

1284

GROSS MARGARET A
79 PORT OF SPAIN 3405

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 31 PORT 0 23405 01 OF 02 271952Z

SECTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-21 ISO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 FBIL-00 CIAP-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 SCS-06 F-02 /241 W

099216

Z 271948Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO USINFO WAFDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3292
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT OF SPAIN 23405
FOR FIM/3C, AF
E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

27-2006Z 741	
DEPARTMENT OF STATE L/CDC/LR	
REVIEWED BY _____	DATE _____
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DATE _____	
IN _____ (S) _____	
FOR _____	
BY _____	
FOR _____	

1. MONDAY NOVEMBER 27 TRINIDAD EXPRESS PUBLISHED EDITORIAL OPINIONS COMMENTING ON GUYANA TRAGEDY UNDER THE "A SAD WEEK FOR GUYANA." EDITORIAL SAID "THE JONESTOWN HORROR PROVIDES A LESSON THAT GUYANA'S PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM AND ALL WHO THINK LIKE HIM SHOULD LEARN." EDITORIAL CONTINUED THAT "IT IS A LESSON, TOO, FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WHICH LIKE BURNHAM'S IGNORED ALL THE WARNINGS, ALL THE DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING WAS TERRIBLY WRONG AT JONESTOWN.

2. AFTER CITING "EVIDENCE" SUCH AS LETTER FROM CLAIRE BOUCHET OF SAN MATTO "FIVE MONTHS AGO" DESCRIBING DANGERS OF PEOPLE'S TEMPLE, EDITORIAL SAID GUYANESE AMBASSADOR HAD DESCRIBED ALLEGATIONS AS "WILDLY INACCURATE." EXPRESS CONTINUED THAT "THE FACT APPEARS TO BE THAT MR. BURNHAM AND HIS COLLEAGUES EITHER THROUGH IGNORANCE OR UNWILLINGNESS TO HEAR THE TRUTH ALLOWED THE SO-CALLED REV. JIM JONES TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER.

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 22 PORT 0 23405 01 OF 02 271952Z

3. UNDER SUBJECT "PRESS NOT FREE," EDITORIAL SAID "MR. REID (GOG DEPUTY FM) SAYS GUYANA IS A FREE COUNTRY. BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE GUYANESE PRESS IS NOT FREE AND IS OFFICIALLY THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPAGANDA ARM." EXPRESS CONTINUED THAT "A FREE PRESS NO DOUBT WOULD HAVE INVESTIGATED THE JONESTOWN HUMORS AND COME UP WITH THE FACTS ON WHAT HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE THERE. BUT MUZZLED INTO SUBJECT SURRENDER BY 'DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT COMMUNICATION' THEORIES, GUYANA'S RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS COULD SEE NO EVIL IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNE, COULD HEAR NO EVIL AND WOULD REPORT NO EVIL.

4. "WE DO NOT WISH TO SEE IT IN," EXPRESS SAID. "GUYANA IS GOING THROUGH A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE WHICH NO COUNTRY IN THIS REGION HAS HAD TO FACE.

"BUT IT TOOK PLACE PRECISELY BECAUSE MR. BURNHAM'S BRAND OF SOCIALISM HAS INSULATED HIS COUNTRY INSIDE A COCCON HOVEN OF IDEOLOGY, SLOGANWEAVING, Rhetoric, AND RAPE

UNCLASSIFIED

CROSS MARGARET A
79 PORT OF SPAIN 3405

UNCLASSIFIED

OF THE INFORMATION MEDIA.

5. SAME ISSUE EXPRESS CARRIED APPROXIMATELY 30-COL-INCH ARTICLE FROM ITS CORRESPONDENT, RIC MENTUS, UNDER BANNER TITLED "SEX AND SCANDAL IN THE JONESTOWN JUNGLE." ARTICLE SAID JONESTOWN EVENTS HAD APOUSED GUYANESE FROM THEIR "SURFACE APPEARANCE OF APATHY" AND "MANY WERE BEGINNING TO ASK OF THEMSELVES AND OF THE 70-ODD FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN THE COUNTRY, WHAT WAS BEHIND THE WHOLE JIM JONES AFFAIR." MENTUS SAID THAT "UNLIKE THE PEOPLE IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES SERVICED BY THE NEWS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT IN GUYANA, THE GUYANESE PEOPLE SAW NO TELEVISION ACCOUNTS OF THE JONESTOWN DISASTER SINCE THE COUNTRY HAS NO TELEVISION."

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 22 PORT O 03405 01 OF 02 271958Z

6. ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT "GUYANA'S OWN NEWS SERVICES, OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT, WERE WOEFULLY INADEQUATE TO THE TASK OF INFORMING THE PEOPLE OF WHAT MUST BE THE GREATEST TRAGEDY EVER TO OCCUR IN THAT COUNTRY SINCE SLAVERY."

"AND BECAUSE OF THAT TOTAL CONTROL OF THE MEDIA," STORY SAID, "(BY JANUARY NEXT, GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OVER THE ONLY NON-STATE-OWNED VOICE LEFT IN THE COUNTRY) RADIO DEMERARA - THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT HAVE TO ANSWER A NUMBER OF EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE JIM JONES CONNECTION."

