

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
80 STATE 296634

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ORIGIN CA-01

INFO OCT-80 ADS-80 L-83 ARA-16 SPRS-02 SS-15 PA-02

EA-12 AIT-82 OCS-06 ICAE-00 JUSE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY CA/PA:JWEBB:REM

APPROVED BY CA:REFRITTS

L/EA:TJFORTUNE (SUBS)

L:EVERVILLE (SUBS)

L/ARA:MKOZAK (SUBS)

ARA/CAR:JRICKERT (PHONE)

S/PRESS:JTRATNER (INFO)

C:PGALLIS (INFO)

PA:MAYODEN (INFO)

EA/RA:JTACIK (INF)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE 3707
UNCLAS STATE 296634
FOR DOUG ELLICE FROM AIT WASH, D.C.

E.O. 12065:N/A

TASS:CASC, GY

SUBJECT: ABC PROGRAM ON JONESTOWN

REF: STATE 291166

1. SINCE REPTTEL, DEPT. HAS CONSULTED WITH DEPT. OF JUSTICE
ON ABC REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW. DOJ INFORMED THE DEPT. THAT
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LAWSUITS PENDING AGAINST THE USG AS
A RESULT OF JONESTOWN -- INCLUDING SUITS FILED BY THE USG
AGAINST THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AND BY CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S FAMILY

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PEOPLES TEMPLE SURVIVORS, AND RELATIVES OF DECEASED MEMBERS
AGAINST THE USG. THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY OF CRIMINAL
PROSECUTIONS RESULTING FROM THE ASSASSINATION OF RYAN.

THESE CASES INVOLVE A MULTITUDE OF LEGAL ISSUES INCLUDING
THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES BEFORE THE TRAGEDY.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
WILL EVENTUALLY BE ASKED TO TESTIFY IN THESE PROCEEDINGS.

2. THE FOCUS OF ABC'S INTEREST, THE CARPENTER-CRIMMINS
REPORT CONCERNS, INTER ALIA, THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE
BEFORE THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY. QUESTIONING DURING THE
PROPOSED INTERVIEW WILL CERTAINLY COVER MATTERS AT ISSUE
IN PENDING LAWSUITS. IN VIEW OF THIS FACT, AND THE LIKELI
HOOD THAT YOU WILL BE CALLED TO TESTIFY IN THESE CASES,
DOJ AND THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD BE JUSTIFIED
IN DECLINING TO COMMENT ON ANY ASPECT OF JONESTOWN UNTIL
AFTER THE LEGAL QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN SETTLED.

3. ABC WILL BE INFORMED THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MAY BE
INTERVIEWED IF THEY CHOOSE BUT THAT THEY WILL BE IN-

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/DC/NE	RECEIVED BY <i>Chaffin</i>	DATE <i>2/24/81</i>
NO. FILED	DATE	
CLASSIFICATION		
DISSEMINATION		
RELEASED PER		
PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS		

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STRUCTED NOT TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN LITIGATION. IF YOU
CHOOSE TO DISCUSS THE JONESTOWN SITUATION WITH ABC (OR
TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRESS) YOU SHOULD FIRST CONTACT
TERENCE J. FORTUNE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE CON-
CERNING GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS WHICH MUST BE OBSERVED
IN SUCH INTERVIEWS. DEAN. MUSKIE

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