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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTS THAT USG DEAL

2 JAN 2 1979

WITH PRESS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GOG AMBASSADOR ON URGENT BASIS:

STATES THAT JAN I LOCAL MEDIA WILL CARRY STORY OF PEOPLES' TEMPLE

DELIVERY OF CASH TO SOVIET EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 18

REF? GEORGE DW11979 4516 AND (B) 4505 O

Assoc. Dir. Dep. AD Adm. Laboratory Legal Count Plan. & Insp. Rec. Mgnt. Tech. Servs. Training Public Affs. Off. Telephone Rm. Director's Sec'y

1. AT REGULT OF CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, CHARGE TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTER JACKSON AT HOME 1800 HOURS LOCAL DECEMBER 31. JACKSON ENQUIRED WHETHER CHARGE HAD YET HAD ANY RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE MADE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 29 (REFTEL A), REGARDING DEC. 24 NY TIMES REPORT THAT SENIOR USG OFFICIALS HAD DOUBTED WHETHER GOG AMBASSADOR MANN HAD IN FACT MADE ENQUIRIES IN US REGARDING PEOPLE'S TEMPLE. CHARGE REPLIED THAT MINISTER'S DEMARCHE HAD ALREADY BEEN REPORTED TO WASHING TON AND THAT HE HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM AMBASSADOR BURKE OF IT IN CONVERSATION LATER SAME DAY. CHARGE NOTED THAT AMB BURKE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON EVENING OF DECEMBER 30. CHARGE ADDED THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD WISH TO GIVE MATTER RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AND THAT SUCH CONSIDERATION MIGHT NOT BE FEASIBLE UNTIL AFTER HOLIDAY. CHARGE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE MINISTER AN INITIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE WISHED TO BE SURE THAT CHARGE UNDERSTOOD
THE GOG VIEW THAT THE MATTER IS URGENT, WHICH THE CHARGE PROMISED
TO CONVEY IMMEDIATELY TO DEPARTMENT.

- 2. JACKSON THEN STATED THAT HE WISHED

 CHARGE TO KNOW THAT GOG MEDIA WOULD CARRY ON JANUARY I REPORT

 OF DELIVERY OF VARIOUS CURRENCIES (BUT ALMOST NO US DOLLARS)

 TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY BY PEOPLE'S TEMPLE MEMBERS

 IN GEORGETOWN ON NOVEMBER 18, DATE OF ASSASSINATION OF CONGRESSMAN

 RYAN AND MASS DEATHS AT JONESTOWN. JACKSON SAID THAT TAPES

 HAD ALSO BEEN DELIVERED ALONG WITH THE MONIES.

 SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, HAD THEN TURNED MATERIAL

 OVER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (HE DID NOT SAY WHEN). IN RESPONSE

 TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE

 MATERIAL ITSELF OR TREATMENT THEREOF TO BE PARTICULARLY STARTLING

 OR SENSATIONAL.
- 3. COMMENT: FACT THAT MINISTER CHOSE TO REQUEST

 CONTACT WITH CHARGE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, AN IMPORTANT HOLIDAY IN

 GUYANA, SUGGESTS THAT HE IS BEING PRESSURED SURELY BY AMBASSADOR

 MANN IN WASHINGTON AND MOST PROBABLY BY SENIOR GUYANESE AUTHORITIES

 HERE. GOG UNDOUBTEDLY PLANNING RESPONSE TO NT TIMES STORY,

 AND HOPES FOR USG COMMENTS BEFORE SUCH RESPONSE IS MADE.

 INCIDENTIALLY, SIGNING OF USAID AGREEMENTS ON BOTH DECEMBER 28

 AND DECEMBER 30 RECEIVED PROMINENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE WITH

 PHOTOS OF SIGNING IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED NEWSPAPERS AND PROMINENT

 MENTION ON RAD IO, WHICH MAY WELL BE GOG SIGNAL OF ITS CONSIDERATION

 AS TO HOW COMMENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS SHOULD BE HANDLED IN

 THE MED IA.

DWYER