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TAGS CARR, GY (LAYTON, LAWRENCE)

SUBJ: TRIAL OF US CITIZEN LAWRENCE LAYTON FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

1. SUMMARY: THE FIFTH DAY OF THE TRIAL

FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER OF US CITIZEN LAWRENCE LAYTON SAW  
PRESIDING JUDGE LINDSEY COLLINS RULE THAT THE CONFESSION  
GIVEN BY LAYTON TO THE GUYANESE POLICE ON NOVEMBER 22, 1978,  
WAS ADMISSABLE AS EVIDENCE. THE CONFESSION WAS READ TO  
THE JURY BY POLICE INSPECTOR JAG MOHAN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SENIOR COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENSE REX MCKAY ARGUED THAT  
LAYTON'S SIGNED CONFESSION TO THE MURDERS OF US CONGRESSMAN  
LEO RYAN AND FOUR OTHERS AND TO THE CAUSING OF INJURIES TO  
SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS HAD BEEN OBTAINED BY DURESS. MCKAY  
CLAIMED THAT LAYTON HAD NOT BEEN FED FOR FOUR DAYS PRIOR  
TO HIS CONFESSION AND FURTHERMORE THAT THE POLICE HAD HAD  
NO EVIDENCE AGAINST LAYTON ON WHICH TO HOLD HIM UNTIL HE  
CONFESSED. LAYTON, TESTIFYING ON HIS OWN BEHALF, DECLARED  
THAT THE POLICE HAD KEPT HIM IN A DARK, FOUL-SMELLING CELL  
AT PORT KAITUMA AND AGAIN AT GEORGETOWN POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
AND THAT HE HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO AN ATTORNEY. THE US

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CONSUL, FOOD, AND A BATH.

3. THE PROSECUTOR REPLIED THAT NO RECORD EXISTED OF ANY  
SUCH COMPLAINTS HAVING BEEN MADE BY LAYTON OR HIS  
ATTORNEYS PRIOR TO THE TRIAL. LAYTON HAD OPPORTUNITY TO  
MAKE SUCH COMPLAINTS BEFORE A MAGISTRATE AT THE TIME HE  
WAS CHARGED AND TO THE US CONSUL. LAYTON RESPONDED THAT  
HE HAD BEEN AFRAID TO MAKE THESE COMPLAINTS IN THE PRESENCE  
OF PRISON OFFICIALS.

4. JUDGE COLLINS REJECTED THE DEFENSE'S ARGUMENTS AND  
INSTRUCTED POLICE INSPECTOR JAG MOHAN TO READ THE CONFESSION  
TO THE JURY. TRIAL WILL CONTINUE ON MAY 12.

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*Official*  
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