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Walter J. J. J. J. J.

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Ministry of National Development

1972

The fact is a crisis situation in which it seems evident, at
least, that you are the only one who can resolve it for us satisfactorily.
I have assurances regarding the matter of licensing our
people, which were subsequently reversed. It is
accept the new decision as it could have an adverse effect
on the well-being of too many persons— not just Peoples Temple.

Originally, we were told that the situation would be worked out by
a doctor who heads the decision-making medical board. We were told that
he would only have to come into Georgetown for a couple of weeks,
that he would have consultations with a preceptor over radio telephony
in Port Kaituma.

You can speak with the Soviet Embassy to confirm the type of work
which is going on. It could be a good thing. The Embassy official—who
is a long correspondent—and his wife were overwhelmed by what they
saw (visiting all the Embassy from socialist countries and home to him
as our next visitors.) The couple said they were very
impressed with some serious disorders and medical problems treated in our
facilities. They saw our staff of some 30 persons which include nurse
practitioners, rehabilitation therapists, an x-ray technician, RN's, WHO's,
lab technicians, LEC technician, pharmacist, and a pediatric dispenser.
We treated all kinds of critical medical cases. Our doctor has meant
the difference between life and death on a number of occasions. The medical
board doesn't doubt this but some on the board insist, nevertheless, that
Dr. Schacht must do a year's internship in Georgetown. He said that if
he had to be away for any extended period, it would likely result in some
unrecoverable disabilities and even deaths. The response by a few of the
outspoken board members was shocking. They said there would just have
to be deaths, as there were deaths before we came. They used the argument
that they wouldn't be able to go to the States and practice without the
proper training and credentials. To us, this indicated a petty hoop
that was toward professional standards. (In other words, "We want the
proper process, and so must you.") For a third world developing country,
this attitude seems highly impractical. Some sort of amendment to the rules
that's what it would take should be made for remote areas where no
adequate medical services exist. We know you have deep compassion for
Amer-Indian people, and we provide the only adequate medical care they
get in the area. As many as 50 a day have come into the project, having
walked from miles around. A number have complained of the treatment they
received from the dispenser in Matthews Ridge who is not qualified to treat

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...the doctor has actually ...

...critical and ...
...stated by one behind ...
...was not in question. He said it ...
...to be done on his ...
...but it seemed that the ones who were pushing the legal aspect ...
...effect on the others.)

...a local issue, then surely there is some way the ...
...that Dr. Schacht has already done, which is documented and ...
...than any internship program. Some of his work has ...
...consultations from specialist in the best ...
...via our radio. Surely Dr. Schacht ...
...the area that is so ...
...around the clock. It is ironic, ...
...to charge that our doctor is seeking special treatment when ...
...is true. A prominent physician in the U.S. views Dr. Schacht as ...
...Schweitzer," as the enclosed letter indicates.

It would be tragic if our doctor had to be out of the area in ...
...situation such as that which took the life of the Port ...
...the child. The child's condition was very treatable ...
...and the life would likely have been saved had Ken known about our doctor ...
...at that time. So it is deeply distressing when we are given a message ...
...that we cannot pass a message offering our medical services ...
...which could have conveyed the appropriate days and times for the ...
...convenience.

Morally, our doctor feels (and we absolutely agree) that he cannot ...
...the project beyond the time period originally agreed upon, because it would ...
...be inhumane to do so. You can imagine how difficult it would be to say ...
..."no" to the Amer-Indians who seek our medical services and the effect it ...
...could have then suddenly the free services are no longer available with no ...
...reasonable explanation being given. It is generally known that we are ...
...members, and so I'm afraid it will reflect badly on the government and us if ...
...the services are eliminated. Dr. Reid, would you please help us in this ...

CUSTOMS

We still have made no progress in customs. We submitted a letter ...
...various duty-free concessions which were all denied. The letter was ...
...from Minister Moppe's office. The effect of the answer to our letter ...
...penalize socialists and give incentives to those who are capitalists. The ...
...regulations are obviously archaic. The Deputy Comptroller, Stanley ...
...stated flatly, "The law makes no concessions for co-operatives. I know it ...
...makes no sense but it's a holdover from British law."

In Jonestown we distribute equally to everyone. Thus, personal items are ...
...never earmarked for a single individual. If it were otherwise and every ...
...individual had to claim their own goods, everything would be chaos when the ...
...goods arrived as each person would have to come to town. That would mean

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to get their help in
the situation that would halt production on
project.

...the favor is being given to some
of the non-communists. We've been given duty-free concessions to
...it can be done. A government official told us that our
...Interpol ... we have proof is part of the conspiracy
...stating we were smuggling banned items in our ship.
...one of the dock owners told us our crates were broken into
...special police officers. The approval on our forms was rescinded
...the officers went through the crates. Of course nothing illegal was found
(although we did fear that something could have been planted on us). From
...time on we have gotten no cooperation from customs—only a series of
...frustrations and closed doors. The heart-breaking thing is that
...to actually purchase the same type of items that were in the
...we could not get them released and they were urgently needed.

The customs roadblocks are also costing us many thousands of dollars in
increased fees for rental of space for our crates. The longer it takes to
...lease of the crates approved, the higher the rental cost. This
...that would otherwise be used in ways that could only benefit Guyana
...through increased development. Again, we are looking to you for help
to resolve this problem, which is having a crippling effect on our goals
which are your goals.

Very respectfully,

Cde. Sharon Amos

...The Tass correspondent and his wife said they loved Jonestown and were
particularly amazed at the medical program. (He was very thorough and
probing, just like most press.) Only after it became evident that we
were very favorably impressed, did we tell them that we felt it was
critical that they support Prime Minister Burnham and his party. He
said that although we have the highest regard for the Soviet Union,
we are disappointed at Jonah's approach (e.g., the campaign strategy
of "vote your own"). He said the best thing they could do was
support the leadership of the Prime Minister. That was all that was
discussed about the government (except that we did give the highest
praise to your work and the work of Minister Mingo).

Handwritten: draft copy of medical center report

Handwritten: cc: Mr. Mingo

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