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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02539 050052Z
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Richard Zorn,
Senior Reviewer

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R 031424Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2633
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2539

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, GY

SUBJECT: (U) ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED GUYANA CHRONICLE
NEWSPAPER, ON JUNE 1 THE GUYANESE POLICE ARRESTED SIXTEEN
PERSONS "INVOLVED IN TRAINING OF THE USE OF ARMS WITH THE
INTENT OF OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA." THE
ARTICLE GOES ON TO STATE THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE
CONTINUING. IN A SECOND ARTICLE IN THE SAME ISSUE IT WAS
REPORTED THAT SEVEN PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN NEW AMSTERDAM
FOR "DEFACING PUBLIC BUILDINGS." RADIO REPORTS INDICATED
THAT THESE PERSONS WERE WPA ACTIVISTS ACCUSED OF PLACING
ANTI-GOVERNMENT SLOGANS ON BUILDINGS.

2. (LOU) THE ARRESTS CAME TWO DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED
OPENING OF THE TRIAL OF WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (WPA)
ACTIVISTS WALTER RODNEY, OMAWALE, AND RUPERT
ROOPNAIRINE FOR THEIR ALLEGED ROLE IN THE JULY 1979
BURING OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 02539 050052Z

PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) PARTY HEADQUARTERS
IN GEORGETOWN. THE PERSONS DETAINED ARE ALSO AP-
ARENTLY WPA ACTIVISTS.

3. (LOU) EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO COVER THE TRIAL OF
RODNEY, OMAWALE AND ROOPNAIRINE ON JUNE 3 ALTHOUGH
OBSERVERS WILL BE LIMITED BY THE RELATIVELY SMALL
SIZE OF THE COURTROOM. OBSERVERS FROM ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN (FORMER LABOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL SAM SILKEN) AND FROM AMNESTY INTER-

NATIONAL WILL ALSO BE IN ATTENDANCE. US CITIZEN AND UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW PROFESSOR DAVID WEISSBRODT WILL REPRESENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AT THE TRIAL. WEISSBRODT, WHO PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE CHARGE, STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN A CONSULTANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING OBSERVERS AT POLITICAL TRIALS. DWYER

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