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ACTION ARA-16**RELEASE IN FULL**INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 OPR-02
CIAE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 HA-06
L-03 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 CCO-00 INRE-00 OCS-06
CA-01 A-02 USSS-00 ICAE-00 SYE-00 SP-02 OC-06
SPRS-02 /103 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8519
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS PN IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0468

E.O. 12065: GDS 03/12/88 (LA ROCHE, RICHARD R.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT NS
SUBJECT: SURINAME COUP: SITREP 10 - BOUTERSE INTERVIEW

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SHORTLY AFTER 2PM MARCH 12, A TAPED INTERVIEW WITH
ARMY COMMANDER DESI BOUTERSE WAS BROADCAST ON STVS. HE SAID
THAT HE LEARNED OF THE TAKE OVER OF THE MEMRE BOEKOE KASERNE BY
THE RAMBOCUS/HAWKER FORCES MARCH 11 AT APPROXIMATELY 5:30AM
AND WITH MAJOR HORB ESTABLISHED A DEFENSIVE POSITION AT
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FORT ZEELANDIA.

THE PROBLEM OF LACK OF WEAPONS WAS SOLVED WHEN THE POLICE
PROVIDED GUNS AND AMMUNITION AND, ACCORDING TO BOUTERSE,
AS THE DAY CONTINUED MORE AND MORE SOLDIERS REPORTED TO FORT
ZEELANDIA TO ASSUME DUTY. ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 12 A COUNTER
ATTACK TO RETAKE MEMRE BOEKOE WAS LAUNCHED.
ALTHOUGH THE ATTACK WAS REPELLED MANY OF THE RAMBOCUS/HAWKER
FACTION WERE WOUNDED AND HAWKER WAS CAPTURED. ACCORDING TO
BOUTERSE, RAMBOCUS AND SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS REMAINED INSIDE
MEMRE BOEKOE AND WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO FIGHT BUT HE CLEARLY**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Leonard Kusnitz, Senior Reviewer**

IMPLIED THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITY (MA) HAD REGAINED THE UPPER HAND AND WOULD SOON BE IN COMPLETE CONTROL. BOUTERSE ENDED BY THANKING ALL THOSE, MILITARY AND CIVILIANS, WHO HAD SUPPORTED THE MA THEREBY FACILITATING ITS SUCCESS AGAINST THE ATTEMPTED COUP-MAKERS.

3. COMMENT: SINCE STVS HAS NO CAPABILITY FOR MOBILE LIVE BROADCASTS THIS INTERVIEW HAD TO HAVE BEEN TAPED AND WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT TIME IT WAS ACTUALLY MADE. AT THAT TIME RAMBOCUS STILL CONTROLLED MEMRE BOEKOE. HOWEVER, WHETHER THAT IS STILL TRUE AT 1430, MARCH 12 IS NOT CERTAIN. WE HAVE OVERHEARD A MILITARY SHORTWAVE REPORT THAT MEMRE BOEKOE HAS BEEN OVER-RUN BY MA FORCES.4. WE ARE UNSURE WHETHER RESISTANCE BY RAMBOCUS AT MEMRE BOEKOE IS ENDED OR WHETHER ANY PORTION OF THE RAMBOCUS FORCES ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE MEMRE BOEKOE AND WILL HAVE TO BE ROUNDED UP. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE MA ARE ONCE AGAIN IN CONTROL. AT THE INTERVIEW, BOUTERSE APPEARED VERY RELAXED AND VERY RELIEVED. HE SMILED OFTEN AND GAVE EVERY INDICATION OF BEING TOTALLY CONFIDENT IN THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.
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