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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 ANAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 A-02 OPR-02
SY-05 SYE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-07 IO-15 OCT-02
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 OCS-06
HA-05 EB-08 CA-01 /126
-----128528 260717Z /11

O. 260600Z FEB 80

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6017

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE

HQ USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HGTS PANAMA IMMEDIATE

ARIA AOCC WPAFB OH//DOMM//IMMEDIATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

OCT 17 1980

REVIEWED by RHZ

DATE

(X) RELEASE () DECLASSIFY

() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART

() DENY () Non-responsive info.

FOI, EO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

() CLASSIFY as

() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0320

CARACAS FOR RSO

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, NS

SUBJECT: SURINAME SITUATION REPORT

REF: A) PARAMARIBO 0315 B) PARAMARIBO 0317 C) PARAMARIBO
0319 D) STATE 050619 (ALL NOTAL)

1. SITUATION HERE AS OF 0300Z IS QUIET. STREETS ARE DESERTED
AS A RESULT OF 7 PM - 6 AM CURFEW. NO TROOPS OR ARMORED CAR
PATROLS EVIDENT. AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH PRESIDENT FERRIER EARLIER
TODAY, AND EMBOFF VISITED REBEL LEADERS IN THEIR HEADQUARTERS AT
MEMBE BOEKOE KASERNE IN COURSE OF ARRANGING CLEARANCE FOR
CLIFFHANGER USAF AIRCRAFT DEPARTURE; DETAILS FOLLOW.

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2. AMBASSADOR LATE THIS AFTERNOON SPOKE WITH PRESIDENT

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FERRIER, WHO REPORTED HE WAS REMAINING IN OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, WAS NOT IN JEOPARDY, AND HAD NOT YET NOT BEEN FIRED UPON (CONTRARY EARLIER REPORTS FROM GUYANA). HE SAID MUTINEERS HAD SENT AN EMISSARY, ASKING THAT HE MEET WITH THEM TO DISCUSS THEIR AIMS AND PLANS. FERRIER SAID HE TOLD THEM HE WAS FULLY PREPARED TO MEET WITH THEM, BUT NOT UNTIL THEY PUT AWAY THEIR WEAPONS, AND TOLD AMBASSADOR HE UNDERSTOOD REBELS WERE MEETING AT KASERNE TO DISCUSS THIS.

3. DETAILS: WHEREABOUTS OF PRIME MINISTER HENK ARRON ARE UNKNOWN, ALTHOUGH WE NOW HEAR HE HAS NOT LEFT THE COUNTRY BUT IS HOLED UP AT CAROLINA, A RIVER STATION ABOUT 50 MILES SOUTH OF PARAMARIBO. WHEREABOUTS OF OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS UNKNOWN. WHEN AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH ACTING MINISTER PRESIDENT VAN GENDEREN EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON, SHE REPORTED HE SPOKE VERY RETICENTLY, AS THOUGH POSSIBLY UNDER GUARD. REBELS CLAIM THEY HAVE INCARCERATED POLICE CHIEF JIMMY WALKER, SURINAMESE DEFENSE FORCE COMMANDER COL. Y. ELSTAK, JUSTICE MINISTER BADRISINGH, AND THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF PROSECUTOR CONDUCTING THE CASE AGAINST THE THREE NCO'S CHARGED WITH INSUBORDINATION, WHO OF COURSE ARE NOW FREE. ATTORNEY GENERAL DE MIRANDA REPORTEDLY RESISTED ARREST, WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND IS NOW IN CRITICAL CONDITION AT A LOCAL HOSPITAL. REBELS ALSO CLAIM A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE POLICE FORCE HAS JOINED THEM, WHILE THOSE POLICE WHO DID NOT ARE UNDER ARREST. LOYAL ARMY OFFICERS WHO HAD GATHERED AT FORT ZEELANDIA EARLIER THIS MORNING EVIDENTLY LEFT THERE BEFORE NOON, WHICH MAY EXPLAIN WHY MUTINEERS DID NOT CARRY OUT THEIR THREAT TO SIEGE THE HISTORIC OLD FORT. WE DO NOT KNOW FATE OF OFFICERS BUT HAVE HEARD NOTHING TO INDICATE THEY RESISTED OR WERE UNCLASSIFIED
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ARRESTED.

4. FOR RECORD, ALL THREE USAF ARIA AIRCRAFT DEPARTED ZANDERIJ ABOUT 1940 HRS LOCAL TIME THOUGH THERE WAS ABOUT THREE HOUR DELAY AT LAST MINUTE. EVIDENTLY ENGINE START PROVOKED SMALL MUTINEER CONTINGENT HOLDING AIRPORT TO ACTION AND, WITHOUT ORDERS, THEY REFUSED TO PERMIT DEPARTURE. REBEL HEADQUARTERS HERE FURNISHED EMBASSY WITH LETTER ORDERING RELEASE AND, IN MEANTIME, MUTINEERS WERE EVIDENTLY SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THROUGH TO THEIR COMRADES AT ZANDERIJ.

