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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-13

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FOR PGM/RC, AR

L.O. 11632: NA
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION, GUYANA AFTERMATH

REF: ARA-71 OF NOVEMBER 22

ALL THREE MONTEVIDEO MORNING PAPERS EXPRESS DISBELIEF OVER THE
INCREDIBLE REPORTS OF MASS SUICIDE OF AMERICANS IN GUYANA WHICH
HAS BEEN SENSATIONALIZED IN THE URUGUAYAN MEDIA FOR THE PAST
TEN DAYS:

PRO-GOVERNMENT EL PAIS NOVEMBER 26, PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL HEADED
"INCREDIBLE EXPLOSION OF FANATICISM" COMMENTING:
"THE DANTESQUE EPISODE, WHICH MUST NOT HAVE PRECEDENTS EVEN
AMONG THE MOST BACKWARD AFRICAN TRIBES, DEFILES THE HUMAN CONSCIENCE
AND SENSIBILITY AND CASTS DOUBTS ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR MODERN
CIVILIZATION."

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MOSCONE/MILL ASSASSINATIONS, THE LEADING
MONTEVIDEO DAILY PUBLISHED ANOTHER EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 30 UNDER
THE HEADING, "WITH THE SMELL OF WATERGATE."

EL PAIS FOUND IT "SURPRISING AND WITHOUT ANY POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION
THAT A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO ROSALYNN CARTER SENT AN
AFFECTIONATE HANDWRITTEN LETTER TO JONES" AND THAT "HIGH OFFICIALS
SUCH AS VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE DEDICATED HIGHLY EULOGISTIC
CONCEPTS TO HIM AND HIS SECT."

EL PAIS CONCLUDED BY ASKING RHETORICALLY, "IS IT THAT PERHAPS NO
ONE, EXCEPT THE UNFORTUNATE CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN,
HAD THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION ABOUT
THE DARK ACTIVITIES OF JONES AND HIS 'TEMPLE'? ARE WE NOT -- GOD
FORBID -- HEADED TOWARD THE EXPLOSION OF A DEMOCRATIC WATERGATE?"
ON THE OTHER HAND, INDEPENDENT EL DIA CALLED THIS SORT OF INTERPRETATION
OF THE FACTS BY THE PRESS "A SCANDAL."

IN AN EDITORIAL HEADED, "IN THE FACE OF A SCANDAL, EL DIA
COMMENTED NOVEMBER 30 "EVERYONE KNOWS NOW
SECRETARIES OF THOSE WHO HOLD HIGH OFFICES
CAREFULLY AND FAITHFULLY RESPOND TO ALL CORRESPONDENCE.
SO, THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN THE FACT THAT HAVING RECEIVED A LETTER
FROM THE LEADER OF A RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT WHICH EXPRESSES KIND SENTIMENT

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FOR A CANDIDATE OR PUBLIC FIGURE, THAT SECRETARIES LATER ACKNOWLEDGE
RECEIPT OF THESE LETTERS AND EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION, EVEN MORE
SO IF THE LETTER CAME FROM SOMEONE WHO REQUESTED SUPPORT FOR ANY
SPIRITUAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUP."

IN CONCLUDING, EL DIA COMMENTED, AS FOR MONDALE OR MRS. CARTER, THE
STATEMENTS OF WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JOE PELLELL EVIDENTLY SEEM CORRECT

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"NOT BECAUSE ONE RESPONDS COURTEOUSLY TO SOMEONE WHO LATER
ASSASSINATES HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, DOES ONE BECOME RESPONSIBLE
FOR THAT DEATH."

NATIONALISTIC PRO-MILITARY LA MANANA, NOVEMBER 28, ALSO
PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL ON THE GUYANA TRAGEDY WHICH IT HEADED, "
DANGEROUS MANIFESTATION BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF SECTS."

LA MANANA COMMENTED, "THE UNUTTERABLE EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED
IN A REMOTE JUNGLE REGION OF GUYANA HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH
REMOVEDNESS, PROXIMITY NOR PRIMITIVENESS. THEY CONSTITUTE, FOR THOSE
WHO ARE SLOW IN GRASPING THE ESSENTIAL, THE FORCEFUL AND UNDISGUISED
EXPRESSION OF A WHOLE INTELLECTUAL AND ETHICAL CORRUPTION WHOSE TRUE
CONTENTION IS NOT ORDINARILY TRANSMITTED BY THEORETICAL
FORMULATIONS." PATE

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