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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 EB-08 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05
HA-06 L-03 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 CCO-00 DOTE-00
OMB-01 INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-01 FAA-00 FBOE-00 ANAE-00
RP-10 ACDA-12 A-02 USSS-00 ICAE-00 SYE-00 SP-02
OC-06 MCE-00 SR-04 PLE-00 SPRS-02 /138 W
-----145520 111638Z /46

O 111535Z MAR 82 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8505
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS PN
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0443

E.O. 12065: GDS 3-11-88 (LAROCHE, RICHARD R.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT NS
SUBJECT: SURINAME COUP SITREP 3

REF: RICKERT/LA ROCHE PHONECON

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CHARGE CONTACTED POLICE COMMISSIONER VRIJ IN HIS OFFICE. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO SPEAK BUT GAVE FOLLOWING OUTLINE REPORT OF SITUATION AS OF 11:00 LOCAL TIME:

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3. VRIJ WHO DENIED HE OR ANY POLICE UNITS WERE PART OF COUP GROUP, SAID SITUATION WAS VERY CONFUSED AND UNSTABLE. COUP WAS LED BY ARMY UNIT UNDER COMMAND OF FORMER ARMY LIEUTENANT RAMBOCUS. THIS UNIT HAD SURROUNDED MEMRE BOEKOE AND GAINED "CONTROL." FIGHTING WAS LIMITED TO SMALL ARMS. VRIJ WAS UNSURE WHETHER ALL TROOPS INSIDE HAD BEEN DISARMED AND THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY BETWEEN FACTIONS.

4. THE 'OTHER SIDE' ACCORDING TO VRIJ IS UNDER PRESENT COMMAND OF BATTALION COMMANDER HENK FERNANDES WHO IS SAID TO BE IN FORT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Leonard Kusnitz, Senior Reviewer

ZEELANDIA MILITARY POLICE CAMP. VRIJ BELIEVES BOUTERSE MAY ALSO BE IN THE CAMP. HE THINKS FERNANDES IS NEGOTIATING WITH RAMBOCUS AT FT ZEELANDIA.

5. VRIJ CLAIMS NOT TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF GARRISON COMMANDER HORB BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE HE HAD BEEN "CAPTURED."

6. AS OF 11:15 LOCAL THE MAIN AIRPORT AT ZANDERIJ WAS OPEN BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT AT LEAST ONE OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT THIS MORNING WAS CANCELLED. ALL DOMESTIC SURINAME AIRLINES FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND THE AIRPORT AT ZORG EN HOOP (IN PARAMARIBO) IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF AIR FORCE HEAD, MAJOR VASILDA, WHO HAS A SMALL CONTINGENT OF MEN PROTECTING THE AIR FORCE'S NEWLY OBTAINED AIRCRAFT IN ITS HANGER.
LA ROCHE

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