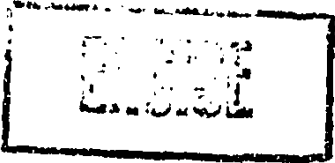


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ACTION ARA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4305

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USICA WASHDC

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NO. 12055: GDS 12/9/80 (SONANDRES, THOMAS W.) OR-F

PAGE: PINT, CY

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS THAT DECEASED JONESTOWN RESIDENTS APPEAR ON  
GUYANA VOTING LISTS

REF: STATE 323402 (NOTAL)

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY GIVE LITTLE CREDENCE TO THE PPP ALLEGATIONS THAT TWELVE SPECIFICALLY NAMED DECEASED JONESTOWN RESIDENTS ARE ON THE VOTER ROLLS, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT THE ROLLS CONTAIN NUMEROUS OTHER INACCURACIES. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE, HOWEVER, BE LIMITED TO CITING THE RECENT GOS PRESS RELEASE ON THE SUBJECT, AVOIDING ANY COMMENT IN THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD ON THE FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTIONS OTHER THAN TO REPEAT MR. WARNE'S BRIDGETOWN STATEMENT THAT WE HOPE THE POLL WILL BE FREE AND FAIR. WE DO NOT HAVE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF ELECTION FRAUD, AND USG COMMENT ABOUT THIS BEFORE

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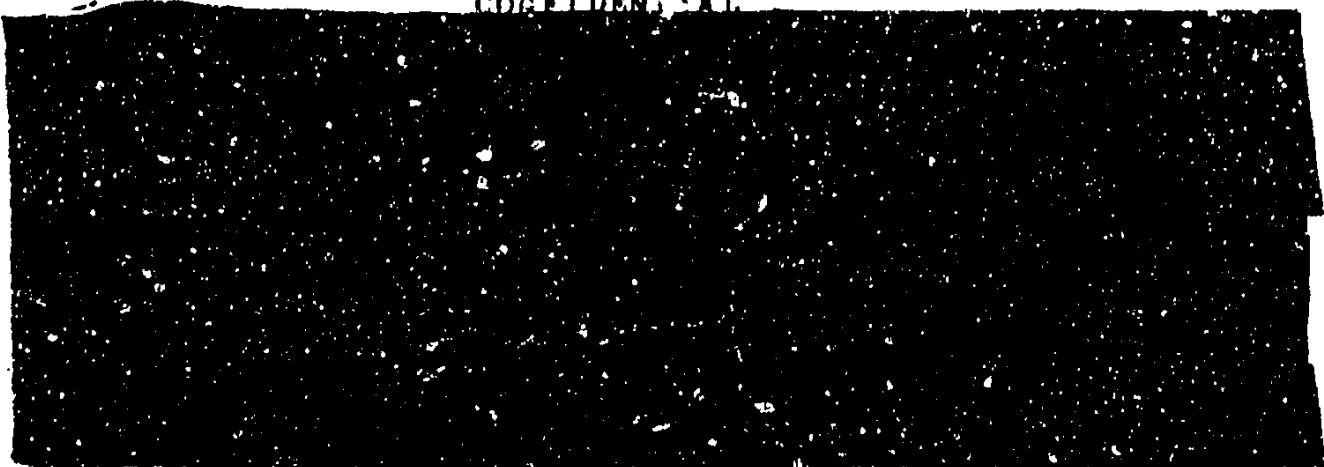
THE ELECTIONS SEEMS MOST INOPPORTUNE. END SUMMARY.

3. THE EMBASSY GIVES LITTLE CREDENCE TO SPECIFIC PPP ALLEGATIONS, CONTAINED IN A NOVEMBER 22 PPP PRESS RELEASE, THAT TWELVE DECEASED JONESTOWN RESIDENTS APPEAR ON THE NORTH WEST DISTRICT ELECTORAL LIST (REFTEL). THE DECEMBER 7 GOVERNMENT DAILY "CHRONICLE" PRINTED A HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE OF THE PREVIOUS DAY WHICH REFUTED THESE ALLEGATIONS. THE ARTICLE TERMED IT A COINCIDENCE THAT TWELVE JONESTOWN DECEASED SHARED NAMES WITH LIVING AND PROPERLY REGISTERED GUYANESE IN THE AREA, PUBLISHING PHOTOGRAPHS AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA OF SEVERAL OF THESE GUYANESE. ADDITIONALLY, THE GUYANA REGISTRAR GENERAL AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN VIGOROUSLY DENIED THE PPP'S ALLEGATIONS TO AN EMOFF ON DECEMBER 7.

