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ACTION ARA-16

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R 311212Z OCT 83
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARAMARIBO 2480

STATE FOR ARA/RPP:LABOR OFFICER AND PASS INR/B

BRIDGETOWN FOR RLA SANDMAN

USIA FOR AR

E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/28/89
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, CU, UR, NS
SUBJ: C-47 LABOR FEDERATION LOOKS TOWARD CUBA AND USSR

REF: PARAMARIBO 2169

- 1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT).
- 2. SUMMARY: LATELY LEADERS OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE
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C-47 LABOR FEDERATION HAVE INCREASED CONTACTS WITH
CUBA AND SOVIET UNION RATHER THAN WITH MODERATE
CARIBBEAN REGIONAL LABOR CIRCLES. THIS PATTERN OF
C-47'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS COINCIDES WITH ITS CHAIRMAN
FRED DERBY'S EFFORTS TO GATHER SUPPORT FROM MODERATE
LABOR LEADERS WITHIN SURINAME FOR NATIONAL LABOR COUNCIL.
ACTION REQUESTED: NONE. END SUMMARY.

- 3. RECENT PATTERN OF POLITICAL ACTIVIST C-47 LABOR
FEDERATION'S CUBAN AND SOVIET INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Leonard Kusnitz, Senior
Reviewer**

AND ITS LEADER'S LONG-STANDING SUSPICION OF U.S. SUGGEST STRONGLY THAT C-47 CHAIRMAN FRED DERBY WILL NOT SEEK INTERNATIONAL BALANCE BY SIMILAR OSTENTATIOUS COLLABORATION WITH MODERATE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CIRCLES. C-47 LEADERS HAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY TURNED TO CUBA AND SOVIET UNION, ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA REPORTS.

4. THUS, DURING SEPTEMBER 23-29 VISIT TO CUBA, DERBY AND AIDE JACK KROSS BEHAVED AND TALKED AS IF THEY WERE DELEGATED TO REPRESENT THE ENTIRE SURINAME LABOR MOVEMENT FOR (A) THEY MET WITH UNNAMED CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY, POLITBURO, AND LABOR LEADERS; (B) THEY CHARACTERIZED THEIR VISIT AS "HISTORIC" EVENT AND ADVOCATED BUILDING FRUITFUL CONTACTS AND COOPERATION IN LABOR FIELD BETWEEN SURINAME AND CUBA; (C) DERBY NOTED SURINAME COULD LEARN FROM CUBAN REVOLUTION AND AGREED TO ATTEND FEBRUARY 1984 CUBAN LABOR CONGRESS. HE EXTENDED TO CUBAN HOSTS AN INVITATION TO VISIT SURINAME.

5. DURING CUBAN VISIT DERBY ALSO MENTIONED US DISPARAGINGLY AS FOLLOWS: (A) UNITY OF CUBAN PEOPLE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT WEAPON AGAINST US IMPERIALISM; (B) "U.S. BLOCKADE OF CUBA" HAD ONE POSITIVE EFFECT: CUBAN PEOPLE, THROUGH WILL AND CREATIVITY, NOW PRODUCE THOSE GOODS THEY FORMERLY IMPORTED.

6. OCTOBER 11-14 VISIT TO SURINAME BY TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET LABOR MOVEMENT AS C-47 GUESTS EMPHASIZED FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO LABOR MOVEMENTS. LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED THAT TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAD MEETING OF MINDS ON FOLLOWING THEMES: (A) UNITY OF PEOPLE IS NECESSARY TO BUILD REVOLUTION; (B) WORKING CLASS MUST BE GIVEN ROLE IN POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC AREAS OF PLANNING IN ORDER TO INCREASE ITS PRODUCTIVITY; (C) (NOTE: THESE SAME POINTS WERE ALSO MADE IN THE DERBY-KROSS CUBA VISIT.) SOVIET DELEGATES ALSO HAD BRIEF PRO-FORMA MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER THREE LABOR FEDERATIONS, TOURED ALCOA'S SURALCO BAUXITE FACILITY, AND LECTURED AT SIVIS LABOR COLLEGE.

7. MEDIA DID NOT REPORT ANY CONCRETE RESULTS OF VISIT, BUT C-47 VICE CHAIRMAN FRANS MENCKEBERG, WHO IS ALSO SIVIS LECTURER, TOLD POLOFFS THAT SOVIETS ALSO MADE COURTESY CALL ON LABOR MINISTER BOKSTEEN.

