

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GEORGE 02776 01 OF 02 181842Z
ACTION ARA-15

RELEASE IN FULL

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ADS-00 PA-02 ICAE-00 SS-15
SP-02 NSC-05 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DCT-02
SY-05 SYE-00 FBIE-00 /084 W
-----077667 181914Z /50

P 181802Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2751
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON.
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SALISBURY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Richard Zorn, Senior
Reviewer

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GEORGETOWN 2776

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GUY
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS TO DEATH OF GUYANESE WPA
POLITICAL ACTIVIST DR. WALTER RODNEY; CIA BLAMED

REF: GEORGETOWN 2761 (NOTAL)

1. (U) THE GOG-OWNED DAILY NEWSPAPER, THE GUYANA CHRONICLE (JUNE 18), PRINTED A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION QUESTIONING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE STORY GIVEN BY THE BROTHER OF WALTER RODNEY, DONALD, TO THE CANA NEWS SERVICE (REFTEL) DESCRIBING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF RODNEY'S DEATH IN A JUNE 13 BOMB BLAST. THE STATEMENT, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, POINTED OUT THAT THE RODNEY BROTHERS WERE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AT THE TIME OF DR. RODNEY'S DEATH. FURTHERMORE, THE MINISTRY DOUBTED THE SINCERITY OF DONALD'S CONCERN FOR THE APPREHENSION OF DR. RODNEY'S ASSOCIATE WHO APPARENTLY HANDED DR. RODNEY A "BOOBY-TRAPPED" WALKIE-TALKIE: "WHY DID HE (DONALD) NOT COME UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GEORGE 02776 01 OF 02 181842Z

FORWARD WITH HIS STORY MUCH EARLIER RATHER THAN WAITING SOME 72 HOURS BEFORE MAKING CONTACT WITH THE POLICE?"

2. THE NEWSPAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA STUDENTS' SOCIETY SENT A LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO MRS. RODNEY. THE LETTER STATED THAT "THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DR. RODNEY'S DEMISE ARE MOST UNFORTUNATE" AND THAT THE SOCIETY HOPED THAT INTENSE POLICE AND MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS WOULD "TAKE THE MATTER TO ITS FINALITY..." RODNEY HAD LECTURED AT THE

UNIVERSITY.

3. UNDOUBTEDLY MORE WORRYING FOR THE REGIME OF PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HAS BEEN THE REACTION TO RODNEY'S DEATH REGISTERED IN THE CARIBBEAN. ON JUNE 16 AND JUNE 17, THE WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (WPA), OF WHICH RODNEY WAS A LEADER, ISSUED BULLETINS CONTAINING MESSAGES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AND SYMPATHY OVER THE DEATH OF RODNEY. THE WPA PRINTED THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA, MAURICE BISHOP, WHICH STATED, IN PART, "WALTER RODNEY WAS A CARIBBEAN REVOLUTIONARY OF THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES WHO CONSISTENTLY DEFENDED THE INTERESTS OF THE POOR AND EXPLOITED PEOPLE OF GUYANA, THE CARIBBEAN AND THE WORLD ... HAVING REGARD TO THE RECENT HISTORY OF STEPPED UP VIOLENCE AGAINST POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN GUYANA, WE SEE THIS ASSASSINATION AS SIGNIFYING A DANGEROUS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IF THE BEST OF OUR CARIBBEAN SONS CAN BE CUT DOWN IN SUCH A MANNER, THIS CAN USHER IN A NEW SINISTER PHASE OF MAFIA AND CIA-TYPE APPROACH TO POLITICS BY REMOVING VIOLENTLY THE PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE ENTIRE CARIBBEAN. ONLY IMPERIALISM AND REACTION CAN BENEFIT FROM THIS MURDER WHICH WE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GEORGE 02776 01 OF 02 181842Z

VIEW AS AN ACT DESIGNED TO DESTABILIZE AND INTIMIDATE ALL PROGRESSIVE ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN THE REGION...WE ANXIOUSLY LOOK FORWARD TO THE EARLIEST BRINGING TO JUSTICE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MONSTROUS AND HEINOUS CRIME." BISHOP'S STATEMENT ALSO DECLARED JUNE 16, 1980, SOWETO DAY, AS A DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING FOR WALTER RODNEY "(WHO HAD BEEN) ESPECIALLY COMMITTED TO THE STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE."