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5. IN CONVERSATION AT KASERNE, EMBOFF PRESSED REBELS HARD TO LEARN THEIR PLANS AND OBJECTIVES, BUT WAS CONSISTENTLY PUT OFF AS HEAVILY-ARMED NOCS, OBVIOUSLY PREOCCUPIED AND NERVOUS, KEPT REFERRING EMBOFF TO ONE OF SEVERAL CIVILIANS WHO SEEMED TO BE PROVIDING IDEOLOGICAL GUIDANCE. EMBOFF WAS NOT ABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF THESE BUT BELIEVES ONE MAY HAVE BEEN RADICAL POET FAINTER ROBIN "DOBRO" RAVALES, WHO FORMED HIS OWN SPLINTER

GROUP OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN PARTY(PNR). RAVALES IS CLEARLY OF LEFTIST LEANING, FOR EXAMPLE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SURINAME - NORTH KOREA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. THOUGH DOBRO

DID NOT SPEAK WITH EMBOFF DIRECTLY, THOSE WITH HIM WOULD SAY ONLY THAT THEY "WANT REDRESS FOR THEIR GRIEVANCES" AND "WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO LISTEN TO THEM," AND THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW MORNING (FEB. 26) AT WHICH ALL WOULD BE MADE CLEAR. SEVERAL OF THE LEADERS DID TELL EMBOFF, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCED TO PRESIDENT FERRIER'S REQUEST TO LAY DOWN THEIR WEAPONS SINCE THAT WOULD BE "THE END OF THE GAME." IN GENERAL MILITARY RANK-AND FILE SEEMED RELAXED, THOUGH LEADERS OBVIOUSLY HAD MUCH ON THEIR MINDS.

RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE ALSO TOLD US THAT UNION LEADERS HAROLD RUSLAND, FRED DERBY AND HANK HERRENBERG, TOGETHER
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WITH FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER EDDIE BRUMA, ARE ALSO AT THE KASERNE ADVISING THE MUTINEERS. COMMENT: EMBOFF, WHO KNOWS THE FIRST THREE PERSONALLY, SAW NONE OF THEM. END COMMENT. BRUMA, RUSLAND AND DERBY WERE STALWARTS OF THE PNR IN ITS POST-1973 HEYDAY AS PARTNER IN ARRON'S NPK COALITION; BRUMA IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS A TOUGH, VIGOROUS AND HONEST MAN. RUSLAND HAS BEEN TRYING HARD IN PAST WEEKS TO FOMENT POLITICAL ACTION WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM SOME LEVERAGE IN THE COMING ELECTIONS; THE MORE RESPONSIBLE DERBY, TECHNICALLY RUSLAND'S BOSS IN THE LAB MOVEMENT, FINALLY WENT ALONG WHEN RUSLAND EARLY LAST WEEK ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT WORKER UNION "SOLIDARITY" WITH THE DISSIDENT NCO'S. HERRENBERG, MEMBER OF THE SMALL SOCIALIST PARTY OF SURINAME (SPS) AND CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION VOP COALITION IN PARLIAMENT WAS DROPPED FROM THE ELECTION LISTS THIS TIME AROUND SINCE HE PROVED A POOR VOTE-GETTER.

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O 260600Z FEB 80

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CARACAS FOR RSO

6. IN ANY CASE SITUATION NOW MAY BE CHANGING FROM
THAT REPORTED IN REPTELS AND BY PHONE EARLIER, IT SEEMED
CLEAR THE REBELS WERE TRYING TO MAINTAIN APPEARANCE OF
CONSTITUTIONALITY, AS BY APPEALING TO PRESIDENT, AND
RUMOR THAT THEY WOULD CALL ON UNION LEADER FRED DERBY TO FORM
A NEW GOVERNMENT. NOW, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT MEET
FERRIER'S DEMAND FOR RETURN TO LAW AND ORDER, MUTINEERS HAVE
ANNOUNCED THEY WILL "SOON" FORM A "CIVIL COUNCIL" TO
RUN THE COUNTRY.

7. IN A TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT AT 9:00 P.M. (LOCAL),
THREE NCO LEADERS READ A TWO-PAGE STATEMENT CALLING
FOR CALM, BUT DEFINITELY INDICATING THEY

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"WILL KEEP CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT." STATEMENT LEE OFF
BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE NCOs, NOW CONSTITUTED AS THE

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"NATIONAL MILITARY COUNCIL," WILL "RECOGNIZE ALL INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, RECOGNIZE THE CHARTER OF THE UN, HAVE CAREFUL REGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GUARANTEE PROTECTION FOR FOREIGN BUSINESSES IN SURINAME." THEY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ALL RADIO STATIONS AND THE TV STATION HAD BEEN "TAKEN OVER" (COMMENT: MOST ARE BACK ON THE AIR, WITH NORMAL ROCK MUSIC PROGRAMMING; END COMMENT), AND THAT ALL BORDER POSTS WERE UNDER NMC CONTROL. STATEMENT CLOSED BY SAYING THAT NCO'S ARE "NOT SEEKING REVENGE," AND THAT "EVERYONE'S EFFORTS WILL BE NEEDED TO MOVE THE COUNTRY FORWARD." THOUGH THEY DID NOT SAY ON TV, MUTINEER LEADERS TOLD EMBOFF THEY WOULD BE CALLING ALL FOREIGN AMBASSADORS TO GATHER AT THE KASERNE FEBRUARY 26 TO MEET THE NMC. COMMENT: W WILL HAVE BETTER BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING MEETING AND WILL FORWARD ANALYSIS IN CLASSIFIED CABLES. END COMMENT.

8. ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY SEEMS QUIET, FROM WHAT LITTLE WE CAN GLEAN. CONSOFF CAMPBELL AND SENIOR FSN, IN WESTERN BORDER CITY NICKERIE TODAY ON BUSINESS, ARE STUCK THERE FOR TIME BEING SINCE ALL FLIGHTS GROUNDED AND ATTEMPT TO RETURN BY CAR FAILED SINCE REBEL TROOPS CONTROL INTERVENING FERRIES. WE HAVE NO REPORTS FROM EAST OR SOUTH, BUT CAMPBELL INDICATES NICKERIE IS TOTALLY QUIET, WITH NO RPT NO REBEL PRESENCE EVIDENT. SMALL ARMY CONTINGENT THERE WAS OBSERVED AT 5:00 P.M. PLAYING SOCCER.

9. EMBASSY'S SITUATION CONTINUES AS BEFORE. EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS, WE PERCEIVE THREAT LEVEL AS LOW, BOTH FOR OFFICIAL AMERICANS AS WELL AS AMCIT RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS. MUTINEERS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH URGENT TASKS. REBEL LEADERS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ASSURE EMBOFF, AT KASERNE, THAT THEY HAVE
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ONLY PEACEFUL INTENTIONS TOWARD FOREIGN PERSONS AND PROPERTY. TROOPS WITH WHOM EMBOFF SPOKE ON STREET, EVEN AT HEIGHT OF MORNING TENSION, SEEMED FRIENDLY IF NERVOUS AND NOT HOSTILE TO WHITE FACES. WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD AT PRESEN OF ANY CHANGE WHICH MIGHT MAKE REBELS TURN AGAINST US. WE WILL GIVE YOU UPDATE ON THIS ASPECT IN TOMORROW'S CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC BUT AS OF NOW SEE LITTLE POSSIBILITY IN ANY CASE FOR SECURITY ASSIGNMENT SOON.

10. WE ARE MAINTAINING 24-HOUR COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY AS REQUESTED, AND WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE ANY SUPPORT DEPT.

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CAN FURNISH (PER REF. C) ONCE AIRPORT REOPENED, WHICH WE NOW HEAR MAY BE SEVERAL DAYS. AS ABOVE, CONSOFF AND SENIOR LOCAL WILL PROBABLY BE FORCED REMAIN IN NICKERIE AT LEAST THROUGH FEBRUARY 26. LOCAL PHONE SYSTEM GRADUALLY DETERIORATING AND MANY OF OUR RADIOS HAVE PROVEN UNSERVICEABLE UNDER USE, IN SPITE OF RECENT TECH VISIT. RECOMMEND IF POSSIBLE DEPT POUCH IMMEDIATELY FOUR (4) EACH NEW HN-36 RADIOS AND THREE (3) EACH PR-36 RADIOS. THOUGH UNCLAS POUCH MIGHT NOT GET THROUGH FOR SEVERAL DAYS WE WOULD AT LEAST HAVE MORE RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS IF PHONE SYSTEM DETERIORATES MORE AND UNSTABLE SITUATION CONTINUES. ADVISE.

11. FINAL LATE EVENING BULLETIN FROM NATIONAL MILITARY COUNCIL CALLS FOR SCHOOLS TO BE CLOSED FEB. 26, CHILDREN TO BE KEPT HOME, POLICE ORDERED BY NMC TO REPORT TO FORT ZEELANDIA, CALLS UP VETERANS, ORDERS TEACHERS TO SCHOOLS TOMORROW FOR ORDERS, AND FORBIDS PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES.

12. HAVE JUST RECEIVED REF D. MUCH OF MATERIAL RELATED TO US ATTITUDE WAS COVERED BY EMBOFF, BASED ON TELCONS, AT KASERNE AND SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO GOS WAS CHANGED AS REPORTED ABOVE. WE WILL CONTINUE REPORTING DEVELOPMENT, AND INFO REQUESTED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

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13. LOCAL U.S. MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE REQUESTED DEPT CONTACT THEIR HOME OFFICES AS BELOW TO ASSURE THEM ALL HERE ARE ACCOUNTED FOR, UNHARMED, AND IN NO RPT NO DANGER:

MISSIONARY AVIATION FELLOWSHIP: MR. WALTER MOOD,
(714) 525-8111.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS: MR. CHARLES BRYAN, (804) 353 0151.

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE (FORMER WYCLIFFE FOUNDATION,
BIBLE TRANSLATORS): MR. ELDER OR MR. CHURCH (SIC), (714)

536 9346.

OSTRANDER

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