

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:RAMCCOY:CEK
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:VWARNE
CA/PA:BJFENNELL (INFO)
CA/OCS/ARA:JRINI (INFO)

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TAGS: CASC, (TEMPLE, PEOPLE)
SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S TEMPLE ASSETS RETURNED TO U.S.
FOLLOWING WAS REPORTED IN WASHINGTON POST FEBRUARY 29:
QUOTE

NEARLY \$6 MILLION FROM PEOPLES TEMPLE BANK ACCOUNTS IN
PANAMA WAS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES YESTERDAY, THE
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.
THE ACTION, MADE WITH THE COOPERATION OF A COURT-APPOINTED
RECEIVER FOR THE CULT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA, CLEARS
THE WAY FOR POSSIBLE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$4.3 MILLION TO THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR COSTS INCURRED IN BRINGING HOME THE
BODIES OF 900 FOLLOWERS OF THE REV. JIM JONES WHO DIED IN
A MASS SUICIDE-MURDER IN GUYANA IN NOVEMBER 1978.
THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILED A CIVIL SUIT TO RECOVER EX-

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PENSES IN JANUARY 1979. SINCE LAST APRIL, JUSTICE HAS BEEN
WORKING WITH RECEIVER ROBERT FABIAN TO FIND THE PANAMA
ACCOUNTS AND ARRANGE FOR THE FUNDS TRANSFER.
A JUSTICE OFFICIAL SAID \$4.35 MILLION OF THE FUNDS HAS BEEN
PLACED IN AN ACCOUNT IN SAN FRANCISCO TO BE AVAILABLE IF
THE DEPARTMENT WINS ITS SUIT. THE SUIT HAS BEEN DELAYED
WHILE BOTH JUSTICE AND FABIAN WORKED TO LOCATE AND NEGOTIATE
FOR THE RETURN OF THE FUNDS, HE SAID.
THE PEOPLES TEMPLE ALSO FACES DAMAGE CLAIMS IN CALIFORNIA
STATE COURT FROM SURVIVORS OF THE MASSACRE. THE REST
OF THE MONEY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES YESTERDAY WAS
PLACED IN AN ACCOUNT TO COVER THOSE CLAIMS.
UNDER AN AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST APRIL BY JUSTICE ATTORNEYS
AND FABIAN, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS FIRST CLAIMS ON ANY
RECOVERED PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS.
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DATE 2/26/81			