, MOST OF THE OTHER RESIDENCES AND

ENCOUNTERED NO HUMAN REMAINS.

B) CONSULAR OFFICER JAMES WARD WAS AT THE SITE ON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, TO MAKE AN ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTENCE OF

ANY TANGIBLE PERSONAL ESTATES AND THE FEASIBILITY OF SECURING

THEM. DURING THIS EXERCISE HE ENTERED ALL BUILDINGS WHERE

BODIES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, ALL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES,

INCLUDING THE PAVILION, ALL LARGE DORMITORIES AND A NUMBER OF

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THE SMALL RESIDENCES. HE DISCOVERED NO FUMAN REMAINS. HE ALSO
OBSERVED THE LOADING OF THE LAST REMAINS OF THE TRANSPORT
HELICOPTER.

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