

SECRET

RELEASE IN FULL

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S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 3454

LIMDIS

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/15/86 (ROBERTS, GEORGE B.) OR-.M
TAGS: PINT, GY, FG
SUBJECT: LOCATION OF PERSON IMPLICATED IN WALTER RODNEY KILLING

1. (S) - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. A SOURCE IN GEORGETOWN HAS TOLD OUR POLITICAL OFFICER THAT GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF) SGT. GREGORY SMITH, IMPLICATED IN THE BOMBING DEATH OF OPPOSITION LEADER DR. WALTER RODNEY, MAY BE HIDING IN FRENCH GUIANA. THE SOURCE STATED THAT SGT. SMITH WAS ESCORTED TO CAYENNE ON AN AIRCRAFT APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AGO BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, BILLY SHERRSA (PHONETIC) FLEET MANAGER OF SOLOMAN SEAFOODS. SGT. SMITH, AN ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN WITH EXPERIENCE AT REPAIRING SHIPS' RADIOS AND RADAR, ALLEGEDLY WILL WORK FOR ONE YEAR AS A RADIO REPAIRMAN FOR SOLOMON'S SHRIMP FLEET IN CAYENNE UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME. JACK SOLOMON, OWNER OF SOLOMON SEAFOODS, IS UNAWARE OF SGT. SMITH'S EMPLOYMENT WITH HIS SHRIMP FLEET AND WOULD NEVER CONDONE SHERRA'S ACTIONS NOR SMITH'S EMPLOYMENT WITH HIS FIRM, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE.

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3. PER SOURCE, THE FOLLOWING IS THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO SHERRA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH SMITH: BILLY SHERRA WAS FORMERLY INVOLVED IN SHRIMPING OPERATIONS IN GEORGETOWN WHERE HE BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS WITH GDF CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER NORMAN MCLEAN SHERRA WAS IN GEORGETOWN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO ON COMPANY BUSINESS WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BY BRIGADIER MCLEAN AT SHERRA'S HOTEL. MCLEAN TOLD SHERRA THAT HE HAD A PERSONAL FAVOR TO ASK. MCLEAN THEN PROCEEDED TO REQUEST SHERRA'S COOPERATION IN HIDING A GUYANESE CITIZEN FOR ONE YEAR BY GIVING HIM EMPLOYMENT WITH THE FISHING FLEET THAT HE MANAGED.

MCLEAN SAID THE PERSON WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED RADIO TECHNICIAN AND WOULD PROVE USEFUL TO SHERRA IN FLEET OPERATIONS. SHERRA BEGAN TO ASK SOME PROBING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL BUT WAS HALTED BY MCLEAN WITH THE STATEMENT, "PLEASE DON'T ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS; OTHERWISE I SHALL HAVE TO LIE TO YOU. I WOULD RATHER NOT DO THAT." SHERRA THEN FELT COMPELLED TO COMPLY WITH MCLEAN'S REQUEST BUT HAS SINCE REALIZED THAT THE PERSON HE IS HARBORING IS SGT. GREGORY SMITH.

4. COMMENT: THE STORY ABOVE, IF TRUE, COULD CONCEIVABLY PRODUCE CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY IN A GOG COVER-UP OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING RODNEY'S DEATH. THE STORY ALSO COMES IN THE WAKE OF THE FACT THAT SMITH'S REPUTED WIFE, JOAN MELVILLE, WAS ROUTINELY GRANTED A US VISA AT THE REQUEST OF THE GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ALBEIT UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME: JOAN MELVIN. (THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE STATED THAT MELVIN/MELVILLE WAS BEING POSTED TO THE GUYANESE MISSION IN CANADA AND DESIRED TO VISIT RELATIVES IN THE US - GEORGETOWN 3236.

5. OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, WHO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF USG SUPPORT TO THE BURNHAM REGIME, HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB OF UNCOVERING INFORMATION ON SMITH AND HIS ALLEGED ROLE IN THE
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BOMBING DEATH OF RODNEY. SHOULD THESE OPPOSITION GROUPS DISCOVER THE FACT THAT SMITH MAY NOW BE WORKING FOR A US FIRM WHILE IN HIDING AND THAT HIS REPUTED WIFE RECEIVED A US VISA AFTER THE RODNEY KILLING WHICH ASSISTED IN HER DEPARTURE FROM GUYANA, CHARGES OF USG COMPLICITY IN RODNEY'S DEATH COULD WELL FOLLOW, COMPLI REGARDLESS OF THE REAL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THESE FACTS. MOREOVER, IF IT IS TRUE THAT MCLEAN ASSISTED SMITH BY USING HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH SHERRA, IT REPRESENTS ANOTHER STRONG IMPLICATION OF GOG GUILT IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT RODNEY'S ASSASSINATION.

ROBERTS

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