

WILLIAMS JESSIE M  
79 GEORGETOWN 2693

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02693 171552Z

ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 E-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-15  
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R 151330Z JUN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9996  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 2693

E.O. 12065: NA  
PAGS: OREP (RYAN, LEO)  
SUBJ: GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL REPLIES TO CRITICISM OF 303 RE  
JONESTOWN.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY.

CHRISTOPHER (KIT) NASCIMENTO MINISTER IF THE OFFICER OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER, HAS WRITTEN A LENGTHY LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
OF CARIBBEAN CONTACT RESPONDING TO AN ARTICLE BY GORDON LEWIS  
CARRIED IN THE MAY ISSUE WHICH CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT OF  
GUYANA'S ROLE IN THE JONESTOWN AFFAIR. NASCIMENTO IDENTIFIES  
SEVERAL "ERRORS" IN THE LEWIS PIECE AND RIDICULES THE NOTION  
THAT AS MUCH INFORMATION WAS KNOWN, OR COULD HAVE BEEN KNOWN,  
ABOUT JONESTOWN BEFORE NOVEMBER 18, 1979, AS IS KNOWN NOW.  
HE ALSO DRAWS AN INTERESTING PARALLEL BETWEEN THE INHABITANTS  
OF JONESTOWN AND THE "PILGRIM FATHERS" WHO SETTLED IN  
MASSACHUSETTS IN 1620. END SUMMARY.

2. NASCIMENTO'S LETTER TO CONTACT APPEARS UNDER THE  
HEADLINE "GUYANESE GOVERNMENT MINISTER COMPARES JONESTOWN  
"SETTLERS" WITH PILGRIM FATHERS." NASCIMENTO BEGINS

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HIS LETTER BY SAYING THAT "JONESTOWN WILL ... CONTINUE  
FOR MANY YEARS TO PROVIDE A HAPPY HUNTING GROUND FOR  
ANALYSTS ... (WHO WILL WRITE ARTICLES) FULL OF WISDOM  
BORN OF HINDSIGHT," AND INDICATES HE IS RESIGNED TO  
THIS FACT. HE TAKES EXCEPTION, HOWEVER, TO WHAT HE  
TERMS AS PROFESSOR LEWIS' CONFUSION OF SPECULATION WITH  
FACTS.

3. CHALLENGING THE CONTENTION THAT PRIME MINISTER  
BURNHAM HAD HAD "FRIENDLY RELATIONS" WITH JIM JONES,  
NASCIMENTO STATES THAT BURNHAM AND JONES MET ONLY ONCE,  
WHEN JONES WAS INTRODUCED TO HIM BY THE THEN LT. GOV.  
OF CALIFORNIA, MERVIN DYALLY. A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING  
JONES AND BURNHAM TOGETHER WHICH ILLUSTRATED PROF.  
LEWIS'S ARTICLE WAS TAKEN ON THE OCCASION BUT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	RECEIVED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 2/24/81
FOR THE SECRETARY	DATE 1-13-81	
FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES	DATE 1-13-81	
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NASCIMENTO CLAIMS THAT DIMALLY'S IMAGE WAS CROPPED FROM THE PHOTO TO IMPLY A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JONES AND BURNHAM THAN EVER EXISTED. (COMMENT: THE PHOTO WAS COPIED FROM A PEOPLES TEMPLE PUBLICITY PROCEDURE.) HE DERIDES LEWIS' STATEMENT THAT "KIT NASCIMENTO... HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY JONES, STATING FLATLY THAT HE (NASCIMENTO) NEVER MET JONES. THOSE WHO HAD MET JONES, AND HAD VISITED THE COMMUNE, HE POINTS OUT, INCLUDED A PRESIDENT OF A FAMOUS UNIVERSITY, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF A MAJOR COUNTRY, THE CONSUL OF ANOTHER MAJOR COUNTRY, PROMINENT OVERSEAS CONSULTATIONS AND SPECIALISTS, ALL OF WHOM SIGNED THE GUEST BOOK WITH STATEMENTS SUCH AS "A VERY IMPRESSIVE START."

.. THIS SHARED PERCEPTION OF JONESTOWN AS A WHOLESOME ENDEAVOR, NASCIMENTO CLAIMS, IS THE ANSWER TO "PROF. LEWIS'S 'TESAING QUESTION' WHY DID GUYANA 'ALLOW ITSELF TO BECOME A WILLING COLLABORATOR IN SUCH A VENTURE'."

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5. "A SERIOUS HISTORICAL ANALYSIS, AIMED AT DISCOVERING WHY INSANITY REIGNED FREE IN ONE SMALL PART OF GUYANA... COULD BE MORE PROPERLY DIRECTED TO AN EXAMINATION OF THE ORIGIN OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE, THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORCES WHICH FRAMED THEIR OWN... PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPERATIVES WHICH INFORMED THEIR BEHAVIOR." NASCIMENTO ASKS "WHETHER, IN HISTORICAL TERMS, A LEGITIMATE PARALLEL MIGHT NOT BE DRAWN BETWEEN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PILGRIMS IN MASSACHUSETTS IN 1520 AND THAT OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE IN GUYANA IN 1974... THEY WERE RURAL PEOPLE, ARTISANS FROM THE DISPOSSESSED CLASSES WITH VIRTUALLY NO EDUCATION. ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE REACTION OF THOSE EARLY SETTLERS OF AMERICAN, FLEEING FROM ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN ENGLAND, IF THE GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND HAD SENT A POLITICAL ENVOY (READ CONG. RYAN) IN PURSUIT OF THEM."

6. NASCIMENTO CONCLUDES BY SAYING "THE CARIBBEAN HISTORIAN SEARCHES FOR PANCIFUL MACHIAVELLIAN POLITICAL EXPLANATIONS, WHEN IT OUGHT TO BE APPARENT THAT JONESTOWN SERVES AS A TRAGIC REMINDER OF THE STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL IN THE THIRD WORLD AND THE ABSENCE OF ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY IN THE FIRST WORLD."

7. FULL TEXT OF NASCIMENTO LETTER BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (ATTN: ARA/CAR).

BURKE

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