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FAIR TRIAL OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENCES,"
THE TRIAL OF AMCIT CHARLES BEIKMAN, WHO IS CHARGED WITH THE
MURDER OF LINDA (SHARON) AMOS AND HER CHILDREN, IS SCHEDULED FOR
THE APRIL ASSIZES. A DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET FOR THE SECOND
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE MURDERS OF CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN
AND FOUR OTHERS OF WHICH LAWRENCE LAYTON IS ACCUSED.

3. (C) [REDACTED]

B1/ED

4. (UNC) JUDGE VICTOR CRANE, 59, IS A BRITISH-TRAINED
BARRISTER WHO WAS ADMITTED TO THE BARS OF GUYANA AND ST. LUCIA
IN 1949. FROM 1957 TO 1963 HE WAS CHIEF MAGISTRATE IN NIGERIA.
HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE APPEAL COURT IN GUYANA IN 1969 AND
WON THE CACIQUE CROWN OF HONOUR, GUYANA'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR
SERVICE, IN 1975. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE DAUGHTER.

5. (C) CRANE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING THOROUGH AND
METICULOUS. HE IS PROBABLY CONCERNED, AS MOST GUYANAES
LAWYERS OF GOOD REPUTE WOULD BE, TO AVOID ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT
PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF THE BEIKMAN AND LAYTON MURDER TRIALS.
THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT CRANE MAY BE EITHER THE NEXT
CHANCELLOR OF THE JUDICIARY OR THE NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE.
PRESUMABLY HIS CHANCES FOR EITHER APPOINTMENT FROM THE BURNHAM
GOVERNMENT COULD BE INFLUENCED BY HIS HANDLING OF THE PEOPLE'S
TEMPLE INQUIRY.
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END OF MESSAGE

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 L-03 F-01 SY-05 FRIE-00 OCS-06
CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /062 W
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9344

INFO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1471

CARACAS FOR LEGATT

FASS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR JIM BERGEN

E.9. 12065: GDS 4/3/85(DWYER, RICHARD A.) OR-M

TAGS: PINT, PINR, 3Y

SUBJ: COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY

REF: GEORGETOWN 0232

1. (UNC) APPEAL COURT JUDGE VICTOR CRANE HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE SOLE COMMISSIONER TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ON MARCH 31, 1979. THE GOVERNMENT HAD ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR THE COMMISSION ON JANUARY 16, 1979.

2. (UNC) THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND THE DATE FOR ITS COMMENCEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN SET, HOWEVER, THE PRESS RELEASE REPORTS THAT "THE COMMISSION WILL...HAVE... TO PROCEED IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO PREJUDICE THE RIGHT TO A

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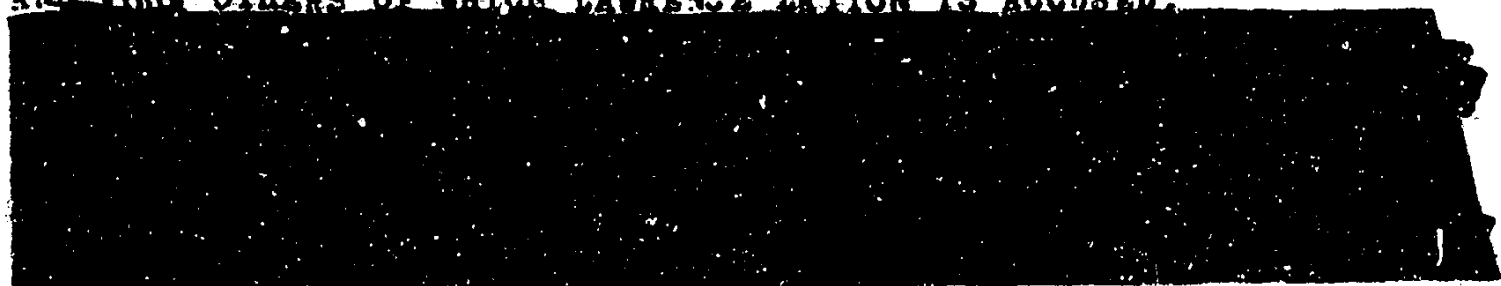
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