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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
INRE-00 HA-05 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 FBIE-00 SS-15  
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Richard Zorn,  
Senior Reviewer

O 171845Z JUN 80  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2742  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GEORGETOWN 2761

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/17/86 (DWYER, RICHARD) OR-M  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GY  
SUBJECT: BROTHER GIVES VERSION OF DEATH OF DR. WALTER  
RODNEY

REF: GEORGETOWN 2755 (NOTAL)

1. (C) BEGIN SUMMARY: DONALD RODNEY, THE BROTHER OF WALTER RODNEY WHO WAS KILLED ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13, BY AN EXPLOSION IN DONALD'S CAR, HAS TURNED HIMSELF OVER TO THE POLICE. ACCORDING TO DONALD, THE BROTHERS HAD PICKED UP A WALKIE-TALKIE FROM A FORMER GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE SERGEANT AND WERE TESTING THE RADIO AS INSTRUCTED WHEN IT EXPLODED, KILLING WALTER AND WOUNDING DONALD WHO NEVERTHELESS MANAGED TO FLEE TO FRIENDS. THIS VERSION IS IN ACCORD WITH THAT OF THE POLICE THAT THE DEVICE EXPLODED IN WALTER'S LAP. CLEARLY IMPLIED IN DONALD'S STORY IS THE ACCUSATION THAT THE RULING PNC SET UP DONALD AND WALTER, AS PREVIOUS WPA ACCOUNTS HAD CLAIMED. THE  
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GOG HAS REQUESTED OUTSIDE EXPERTS FROM SCOTLAND YARD AND THE US. WHATEVER FURTHER FACTS TURN UP, HOWEVER, ARE UNLIKELY TO ALTER THE OPINIONS OF POLITICALLY-MINDED GUYANESE. THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS ACCORDING TO THEIR POLITICAL ORIENTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON JUNE 17 THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT-OWNED RADIO AND CHRONICLE NEWSPAPER REPORTED EXTENSIVELY WHAT IS REPUTED TO BE DR. WALTER RODNEY'S BROTHER'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE DEATH OF WALTER. THE STORY,

ACCORDING TO THE GOG, WAS FIRST RELEASED IN THE EARLY EVENING OF JUNE 16 TO CANA.

3. (U) DONALD'S STORY IS THAT HE CALLED AT THE HOUSE OF A FORMER GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE SERGEANT (IDENTIFIED IN NON-GUYANESE REPORTS AS ONE GEGROY SMITH) WHO WAS AN ELECTRONICS SPECIALIST AND WHO HAD AGREED TO MAKE A SET OF WALKIE-TALKIES FOR WALTER RODNEY. DONALD CALLED AT THE SERGEANT'S HOUSE WHILE WALTER WAITED OUTSIDE IN THE CAR. DONALD WAS GIVEN A PAPER BAG CONTAINING THE RADIO AND INSTRUCTIONS ON ITS USE. IT WAS TO BE TESTED TWICE WHILE THE BROTHERS WERE WALKING, THE SECOND TEST TO BE NEAR THE CAMP STREET PRISON WITH ITS METAL WALLS SO THAT THE EFFECT OF THE METAL ON THE SET COULD BE TESTED.

4. (U) THE BROTHERS DECIDED TO TEST THE RADIO IN DONALD'S CAR RATHER THAN ON FOOT. THE FIRST TEST, CONSISTING OF THE LIGHTING OF A SIGNAL LIGHT ON THE SET, WAS NOTED BY THE BROTHERS AT THE AGREED UPON TIME OF 2000 HOURS. THEY PROCEEDED IN THE CAR TO A POSITION NEARBY THE PRISON, AS THEY COULD NOT PARK NEXT TO THE PRISON. WALTER SET A SWITCH ON THE RADIO PLACED IN  
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HIS LAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SERGEANT'S INSTRUCTIONS WHILE DONALD PARKED THE CAR. DONALD WAS LOOKING OUT THE DRIVER'S OPEN WINDOW WHEN THE RADIO EXPLODED. HE WAS INJURED AND THROWN OUT OF THE CAR BUT MANAGED TO RUN TO THE NEARBY HOUSE OF A FRIEND WHERE HE FOUND ANDAIYE, SECRETARY OF THE WAP AND KARIN DE SOUZA, ANOTHER WPA SUPPORTER. HE TOLD THEM OF THE EXPLOSION, AND THEY IMMEDIATELY RAN TO THE SCENE.

5. (U) DONALD RECEIVED THE ATTENTION OF LOCAL PHYSICIANS AND WAS TAKEN TO A PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN GEORGETOWN. ATTORNEY MILES FITZPATRICK, WHO IS ACTIVE IN OPPOSITION CAUSES AND IN THE GUYANA HUMAN RIGHTS SOCIETY, NOTIFIED POLICE OF DONALD RODNEY'S WHEREABOUTS ON JUNE 16, FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF THE STATEMENTALD WAS PLACED UNDER POLICE GUARD BUT REPORTEDLY REMAINS UNDER SEDATION.

6. (U) A SEPARATE CHRONICLE STORY REPORTS THAT THE GOG HAS REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF FORENSIC PATHOLOGISTS FROM THE FBI AND SCOTLAND YARD.

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