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RELEASE IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 DCT-02 SY-05 SYE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SIL-01 LAB-04  
ACDA-12 EUR-12 AID-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 ANAE-00  
( ADS ) W

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Richard Zorn,  
Senior Reviewer

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O 141620Z JUN 80 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2729  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2729

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/14/86 (DWYER, RICHARD A.) OR-M  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GY  
SUBJECT: WPA LEADER RODNEY DIES IN CAR EXPLOSION

1. (U) WORKING PEOPLES ALLIANCE (WPA) LEADER DR. WALTER  
RODNEY WAS KILLED ABOUT 2000 HOURS JUNE 13 IN AN EXPLOSION  
IN AN AUTOMOBILE PARKED APPROXIMATELY ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM  
GEORGETOWN'S CAMP STREET PRISON. (LATER RADIO REPORTS SAID THAT  
THE CAR WAS STOPPED AT THE JUNCTION OF JOHN AND HADFIELD STREETS).

2. (LOU) DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR CRIME CECIL (SKIP)  
ROBERTS TOLD THE CHARGE ON JUNE 14 THAT THE BODY HAD NOT BEEN  
POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED UNTIL ABOUT 11:00 A.M. THAT MORNING  
BY RODNEY'S SISTER-IN-LAW AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY.  
NONETHELESS, THE WPA HAD ISSUED PRESS RELEASES TO LOCAL AND  
REGIONAL MEDIA EARLY ON JUNE 14 STATING THAT RODNEY HAD BEEN  
MURDERED. EMBASSY GEORGETOWN HAS NOT YET SEEN OR HEARD  
THE WPA RELEASE, BUT INFORMED SOURCES STATE THAT IT ACCUSES  
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THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE CIA OF MURDERING RODNEY.

4. (LOU) ACCORDING TO ROBERTS, TWO BEAT POLICEMEN IN  
THE AREA HEARD THE XPLOSION AND RAN TOWARDS THE CAR. A  
SECOND MAN IN THE CAR FLED FROM THE SCENE ON FOOT AND IS THE  
OBJECT OF AN INTENSIVE POLICE SEARCH. POLICE PRESUME THAT  
THE SECOND MAN MUST BE BADLY WOUNDED. THE CAR WAS REGISTERED  
TO RODNEY'S BROTHER RONALD WHOM THE POLICE ARE SEEKING.  
A SECOND BROTHER, EDWARD, AND UNIDENTIFIED OTHER PERSONS ARE  
BEING QUESTIONED BY POLICE, ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS.

5. (LOU) ROBERTS STATED THAT THE SCENE WAS NOT DISTURBED BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF GUYANESE GOVERNMENT CORONER DR. MOOTOO. MOOTOO THEORIZED FROM THE LOCATION OF THE INJURIES THAT AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS DETONATED ON THE SEAT OF THE CAR BETWEEN RODNEY'S LEGS.

6. (C) COMMENT: AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROBERTS WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT TO THE CHARGE, THE SEVERAL OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS ACCUSED OF TREASON, ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WEAPONS, ETC., ARRESTED IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS ARE BEING HELD IN THE CAMP STREET PRISON. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT RODNEY AND HIS COLLEAGUE (PRESUMABLY HIS BROTHER RONALD) WERE INVOLVED EITHER IN A BUNGLED RESCUE ATTEMPT OR A VIOLENT PROTEST AGAINST THE INCARCERATION OF THE PRISONERS. (RODNEY, OF COURSE, WAS ON TRIAL, RECESSED UNTIL AUGUST, ALONG WITH TWO OTHER WPA LEADERS FOR THE JULY 1979 ARSON OF THE RULING PNC PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.) WHATEVER MAY BE THE FACTS OF THE EXPLOSION WHICH KILLED RODNEY, IT SEEMS ALREADY CLEAR THAT THE WPA AND THE OPPOSITION IN GENERAL NOW HAVE A MARTYR OF THE FIRST RANK.  
DWYER

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