

SANITIZED
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Mr. Bundy
19

[Redacted]
1.5(c); 3.4(b)(1)

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COUNTRY BRITISH GUIANA

DATE OF INFO. 17 JULY 1964

DISTR. 18 JULY 1964

SUBJECT

BOMBING OF FREEDOM HOUSE AND THE GUYANA IMPORT/
EXPORT, LTD., DURING A MEETING OF THE THREE
POLITICAL LEADERS

PLACE & DATE ACQ. [Redacted]

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL: [Redacted]

1.5(c); 3.4(b)(1)

1. THE BOMBINGS AT FREEDOM HOUSE, HEADQUARTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), AND AT THE GUYANA IMPORT/EXPORT, LTD., (GIMPEX), TRADING UNIT OF THE PPP, ON THE MORNING OF 17 JULY 1964 OCCURRED WHILE PREMIER GNEDDI JAGAN, LINDEN FORBES BURNHAM, LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS, AND PETER D'AGUIAR, LEADER OF THE UNITED FORCE, WERE MEETING TO WORK OUT A WAY TO STOP THE VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY. THE MEETING HAD BEEN CALLED BY JAGAN ON 16 JULY. AT THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSIONS THE THREE LEADERS HAD JUST BEGUN THEIR DISCUSSION BURNHAM WAS URGING JAGAN TO ACCEPT THE VOTING SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, AND D'AGUIAR WAS INSISTING THAT JAGAN CALL OFF THE STRIKE OF THE GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION. WHEN THEY HEARD THE EXPLOSIONS BURNHAM JOGULARLY

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE OCR ORR OO FBI
DDI EXO

PLACE CONTROLS ABOVE TOP BLACK LINE AND BELOW BOTTOM BLACK LINE

[REDACTED]

1.5(c); 3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

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SUGGESTED THAT D'AGUIAR'S BUSINESS HAD BEEN DESTROYED. JAGAN SAID HE WOULD FIND OUT, AND HE CALLED THE POLICE. WHEN HE HEARD THE TARGET HAD BEEN FREEDOM HOUSE. HE EXCLAIMED, "MY GOD, IT'S FREEDOM HOUSE!" D'AGUIAR EXTENDED HIS SYMPATHY, BUT TOLD JAGAN THAT THIS WAS ALL THE MORE REASON TO HALT THE VIOLENCE AND URGED JAGAN TO ACT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS HE AND BURNHAM HAD BEEN MAKING. JAGAN DID NOT REPLY AND LEFT THE MEETING.

1.5(c)
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[REDACTED] JAGAN TURNED WHITE AND BECAME INCOHERENT AND EXTREMELY NERVOUS WHEN TOLD THAT GIMPEX AND FREEDOM HOUSE HAD BEEN BOMBED.)

2.

[REDACTED]

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

THE TIMING OF THE BLASTS WHILE THE MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PLOT OF THE PPP, ESPECIALLY SINCE JAGAN HAD INITIATED THE MEETING AND THE PPP KNEW EXACTLY WHAT TIME IT WAS TAKING PLACE.

1.5(c)
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[REDACTED]

3.

[REDACTED] THE BLAST AT GIMPEX OCCURRED FIRST, ABOUT A MINUTE BEFORE THAT AT FREEDOM HOUSE. ONE AFRICAN GUARD WAS KILLED AT GIMPEX, WHILE MICHAEL FORDE, THE MANAGER OF THE BOOK SHOP AT FREEDOM HOUSE AND A FORMER TRAIN IN CUBA, DIED AT FREEDOM HOUSE. SIX OTHERS WERE INJURED, INCLUDING MARY NUNES, WIFE OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION. POLICE QUICKLY DISPERSED THE CROWD THAT GATHERED WITH TEAR GAS AND A MOUNTED PATROL. ACCORDING TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL THE POLICE SAID THAT FORDE DETECTED A PACKAGE IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING NEXT TO

1.5(c)
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PLACE CONTROLS ABOVE TOP BLACK LINE AND BELOW BOTTOM BLACK LINE

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BELOW THIS LINE

[Redacted]

PAGE

FREEDOM HOUSE, HE RETRIEVED THE PACKAGE AND WAS CARRYING IT TO THE BACK OF FREEDOM HOUSE DOWN THE ALLEY BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS WHEN IT EXPLODED. FORDE WAS DISMEMBERED AND FREEDOM HOUSE WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED.)

4. [Redacted] DISSEM: STATE, CINCSO, CINCLANT.

END OF MESSAGE

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3.4(b)(1)

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1.5(c); 3.4(b)(1)

[Redacted]

LBJL, NSF: Country File: Latin America, Box 55, Folder "British Guiana Vol 1 (12/63-7/64) [1 of 3]"

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