

**EXCISE**

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WILLIAMS JESSIE M  
79 GEORGETOWN 4151

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISC-00 CIAE-03 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 SY-05 SYE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8370

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 4151

A.O. 12065: RDS-4 (12/7/84)(BURKE, JOHN R.) OR-M

SUBJ: "CHRONICLE" REFUTES AP ARTICLE ON PEOPLE'S TEMPLE  
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA (GOG)

1. (UNCLAS THE DEC 6, 1978 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED  
"GUYANA CHRONICLE" CARRIES A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED  
"A.P. STORY LINKING GOVT. PEOPLE'S TEMPLE FALSE." CHRONICLE  
ARTICLE SUMMARIZES AND REFUTES ALLEGATIONS MADE IN AN AP  
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY PETER ARNETT, ALLEGEDLY BASED ON A  
DOCUMENT FROM "JIM JONES" PAPERS. (COMMENT: THE EMBASSY  
HAS TO DATE NOT SEEN TEXT OF AP ARTICLE IN QUESTION. THE  
ARTICLE WILL OBVIOUSLY NOT APPEAR IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED  
PRESS HERE. END COMMENT.)

2. (UNCLAS) ACCORDING TO THE "CHRONICLE," THE ARNETT ARTICLE  
ALLEGES THAT MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS VIBERT MINGO (1) STOPPED  
AN INVESTIGATION OF JONESTOWN BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,  
(2) PROMISED TO INTERVENE IN THE CHILD CUSTODY CASE OF JOHN  
VICTOR STOEN AND PROTECT JIM JONES FROM ARREST; AND (3)  
INVITED PEOPLE'S TEMPLE (PT) MEMBERS TO VOTE ILLEGALLY ON  
BEHALF OF THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS(PNC) PARTY  
DURING THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM HELD LAST JULY. THE  
"CHRONICLE" ALSO STATES THAT THE ARNETT ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT  
JIM JONES CONSIDERED FORMER GOG MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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FED WILLS AS AN "ADVISER" ON POLITICAL, LOCAL AND SOCIAL  
MATTERS, AND THAT JONES APPROACHED PRIMIN BURNFAM, THROUGH  
THE "CUBANS," TO REQUEST THAT WILLS BE REINSTATED IN OFFICE.

3. (UNCLAS) THE "CHRONICLE" STATES THAT NONE OF THESE  
ALLEGATIONS HAS ANY TRUTH WHATSOEVER. THE PT WAS ALLOWED TO  
SETTLE IN GUYANA ONLY AFTER THE CREDENTIALS OF THE ORGANIZATION  
AND JIM JONES WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE SUBMISSION OF "HUNDREDS  
OF TESTIMONIALS." THE JONESTOWN AREA WAS VISITED FREQUENTLY  
BY OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND BY SENIOR OFFICIALS.  
BUT, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOG AND PT WERE CONDUCTED ON A  
NORMAL, BUSINESSLIKE BASIS. PT MEMBERS WERE GRANTED INTERVIEWS  
WITH GOG MINISTERS, INCLUDING MINGO, CONCERNING MATTERS WITHIN  
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTICULAR MINISTER. MINGO COULD  
NOT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO INTERVENE IN A COURT CASE BECAUSE SUCH  
AN ACTION WOULD BE AGAINST THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
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AND WOULD SUBJECT THE MINISTER TO LEGAL ACTION FOR ACTING OUTSIDE HIS SPHERE OF COMPETENCE. MINGO COULD NOT HAVE ASKED PT MEMBERS TO VOTE FOR THE PNC, BECAUSE AMERICAN CITIZENS CANNOT VOTE IN GUYANA.

4. (UNCLAS) THE "CHRONICLE" GOES ON TO CONTEND THAT THE GOG ONLY SOUGHT TO REMOVE THESE DOCUMENTS FROM JONESTOWN RELATING TO A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. JOURNALISTS WHO VISITED JONESTOWN EXAMINED DOCUMENTS AT THE PROJECT. IF THE GOG HAD ANYTHING TO HIDE, ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED BEFORE THE JOURNALISTS ARRIVED. (COMMENT: THE "CHORNICLE" DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY COMMENT ON THE ALLEGATION THAT JONES TRIED TO CONTACT BURNEAM CONCERNING FRED WILLS. END COMMENT.)

5. (UNCLAS) ACCORDING TO THE "CHORNICLE." THE GOG HAS SCEEDULED NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS WITE SENIOR LEVEL GOG OFFICIALS

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FOR THIS WEEK. IF ARNETT HAD NOT ALREADY LEFT GUYANA, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INTERVIEW GOG OFFICIALS AND THEREFORE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT FROM THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE SOURCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA.

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