

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00590 250157Z
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-06 L-03 PM-09 PA-01
MCT-02 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /075 W
-----273071 250344Z /61

RELEASE IN FULL

R 242130Z MAR 82
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8562
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCHNSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
JMDMBASSY THE HAGUE 1432
USCCNCSO QUARRY HGTS PN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAHARIBO 0590

E.O. 12065: GDS 03/24/88 (1)- ROCHEW, RICHARD R.) OR-M

TAGS: VINS NS
SUBJECT: COUP PLOTTERS PARADED AT PRESS CONFERENCE

1. (U) SUMMARY: AONA VRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 22, MP CHIEF
LT. ABRAHAMS INORODUCED A NUMBER OF THE ARRESTED "COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARIES," IN ORDER TO REFUTE RUMORS THAT THEY HAD
BEEN WOUNDED, OR MISTREATED WHILE IN CUSTODY, OR HAD COMMITTED
SUCICIDE HE ANNOUNCED THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE RED
CROSS HAD BEEN INVITED TO INVESTIGATE TREATMENT OF TME PRISONERS.
HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN FOUR ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSI-
NATE THE MILITARY AUTHORITY AND NMR MEMBERS BDFORE THE ATTACK
ON MEMRE BOEKOE KASERNE ON MARCH 11. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00590 250157Z

2. (C) AT THE MARCH 22 PRESS CONFERENCE, SUSPECTED COUP

PVOTTERS SALAM SOMOHARDJO, SHEOMBAR, ROBBY SOHANSING,
MAHADEWSINLH AND KHAZI WERE DISPLAYED TO THE PRESS. LT.
ABRAHAMS EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE IN ORDER TO LAY
TO REST THE NUMEROUS UNFOUNDED REPORTS AND RUMORS THAT
THE "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" HAD BEEN WOUNDED, OR MISTREATED
WHILE IN CUSTODY, OR HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE. HE STATED THAT
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND RED CROSS OBSERVERS WOULD HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO INVESTIGATE THE TREATMENT OF THE EETAINEES.

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

COMMENTS: THE PRISONERS HAD BEEN SHAVED BALD (FOR REASONS OF HYGIENE ACCORDING TO THE MPS) AND APPEARED TIRED AND SULLEN, BUT THERE WERE NO OBVIOUS SIGNS OF WOUNDS OR MISTREATMENT. COUP LEADER RAMBORUS WAS NOT PRESENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE, AND WE HAVE HAD NO REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN SEEN SINCE HIS CAPTURE. END COMMENT.

3. (C) LT. ABRAHAMS SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENTS OF EX-LT. RAMBOCUS AND OTHER CO-CONSPIRATORS, THERE WERE FOUR ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE THE MILITARY AUTHORITY (HA): THE

FIRST INVOLVED SHOOTING THEM AT A TEMPLE SERVICE ON MARCH 7; IT WAS CANCELLED WHEN THE MA FAILED TO APPEAR. THE SECOND CALLED FOR THE CAPTURE OF THE MA WHILE THEY CELEBRATED THE HINDU FESTIVAL OF HOLI PHAGWA AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THE CAPTURE WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER ATTACK ON MEMRE BOEKOE KASERNE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE AVAILABLE WEAPONS. THIS WAS SCRUBBED WHEN THE AVC DRIVERS FAILED TO APPEAR. THE THIRD ATTEMPT WAS SCHEDULED TO OCCUR AT A PHAGWA CELEBRATION AT THE HOME OF PROF. OEMRAWSINGH. THE MA DECLINED HIS INVITATION IN FAVOR OF AN EARLIER ONE, TO A PARTY ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY. THE FINAL ATTEMPT TO KILL THE MILITARY LEADERS WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT THAT GATHERING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARAMA 00590 250157Z

BUT THE COUP PLOTTERS WERE UNABLE TO DISCOVER THE LOCATION OF THE PARTY. THEIR ASSASSINATION SCHEMES HAVING FAILED, THE PLOTTERS ACTIVATED THE MILITARY ASPECT OF THEIR PLAN AND CAPTURED MEMRE BOEUOE EARLY IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 211.

4. (C) COMMENT: THIS IS THE WINNING SIDE'S VERSION OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT. WE HAVE NOT HEARD THE "PLOTTERS" VERSION AND MAY NEVER LEARN FACTUAL DETAILS. NOTING THE APPARENT EASE WITH WHICH THE REBELS CAPTURED THE MAIN MILITARY CAMP AND THE RETICENCE OF MOST SOLDIERS TO JOIN THE BATTLE OF ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER UNTIL THE OUTCOME WAS OBVIOUS, WE CAN HYPOTHESIZE THAT HAD BOUTERSE, HORB, BEEN KILLED PRIOR TO OR AT THE TIME OF THE TAKEOVER OF MEMRE BOEKOE, RESISTANCE TO THE REBELS WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS CONCERTED AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION HERE COULD BE DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT.
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