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RECEIVED BY: [Signature] DATE: 12/26/81  
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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5. IN THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY  
RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE BE LIMITED

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TO REFERRING TO THE 303 DECEMBER 6 PRESS RELEASE WHICH  
LEADS IN PART, QUOTE: WHILE NO PRELIMINARY LIST COULD  
EVER BE PERFECT, AND WHILE EVERY OPPORTUNITY WAS AFFORDED  
TO ALL PARTIES AND EVEN INDIVIDUALS TO EFFECT APPRO-  
PRIATE AMENDMENTS TO THAT LIST, THE FACT IS THAT THE  
RESIDENTS OF JONESTOWN WERE NEVER REGISTERED IN GUYANA,  
AND THEREFORE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ON THE PRELIMINARY  
LIST FOR ELECTIONS. IT IS TRUE THAT VERY OFTEN PERSONS  
BEARING SIMILAR NAMES AND OTHER PARTICULARS HAVE BEEN  
REGISTERED IN THE SAME AREA. THIS COULD, WHEN PUBLISHED,  
APPEAR TO REPRESENT A DUPLICATION, BUT IN FACT, WHEN  
CHECKED AGAINST THE RECORDS WOULD BE SEEN TO BE QUITE  
CORRECT. (PARAGRAPH) WITH REGARDS TO THE NAMES MENTIONED  
IN THE PPP'S STATEMENT, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PERSONS  
MENTIONED ARE DEFINITELY NOT AMERICAN CITIZENS BUT ARE  
GUYANESE BY BIRTH, AND NATIONALITY. AS FAR AS THE  
OFFICIAL RECORDS GO, THEY HAVE HAD NO ASSOCIATION WITH  
JONESTOWN, AND IN MOST, IF NOT ALL CASES, THEY WERE  
FIRST REGISTERED BEFORE THE DATE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF THE JONESTOWN COMMUNITY. (PARAGRAPH) IN ORDER  
TO PUT AN END TO SPECULATION, THEREFORE

WE SUPPLY

HEREUNDER PARTICULARS OF SOME OF THE PERSONS MENTIONED  
TO ESTABLISH THAT WHILE CERTAIN JONESTOWN RESIDENTS  
MIGHT HAVE BORNE THOSE NAMES, THERE ARE MANY GUYANESE,  
AND INDEED MANY WEST INDIANS AS WELL, WITH SIMILAR  
NAMES. WE ARE ALSO MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE NATIONAL  
PRINT MEDIA IN GUYANA PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME OF THE  
PERSONS INVOLVED. END QUOTE. COPIES OF PPP AND GOG  
RELEASES BEING POUCHED ARA/CAR.

COMMENT: THE PPP ALLEGATION APPEARS INACCURATE. [REDACTED] B1/ED  
[REDACTED] WFP DO NOT HAVE  
CONCRETE EVIDENCE AND THEREFORE WOULD CONSIDER IT MOST

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INOPPORTUNE TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE FAIRNESS  
AND HONESTY OF THE ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 15.

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WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, TO REPEAT THE  
HOPE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED BY ARA/CAR DIRECTOR WARNE  
DURING HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRIDGETOWN THAT  
THE GUYANESE POLL BE FREE AND FAIR. THE PPP'S "MIRROR"  
CAN AT TIME MAKE EXCELLENT POINTS, BUT IT TENDS TO  
PRINT ANYTHING SUPPORTING ITS VIEWS WITHOUT CONCERN FOR  
ACCURACY. THIS TIME, IT APPEARS OFF BASE.

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