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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Richard Zorn,
Senior Reviewer

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GY
SUBJECT: GOG REQUESTS USG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING FORENSIC
PATHOLOGIST FOR RODNEY DEATH

REF: GEORGETOWN 2729

1. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RASHLEIGH JACKSON TELEPHONED ME LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST TO EMBASSY GEORGETOWN IN THE COURSE OF MONDAY FOR ASSISTANCE IN FINDING AN AMERICAN FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST TO ASSIST THE GUYANESE POLICE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE DEATH OF WPA LEADER WALTER RODNEY ON JUNE 13 (REFTEL). (CHIEF OF STAFF MCLEAN HAD PASSED A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO EMBOFF EARLIER IN THE DAY).

2. THE MAIN POINT OF ISSUE IN THE RODNEY DEATH NOW SEEMS TO BE WHETHER THE BOMB WHICH KILLED ORDNEY WAS PLANTED IN THE CAR OR WHETHER, AS POLICE ALLEGE, IT EXPLODED IN HIS LAP. FROM THE REPORTS OF POLICE AND FROM A PHYSICIAN WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN THE INITIAL AUTHOPSY REPORT, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE POLICE VERSION OF THE EVENTS CAN BE CONFIRMED BY INDEPENDENT EXPERT TESTIMONY. THE MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT AN "EXPLOSIVES
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EXPERT" FROM OVERSEAS HAS BEEN INVITED TO GUYANA TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION. THESE REPORTS, HOWEVER, MAY WELL HAVE AS THEIR ORIGIN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUEST TO ME.

3. RODNEY'S BROTHER DONALD (NOT RONALD AS REPORTED REFTTEL), THE ALLEGED DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE, HAS NOT YET BEEN LOCATED BY THE POLICE.

4. COMMENT: THE ANTICIPATED FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL BE TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE NOW SEEN ONE REPORT ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY THE WORKING PEOPLES ALLIANCE (WPA) ON THE RODNEY DEATH. IT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT ACCUSE THE CIA OF INVOLVEMENT AS THE FIRST REPORTS OF THE WPA REACTION (REPORTED REFTEL) HAD ALLEGED. NONETHELESS, FURTHER SUGGESTIONS OF USG INVOLVEMENT FROM THE WPA WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING.

5. OUR REACTION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUEST SHOULD AWAIT THE FORMAL TRANSMITTAL OF THAT REQUEST. EMBASSY GEORGETOWN'S INITIAL REACTION, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE WISE TO LIMIT OUR ASSISTANCE TO OFFERING THE EMBASSY OF GUYANA IN WASHINGTON A LIST OF FORENSIC PATHOLOGISTS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THE INVESTIGATION REQUESTED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE GOG.
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