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FEBRUARY 1, 1978

c/o MAYER, BROWN & PLATT  
888 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE: (202) 785-4443

HONORABLE WALTER F. MONDALE  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ATTENTION: MRS. ANN WRIGHT

DEAR MR. VICE PRESIDENT:

I DESPERATELY SEEK YOUR HELP IN HELPING MY WIFE AND I GET  
OUR SIX YEAR OLD SON, JOHN VICTOR STORN, NOW BEING HELD  
IN VIOLATION OF A CALIFORNIA COURT ORDER IN GUYANA,  
SOUTH AMERICA. THE MAN HOLDING OUR SON, JIM JONES, IS  
MANIFESTING EXTREME SYMPTOMS OF PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIA  
AND TALKING A LOT OF VIOLENCE. HE TELLS THE GUYANESE  
GOVERNMENT THAT THE U.S. POLITICIANS ARE ON HIS SIDE. THE  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER INTERVENED IN THE "SUMMARY" COURT  
PROCEEDINGS WE BROUGHT IN GUYANA AND NO DECISION HAS BEEN  
MADE AS OF NOW FIVE MONTHS LATER.

PLEASE, PLEASE HELP US BEFORE SOMETHING DREAFFUL HAPPENS.  
WE WILL BE GRATEFUL TO YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS.

SINCERELY,

Timothy Froen

ENC: HISTORY OF COURT EVENTS  
AND COPY OF COURT ORDER.

SCS CC 2782

I & N: STOEN, JOHN VICTOR

46

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

P780016-8994

REFERRAL

07 FEB 1978

To:

Congressional Liaison  
State Department  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Date:

February 1, 1978

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED

REVIEWED BY	DATE
RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or KDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE	
TS AUTH.	REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECLASSIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOTE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SASLES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RELEASE DENY <input type="checkbox"/>	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

- Draft reply for:
  - Vice President's signature.
  - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- Direct reply.
- Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

Priority action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS  
 07 FEB 7 AM 10 29  
 STAFF

REMARKS:

You apparently have this case in the Department.

Description:

Letter  Telegram  Other:

To: Vice President Mondale

From: Timothy Stoen, Atty. at Law, 120 Montgomery St., Suite 1700, San Francisco, Cal. 94104

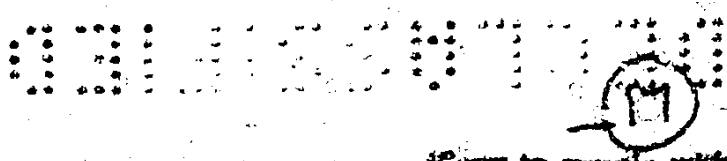
Date: Feb. 1, 1978

Subject:

*welfare of John Victor Stoen taken to Guyana.*

By direction of the Vice President

Anna S. Wright  
Special Assistant to the  
Vice President  
For Constituent Services



SCS CC 2082

6494

(49)

P787021-0464

February 13, 1978

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Thank you for your inquiry of February 1 concerning the case of John Victor Stoen, currently the subject of a custody dispute in Guyana. Similar expressions of interest have been received from several Members of Congress.

While we in the Department of State sympathize very much with Mr. and Mrs. Stoen in their efforts to regain custody of their son, regrettably there is little we can do to be of assistance. Neither the Department of State nor the courts of the State of California have the authority to enforce a U.S. court decision concerning the custody of John Victor as long as he is physically located outside of the United States. Child custody orders issued in the United States are normally not accepted for enforcement in another country on the basis of comity. While any American custody decision might be given evidentiary weight in the Guyanese proceeding, by no means will it be binding on that court.

Since the initiation of the custody suit in Georgetown last August, the Department of State and our Embassy in Guyana have been in close contact with the Stoens and their attorneys, both American and Guyanese. The Embassy has attended all court proceedings, when permitted to attend, and has assisted the Stoens in gaining access to Guyanese government officials. The Embassy has regularly had conversations with the opposing attorneys and has spoken with Mr. Jim Jones, the head of the People's Temple. As Mr. Jones is also an American citizen and entitled to the same rights and protection as Mr. and Mrs. Stoen, the Embassy has been careful to avoid prejudicing the outcome of the dispute. It is the Embassy's

The Vice President  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C. 20510

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/HR	
REVIEWED BY _____	DATE _____
EDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE _____	REASON(S) _____
TS AUTH. _____	ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>
DECLASSIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> RELEASABLE <input type="checkbox"/>	RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

responsibility to seek to ensure that the judicial outcome of the dispute results from a fair and impartial determination of the merits of the case, and all of our efforts are so directed.

Following a hearing held on January 10, Mr. Stoen's attorney stated that he anticipated a favorable decision at the conclusion of the proceedings. Mr. Stoen himself was guardedly optimistic in conversations with officers at the Department of State on January 27.

The Department will keep you informed on the progress of the case. Should you require further information, please contact Miss Elizabeth A. Powers, in our Office of Special Consular Services, Telephone 202-632-3015.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned

CA/SCS/Fipenneke:gjl:wp  
x29461 2/9/78  
P016-0994

Clearances: SCS-Ms. Powers  
SCS-Mr. Rivera  
SCS-Mr. Dobrenchuk  
SCS-Mr. Lambert  
CA-Ms. Watson  
H-Mr. Krizek