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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 FBlE-00 SS-15
   SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 ICAlE-00 /068 W
---070132  171930Z /44
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2742
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL 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 NEVER-
   THELESS 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 CONFIDENTIAL

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5. (U) DONALD RECEIVED THE ATTENTION OF LOCAL PHYSICIAN 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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