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ACTION: AmEmbassy TOSEC

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am in general agreement with the memorandum on British Guiana which you sent to me on June 14. However, because we have been burdening the personal letter channel heavily, I would prefer you to reply on my behalf to Prime Minister Macmillan's letter of May 30, 1962. Suggest you speak to Macmillan or if this proves unfeasible to Lord Home along following lines.

The President was pleased to receive the Prime Minister's letter of May 30 and he has requested that I convey to you his views on British Guiana. The President will be dealing in the near future with the Prime Minister's comments on broader problem of consultation on colonialism.

The President welcomes the Prime Minister's suggestion for a series of special consultations in London about British Guiana and British Honduras, and we will nominate representatives to attend these meetings.

The President is grateful for the understanding the Prime Minister has shown



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JFKL: Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr Papers, box 28, F: "BrGuiana (1 of 2)." (mid-June 1962)

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E.O. 12958, SEC 3.6  
NLK-05-211B  
By MAD NARA. Date 8/08

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[REDACTED]

In considering our overall strategy toward British Guiana, we have again assessed the consequences of an independent British Guiana under Cheddi Jagan's leadership. Such a possibility disturbs us seriously.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We must recognize that Jagan is now thoroughly distrustful of our own motives. We have concluded, therefore, that it is unrealistic to hope that a British Guiana led by Cheddi Jagan could be kept on the side of the West through a policy of cooperation as was envisaged during the talks held in September of last year. We must be entirely frank in saying that we simply cannot afford to see another Castro-type regime established in this Hemisphere. It follows that we should set as our objective an independent British Guiana under some other leader.

Thus, we are glad that you envisage new elections. This would provide an opportunity for a government of a different complexion to

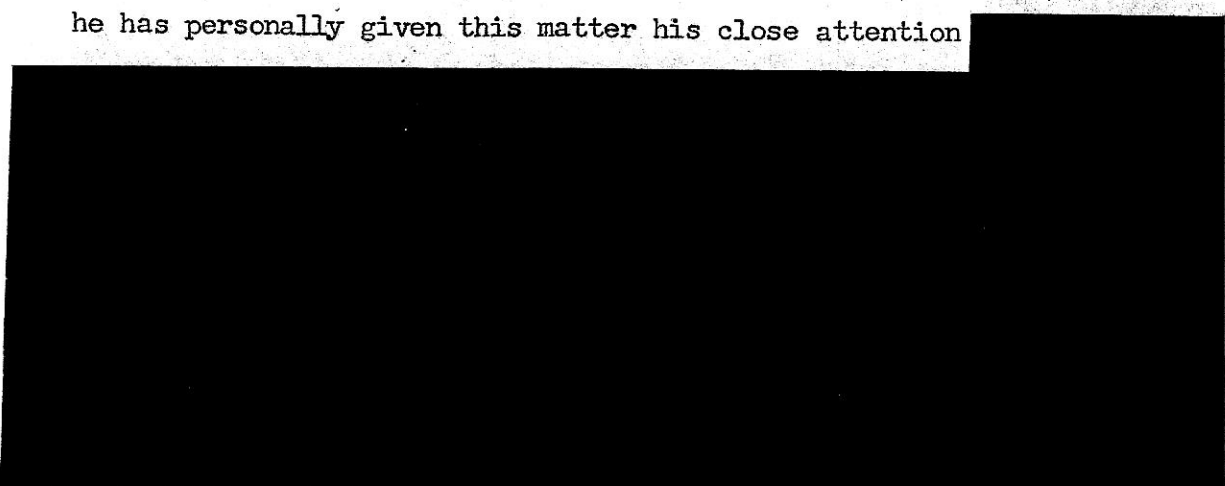
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come into power through democratic processes. However, the coalescing of various elements now opposed to Jagan into a winning combination will be no easy task. The President wants the Prime Minister to know that he has personally given this matter his close attention



In the economic field we are going ahead with the additional detailed studies our survey mission, now just returned from British Guiana, recommended. We hope, thereby to let the people of British Guiana know we are serious about helping them and to be that much further along with the preliminary work by the time a new government comes into power.

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EU<sup>K</sup>:WCBurdett/JSweeney:smw

DDC- Mr. Scott

S/S - Mr. Brubeck

*js*

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