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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ADS-00 PA-02 ICAE-00 SS-15
   SP-02 NSC-05 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DCT-02
   SY-05 SYE-00 FBIE-00 /084 W
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P 181802Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2751
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
   AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
   AMEMBASSY LONDON
   AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
   AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
   AMEMBASSY SALISBURY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GEORGETOWN 2776

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GUY
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS TO DEATH OF GUYANESE WPA
   POLITICAL ACTIVIST DR. WALTER RODNEY; CIA BLAMED

REF: GEORGETOWN 2761 (NOTAL)

1. (U) THE GOG-OWNED DAILY NEWSPAPER, THE GUYANA CHRONICLE
   (JUNE 18), PRINTED A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF
   INFORMATION QUESTIONING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE STORY GIVEN
   BY THE BROTHER OF WALTER RODNEY, DONALD, TO THE CANA NEWS
   SERVICE (REFTEL) DESCRIBING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF RODNEY'S
   DEATH IN A JUNE 13 BOMB BLAST. THE STATEMENT, AS REPORTED
   IN REFTEL, POINTED OUT THAT THE RODNEY BROTHERS WERE EN-
   GAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AT THE TIME OF DR. RODNEY'S
   DEATH. FURTHERMORE, THE MINISTRY DOUBTED THE SINCERITY
   OF DONALD'S CONCERN FOR THE APPREHENSION OF DR. RODNEY'S
   ASSOCIATE WHO APPARENTLY HANDED DR. RODNEY A "BOOBY-
   TRAPPED" WALKIE-TALKIE: "WHY DID HE (DONALD) NOT COME
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FORWARD WITH HIS STORY MUCH EARLIER RATHER THAN WAITING
   SOME 72 HOURS BEFORE MAKING CONTACT WITH THE POLICE?"

2. THE NEWSPAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF
   THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA STUDENTS' SOCIETY SENT A LETTER
   OF CONDOLENCE TO MRS. RODNEY. THE LETTER STATED THAT
   "THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DR. RODNEY'S DEMISE ARE MOST UN-
   FORTUNATE" AND THAT THE SOCIETY HOPED THAT INTENSE
   POLICE AND MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS WOULD "TAKE THE MATTER
   TO ITS FINALITY..." RODNEY HAD LECTURED AT THE

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VIEW AS AN ACT DESIGNED TO DESTABILIZE AND INIMIDATE ALL PROGRESSIVE ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN THE REGION...WE ANXIOUSLY LOOK FORWARD TO THE EARLIEST BRINGING TO JUSTICE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MONSTROUS AND HEINOUS CRIME." BISHOP'S STATEMENT ALSO DECLARED JUNE 16, 1980, SOWETO DAY, AS A DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING FOR WALTER RODNEY "(WHO HAD BEEN) ESPECIALLY COMMITTED TO THE STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE."

4. THE SAME WPA RELEASE ALSO CONTAINED THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA, MICHAEL MANLEY, AND OTHER JAMAICAN POLITICAL FIGURES, MANELY DESCRIBED RODNEY AS "OUTSTANDING" AND "BRILLIANT" AND THAT "ALL THOSE WHO VALUE SERIOUS POLITICAL PURSUIT AND THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT OF DISSERT MUST BE OUTRAGED BY AND UTTERLY CONDEMN THIS BARBARIC ACT." A STATEMENT FROM PERNELL CHARLES, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP), WHICH HAD WHEN IN POWER IN 1968 EXPELLED RODNEY FROM JAMAICA, SAID THAT "DR. RODNEY WAS A SCHOLAR OF THE HIGHEST DISTINCTION" AND, ACCORDING TO THE WPA, PERNELL ALSO SAID THAT IF IN FACT GUYANA'S RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) PARTY WERE BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION "THEN THE ADMINISTRATION OF RPIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM SHOULD BE ROUNDLY CONDEMNED."
5. THE WPA ALSO RELEASED THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY OF ZIMBABWE PRAISING THE BRILLIANCE OF RODNEY'S SCHOLARSHIP AND HIS APPLICATION OF "MARXISM AND FANONISM TO A SPECIFIC AFRICAN SITUATION IN A WAY NEVER DONE BEFORE BY ANY AFRICAN WRITER." RODNEY HAD MET WITH ZIMBABWEAN PRIME MINISTER MUGABE ON MAY 17, AND HAD, ACCORDING TO THIS RELEASE, BEEN PLANNING TO WRITE A HISTORY OF ZIMBABWE. THE ZANU WILL BE REPRESENTED AT RODNEY'S FUNERAL BY IBO MENDAZA.

6. THE WPA REPRODUCED CABLES RECEIVED FROM A VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, AND IN THE UNITED STATES CONDEMNING THE "ASSASSINATION" OF DR. RODNEY. THE COMMUNICATION WORKERS' UNION OF TRINIDAD URGED THE WPA TO CONTINUE "THE BRAVE STRUGGLE" AGAINST THE "EVIL OF FASCISM."

7. A WPA RELEASE TITLED "WALTER RODNEY'S ASSASSINATION" UNCLASSIFIED

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'FOREIGN EXPERTS' LIKE THE CIA," THE RELEASE GOES ON TO ALLEGED THAT RODNEY WAS MURDERED BY THE PNC AND THAT GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF) CHIEF OF STAFF NORMAN MCLEAN WAS INVOLVED. THE RELEASE ALSO REFERRED TO THE GOG'S CALL FOR AMERICAN AND BRITISH EXPERTS TO COME TO GUYANA TO AID IN THE INVESTIGATION BY SAYING, "WE CAN HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE VERDICT OF HIGHLY REACTIONARY POLICE FROCES FROM IMPERIALIST CAPITALS IN A HIGHLY POLITICAL INCIDENT IN WHICH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AT AN EARLIER STAGE."

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