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SHEAFFER JEANNE M
79 GEORGETOWN 232

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00232 171743Z

ACTION: ARA-15

INFO CCT-01 ISO-00 CCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCF-00

ICAE-00 CIAR-00 DODE-00 FM-05 E-02 INR-10 E-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 ACTA-12 SP-22 SS-15 /074 W. STATE A/CDC/MR

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECRETARY WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0743
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 0232

SEARCHED	INDEXED	DATE
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P.O. 12055: NA
PASS: PINT. BY

SUBJ: GOG ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION OF
INQUIRY INTO JONESTOWN TRAGEDY

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA (GOG) ANNOUNCED LATE YESTERDAY
(JAN 18) THAT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET A PUBLIC INQUIRY
WILL BE HELD "SHORTLY" INTO THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY. PRESIDENT
CHUNG WILL APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY,
WHICH IS TO BE CHAIRED BY A PERSON OF "JUDICIAL STATURE".
ACCORDING TO THE GOG, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION WAS
DELAYED TO ALLOW FOR THE HANDLING OF MORE "IMMEDIATE"
MATTERS, SUCH AS THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

2. SPECULATION AS TO WHO WILL BE APPOINTED HEAD OF THE
COMMISSION CENTERS ON JUSTICE J.C.W. BAYNES, CHANCELLOR OF
THE JUDICIARY, AND JUSTICE VECTOR CRANE, OF THE COURT OF
APPEAL. ALTHOUGH SOME GOG OFFICIALS MAY BE TEMPTED TO URGE
PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM TO POLITICALLY INFLUENCE THE CONDUCT
AND FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION, THE CREDIBILITY OF THE GOG
IN THE EYES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY WILL

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00232 171743Z

BE DAMAGED IF IT APPEARS THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE BEING
SUBJECT TO POLITICAL PRESSURE.

3. COMMENT: GOG HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FOR SOME TIME
FROM THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) AND
OTHER CRITICS (P.C., THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE CATHOLIC
NEWSPAPER WEEKLY) TO HAVE A FULL INQUIRY. FOR WHATEVER
REASON OR REASONS, GOG APPARENTLY NOW FEELS IT MUST HAVE SOME
SPEAK OF HIRING OF THE MATTER.

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