8. KEY C-47 LEADERS ADAMA AND DERBY, LONG STANDING CRITICS OF U.S., REMAINED TRUE TO FORM IN DERBY'S STATEMENT IN CUBA. ADAMA ALSO RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFFS

THAT C-47'S ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND NATIONALISM SEVERELY
LIMIT ITS ABILITY TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. ADAMA
CHARACTERIZED CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE, FOR EXAMPLE,
AS "ONE MORE U.S. ATTEMPT TO BUY OFF" THE CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES. ADAMA'S LONG HISTORY OF HOSTILITY TOWARD
U.S. INCLUDES HIS GROUNDLESS 1982 ALLEGATION THAT FORMER
EMBASSY DCM LAROCHE HAD EXHORTED C-47 TO JOIN IN
MOEDERBOND FEDERATION'S OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1982 ANTI-GOS
STRIKE -- A CANARD LATER USED BY GOS AS PART OF ITS
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"EVIDENCE" THAT DCM AND PAO HAD INTERFERED IN SURINAME'S
INTERNAL AFFAIRS.) FRED DERBY CHAIRS BAUXITE
NEGOTIATIONS REVIEW COMMISSION (CHOB) IN SURINAME AND
ALSO HEADS TWO LOCAL BAUXITE WORKERS UNIONS WHICH ARE
AFFILIATES OF HIS C-47 FEDERATION. HE IS WIDELY BELIEVED
TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY BOUTERSE TO LEAD LABOR EN MASSE
INTO GOS' FOLD. BUT DERBY DOES NOT HAVE WIDE LABOR
SUPPORT OUTSIDE C-47. OTHER LABOR LEADERS GENERALLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARAMARIBO 2480

STATE FOR AGA/RPP:LABOR OFFICER AND PASS INR/B

BRIDGETOWN FOR RLA SANDMAN

USIA FOR AR

REMAIN COMMITTED TO INDEPENDENT, POLITICALLY DETACHED
TRADE UNIONISM AND EITHER DISTRUST DERBY OR SIMPLY
REFUSE TO CREDIT EVIDENCE THAT HE IS A PRO-CUBAN
OR PRO-SOVIET AS HIS PUBLIC ACTIONS SUGGEST.

9. RIVAL MOEDERBOND FEDERATION CHAIRMAN FRED VAN RUSSEL
EMOTIONALLY AND APPARENTLY UNINTENTIONALLY BLURTED
OUT TO POLOFFS OCTOBER 19 THAT DERBY CANNOT POSSIBLY
PARLAY HIS CLOSE TIES TO GOS INTO PERSONAL DOMINATION
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OF LABOR MOVEMENT. HE SAID GOS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT
TO USE DERBY AS STALKING HORSE IN PROJECTED LABOR COUNCIL
BECAUSE HE HAS SO LITTLE SUPPORT AMONG LABOR LEADERS.
(SEE SEPTTEL).

10. RAMON CRUDEN, CHAIRMAN OF PWO FEDERATION AND ALSO SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOS NATIONAL POLICY CENTER, RECENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT DERBY'S CULTIVATION OF CUBA AND RUSSIA IS WINDOW DRESSING ATTEMPT TO BRING BALANCE INTO LABOR MOVEMENT'S OUTSIDE RELATIONSHIPS. ACCORDING TO CRUDEN, DERBY PERSONALLY CANNOT ABIDE EITHER CUBA OR USSR. HE ADDED THAT BOUTERSE WOULD NOT RISK HANDING DERBY POWER THAT WOULD GO WITH BEING HEAD OF UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT.

11. SEVERAL RANK AND FILE WORKERS IN UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH DERBY'S FEDERATION HAVE INDICATED TO POLOFF THAT WORKERS GENERALLY LOOK ASKANCE AT DERBY'S GAMESMANSHIP, BUT ADMIRINGLY CONCEDE THAT C-47 HAS OUTMANEUVERED FORMERLY DOMINANT MOEDERBOND (WHOSE DYNAMIC LEADER, CYRILL DAAL, BOUTERSE CAUSED TO BE KILLED IN DECEMBER 1982). THESE WORKERS SAY THAT WERE POLITICAL SITUATION IN COUNTRY TRULY FREE, THERE WOULD BE STRONG MOVEMENT WITHIN C-47 TO OUST DERBY AS ORGANIZATION'S LEADER. FOR PRESENT, THESE SOURCES SAY, WORKERS FOLLOW DERBY BECAUSE (A) THEY FEAR VIOLENT MILITARY REACTION TO LABOR UNREST THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM ANTI-DERBY MOVEMENT WITHIN C-47; AND (B) WORKERS BELIEVE THAT DERBY CAN, BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE TIES TO REGIME, HELP INCREASE THEIR WAGES AND BENEFITS.

12. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:
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-- A. MEDIA IDENTIFIED SOVIET TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR AFFILIATIONS AS FOLLOWS: (1) MATTHEUS OSSISOV, AKA MATVEI USIPOV, CHAIRMAN OF LABOR FEDERATION OF KERALIA REPUBLIC, USSR, BOARD MEMBER OF USSR'S NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION, THE ACCTU, AND MEMBER OF SUPREME SOVIET (PARLIAMENT); (2) "MR. VICTOR", AKA VICTOR KORYAKOVTSEV, CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION OF ACCTU.

-- B. FRANS MENCKEBERG, C-47 VICE-CHAIRMAN ASSIGNED AS LECTURER TO SIVIS LABOR COLLEGE TOLD POLOFFS THAT HE, MENCKEBERG, HAD ATTENDED SOVIET UNION'S MAY DAY 1983 CELEBRATION AT INVITATION OF ACCTU. HE MET BOTH USIPOV AND KORYAKOVTSEV AT THAT TIME. MENCKEBERG ALSO VISITED U.S. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, POSSIBLY AS PARTICIPANX IN AN AIFLD PROGRAM. DUEMLING

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