



Department of State

TELEGRAM

EXCISE

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 FBO-05 DCT-02 HA-05 SR-04
AID-07 CCO-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01
A-02 OCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 ANAE-00 SYE-00
MC-02 /130 W

-----007340 052114Z /67

Z O 051940Z MAY 80

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6335
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *10/5/84*
 RELEASE
 EXCISE
 DEFT
FOI, EO or PA exceptions *(12)*
 CLASSIFY as *(U)* TS authority to:
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

CONFIDENTIAL PARAMARIBO 0810

PANAMA FOR SALG

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 5/5/00 (OSTRANDER, NANCY) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, PORS, PINT, PGOV, MILI, NS, AEMR
SUBJECT: COUNTER-COUP RUMORS: FURTHER DETERIORATION IN SITUATION
IN SURINAME

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1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT

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2. WELL-SUBSTANTIATED RUMORS OF A COUNTER-COUP DISCOVERED AND THWARTED BY THE NATIONAL MILITARY COUNCIL (NMC) LAST WEEKEND ARE CIRCULATING THROUGH PARAMARIBO. MINISTER PRESIDENT CHIN A SEN IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE NATION ON TELEVISION TONIGHT, AND INFORMED SPECULATION IS THAT HE WILL ANNOUNCE A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND MARTIAL LAW. WHILE PRESENT SITUATION DOES NOT RPT NOT SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THIS MIGHT CAUSE OUTBREAK OF CIVIL DISTURBANCE, MILITARY HERE IS OBVIOUSLY AFFECTED WITH BAD CASE OF JITTERS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE PREPARING CONTINGENCY "STAY OFF THE STREETS" NOTICE FOR U.S. CITIZENS, THOUGH AT PRESENT CONSIDER LIKELIHOOD OF HAVING TO USE IT IS, HOPEFULLY, REMOTE.

3. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL USUALLY-RELIABLE SOURCES A FORMER ARMY OFFICER NOW RESIDENT IN HOLLAND, (FNU) O R M S K I R K, WAS ARRESTED BY NMC IN ALBINIA (ON BORDER RIVER BETWEEN SURINAME AND FRENCH GUIANA) MAY 3 AND SHOT. ORMSKIRT A MONTH AGO TOLD DUTCH NEWSPAPERS THAT HE, PRIOR TO FEB. 25 MILITARY MUTINY, HAD BEEN PLANNING A COUP D'ETAT OF HIS OWN, SCHEDULED FOR EARLY SPRING (EASTER).

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6. WE KNOW ALSO FROM FIRST-HAND OBSERVATION AND REPORTS THAT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS CONSIDERABLY HEIGHTENED AT MEMRE BOEKOE KAZERNE HERE DURING THE WEEKEND WITH RIGID SECURITY MEASURES REINTRODUCED, THROUGH THERE WERE FEW SIGNS IN TOWN ITSELF. WE ALSO KNOW THAT SENIOR PARLIAMENTARIANS -- INCLUDING FORMER OPPOSITION LEADER JAGGERNATH LACHMON -- WERE PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING, ALLEGEDLY SINCE THEIR NAMES APPEARED ON ORMSKIRK'S LISTS.

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NMC ITSELF APPEARS INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY DIFFICULTIES FACING IT, ESPECIALLY IN REORGANIZING THE ARMY INTO AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE, AND BY WIDENING IDEOLOGICAL GULF BETWEEN NMC MEMBERS. B-

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OVERALL ATTITUDE REGARDING CHIN A SEN'S MAY 1 SPEECH SEEMS TO BE "WAIT AND SEE," OVERALL LEVEL OF UNEASE HAS BEEN RAISED AND MANY MORE BITTER ANTI-NMC COMMENTS ARE BEING HEARD PRIVATELY. B-

8. POLITICALLY, SITUATION IS UNCLEAR. SURINAMESE ARE GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED AS A RELATIVELY PASSIVE FOLK, WHICH WOULD TEND TO
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ARGUE THAT ANY SERIOUS COUNTERCOUP ATTEMPTS ARE LESS LIKELY HERE.

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