4. THE SAME WPA RELEASE ALSO CONTAINED THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA, MICHAEL MANLEY, AND OTHER JAMAICAN POLITICAL FIGURES. MANLEY DESCRIBED RODNEY AS "OUTSTANDING" AND "BRILLIANT" AND THAT "ALL THOSE WHO VALUE SERIOUS POLITICAL PURSUIT AND THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT OF DISSENT MUST BE OUTRAGED BY AND UTTERLY CONDEMN THIS BARBARIC ACT." A STATEMENT FROM PERNELL CHARLES, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP), WHICH HAD WHEN IN POWER IN 1968 EXPELLED RODNEY FROM JAMAICA, SAID THAT "DR. RODNEY WAS A SCHOLAR OF THE HIGHEST DISTINCTION" AND, ACCORDING TO THE WPA, PERNELL ALSO SAID THAT IF IN FACT GUYANA'S RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) PARTY WERE BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION "THEN THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM SHOULD BE ROUNDLY CONDEMNED."

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GEORGE 02776 02 OF 02 181847Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ADS-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICAE-00 DCT-02
SY-05 SYE-00 FBIE-00 /084 W
-----077691 181915Z /50

P 181802Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2752
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SALISBURY

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GEORGETOWN 2776

5. THE WPA ALSO RELEASED THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY OF ZIMBABWE PRAISING THE BRILLIANCE OF RODNEY'S SCHOLARSHIP AND HIS APPLICATION OF "MARXISM AND FANONISM TO A SPECIFIC AFRICAN SITUATION IN A WAY NEVER DONE BEFORE BY ANY AFRICAN WRITER..." RODNEY HAD MET WITH ZIMBABWEAN PRIME MINISTER MUGABE ON MAY 17, AND HAD, ACCORDING TO THIS RELEASE, BEEN PLANNING TO WRITE A HISTORY OF ZIMBABWE. THE ZANU WILL BE REPRESENTED AT RODNEY'S FUNERAL BY IBO MENDAZA.

6. THE WPA REPRODUCED CABLES RECEIVED FROM A VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, AND IN THE UNITED STATES CONDEMNING THE "ASSASSINATION" OF DR. RODNEY. THE COMMUNICATION WORKERS' UNION OF TRINIDAD URGED THE WPA TO CONTINUE "THE BRAVE STRUGGLE" AGAINST THE "EVIL OF FASCISM."

7. A WPA RELEASE TITLED "WALTER RODNEY'S ASSASSINATION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GEORGE 02776 02 OF 02 181847Z

A COLD-BLOODED PLOT OF THE PNC STATE" (JUNE 17) SAID OF THE BOMB WHICH KILLED RODNEY: "IT WAS A CAREFULLY DESIGNED BOMB, A BOMB PROBABLY DESIGNED WITH THE AID OF

'FOREIGN EXPERTS' LIKE THE CIA." THE RELEASE GOES ON TO ALLEGE THAT RODNEY WAS MURDERED BY THE PNC AND THAT GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF) CHIEF OF STAFF NORMAN MCLEAN WAS INVOLVED. THE RELEASE ALSO REFERRED TO THE GOG'S CALL FOR AMERICAN AND BRITISH EXPERTS TO COME TO GUYANA TO AID IN THE INVESTIGATION BY SAYING, "WE CAN HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE VERDICT OF HIGHLY REACTIONARY POLICE PROCESSES FROM IMPERIALIST CAPITALS IN A HIGHLY POLITICAL INCIDENT IN WHICH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AT AN EARLIER STAGE."
Dwyer

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu