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ACTION ARA-15

RELEASE IN FULL

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /031 W  
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O 191955Z JUN 80  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2774

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Richard Zorn, Senior  
Reviewer

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2813

E.O. 12065: NA  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, GY  
SUBJECT: MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO RODNEY WIDOW?

REF: STATE

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH THE COUNTRY TEAM THE PROPRIETY OF SENDING A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE WIDOW AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF DR. WALTER RODNEY, THE WPA LEADER KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION ON JUNE 13. THE COUNTRY TEAM IS OF MIXED OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT. HAD AMBASSADOR ROBERTS BEEN IN THE COUNTRY, I WOULD HAVE FAVORED SUCH A MESSAGE TO MRS. RODNEY BASED IN PART ON THE FACT THAT AMBASSADOR ROBERTS FIRST MET RODNEY SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN EAST AFRICA. (I WOULD NOT HAVE FAVORED SUCH A MESSAGE, HOWEVER, HAD IT BEEN DECIDED TO SEND OFFICIAL USG TECHNICIANS TO ASSIST IN THE GOG INVESTIGATION.)

2. I SHOULD PREFER TO HAVE AMBASSADOR ROBERTS' VIEWS ON THE QUESTION, HOWEVER, AS ANY MESSAGE WOULD BE QUITE RIGHTLY CONSIDERED AS COMING FROM HIS EMBASSY. I WOULD APPRECIATE ARA/CAR CONSULTING BY TELEPHONE WITH AMBASSADOR ROBERTS ON THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES AND TO RECEIVE HIS VIEWS BY IMMEDIATE CABLE OR NIACT IMMEDIATE IF OBTAINED OVER THE WEEK-END.

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3. WE MUST PRESUME THAT ANY MESSAGE MIGHT WELL BE PUBLISHED BY THE WPA, POSSIBLY WITH UNFAVORABLE COMMENT, AND THAT IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BOTH BY THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION AS AN EXPRESSION OF USG VIEWS.

4. A POSSIBLE MESSAGE MIGHT BE THE FOLLOWING:  
ON BEHALF OF AMBASSADOR AND MRS. ROBERTS, WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES, AND MYSELF I WISH TO EXTEND OUR PERSONAL AND VERY DEEP SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF DR. RODNEY. THIS TRAGEDY FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR FAMILY IS ALSO A TRAGEDY

FOR THOSE OF US WHO DEEPLY DEPLORE VIOLENCE FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES. END MESSAGE.

5. A SECOND POSSIBILITY IS TO HAVE AN EMBASSY GEORGETOWN OFFICER, POSSIBLY POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF ADKINS WHO IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH MRS. RODNEY, TO CALL ON MRS. RODNEY TO EXPRESS ORALLY OUR CONDOLENCES.

6. THIRDLY, AMBASSADOR ROBERTS MIGHT WISH TO EXTEND PERSONAL CONDOLENCES IN LIEU OF THE ABOVE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETURN TO GUYANA.  
DWYER

NOTE BY OC/T: REF. AS RECEIVED.

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