7. STORY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GUYANESE JOURNALISTS HAVE NOW CONFIRMED THAT "THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE PROVIDED FEMALE COMPANIONSHIP FOR TOP-RANKING GUYANA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BOTH IN GUYANA AND ABROAD." ARTICLE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT JONES HAD "MADE MOVIES AND TAPE RECORDING OF SEX SESSIONS BETWEEN TEMPLE WOMEN AND GUYANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS."

8. EXPRESS SUGGESTED THAT DESPITE ALL SUCH EVIDENCE, JONES AND PEOPLE'S TEMPLE WERE "HIGHLY ESTEEMED" BY GUYANESE GOVERNMENT. PAPER SAID PNC AND GOC "PLACED TEMPLE MEMBERS ON FIVE NATIONAL COMMITTEES - TWO AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEES IN THE AREA WHERE THE COMMUNE WAS; THE LABOUR DAY COMMITTEE TO PLAN ACTIVITIES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LABOUR DAY; AND THE NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE, ANOTHER NATIONAL BODY SET UP TO SUPERVISE RELIEF OPERATIONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS."

9. EXPRESS ARTICLE FURTHER HINTED THAT TEMPLE HAD PLANNED TO USE GUYANA NATIONALISATION FOR SOME OF ITS MEMBERS TO AVOID TAXES. ARTICLE SAID "FIVE MEMBERS OF THE TEMPLE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 2

GROSS MARGARET A
78 PORT OF SPAIN 7-05

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 21 PORT O 03405 02 OF 02 272003Z

ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-21 ISO-00 SY-05 SYF-20 FBIE-00 CIAF-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 SCS-05 F-02 /041 W

-----098317 272014Z /47

Z 271040Z NOV 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3293

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PORT OF SPAIN 03405

APPLIED ON APRIL 27 THIS YEAR FOR NATURALISATION, AND ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN GUYANA THEY WERE GRANTED NATURALISATION THE NEXT MONTH. THE REASON FOR THIS MOVE, PAPER SAID, "WAS THAT THE TEMPLE WANTED TO BE REGISTERED AS A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION IN GUYANA FOR TAX PURPOSES.

"THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE," PAPER EXPLAINED, "IF THE ORGANIZATION HAD FIVE GUYANESE AS TRUSTEES. SINCE THEY HAD NO GUYANESE IN THEIR MIDST, THE NATURALISATION MOVE WAS TAKEN TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT.

10. 'MENTUS' ARTICLE WAS FRANKED BY CANA REPORT, DATED LINED GEORGETOWN, UNDER FWD "REFLECTION OF MAD US LIFESTYLE -- PNC PAPER.

ARTICLE DESCRIBED CARTOON FROM PNC OFFICIAL ORGAN "NEW NATION" PICTURING HAND HOLDING BUTCHER'S KNIFE LABELLED "INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY" SLASHING YOUNG PLANT BEARING HAND "PEOPLE'S TEMPLE" WHILE BLOOD SPURTS FROM TRUNK. CANA STORY ALSO SAID NEW NATION HAD CHARGED THAT "MANY IN THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE TEMPLE'S JONESTOWN COMMUNE IN THE GUYANA JUNGLE SHOULD NOT SUCCEED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 22 PORT O 03405 02 OF 02 272003Z

"THAT SO MANY PEOPLE SHOULD WANT TO LEAVE THE 'COMFORT' OF THE UNITED STATES AND COME AND SETTLE IN GUYANA'S HINTERLAND REFLECTED ADVERSELY ON THE 'MAD AMERICAN' WAY OF LIFE." NEW NATION WAS REPORTED AS SAYING.

CANA ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT THE "CATHOLIC STANDARD" HAD CARRIED SIMILAR COMMENT. CANA QUOTED STANDARD AS SAYING: "BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE MEMBERS OF THE JONESTOWN COMMUNITY WERE IDEALISTIC PEOPLE ATTRACTED BY THE 'SOCIALISM' WHICH THE REV. JONES PREACHED. IN THE PERMISSIVE, CONFUSING AND MATERIALISTIC WORLD OF CALIFORNIA, THE RACIALLY MIXED, CRIPING COMMUNITY LIFE OFFERED BY THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE MUST HAVE EXERTED A POWERFUL ATTRACTION."

ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY REPORTING THAT "STANDARD" HAD JOINED "MIRROR" (OPPOSITION PPP ORGAN) IN "LAYING SOME OF THE BLAME" FOR LACK OF RATIONAL, PREVENTIVE ACTION TO OFFICIALDOM. "WHILE DELUSIONS AND HYSTERIA MAY HAVE GRIPPED THE MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE," STANDARD IS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 3

GROSS MARGARET A
72 PORT OF SPAIN 3425

UNCLASSIFIED

QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF THE UNITED STATES OR THE GUYANA GOVERNMENT."

11. SUNDAY EXPRESS CARRIED FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF BURNFAM AND JONES TOGETHER, SMILING, DURING "ONE OF JONES' VISITS TO THE COUNTRY WHEN PEOPLE'S TEMPLE WAS BEING SET UP."

CAPTION ALSO MENTIONED "TRINIDAD-BORN LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA MERVYN DYMALLY (NOT IN PICTURE), WHO TWICE VISITED THE JONESTOWN SETTLEMENT AND PRAISED THE WORK BEING DONE THERE."

12. FYI/REMINDER: TRINIDAD GUARDIAN STILL NOT IN CIRCULATION DUE STRIKE-LOCKOUT. ASKEY

UNCLASSIFIED