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USIA FOR AR

DEPARTMENT PASS INR/B (SURINAME)

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PROP, PREL, US, NS

SUBJ: PM UDENHOUT'S SECOND PRESS CONFERENCE: OPTIMISM OVER
RELATIONS WITH US

REF: PARAMARIBO 0583

1. SUMMARY: DURING 30-MINUTE MARCH 21 PRESS
CONFERENCE REPORTING ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO US,
PM UDENHOUT EMPHASIZED THAT (A) RELATIONS WITH
US HAVE BEEN ADVANCED AS RESULT OF HIS TALKS WITH
HIGH LEVEL ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL
OFFICIALS, THAT US DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ASSIST-
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ANCE IN APPROPRIATE AREAS WAS OFFERED, AND THAT
CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE IS NOW COMING OPEN TO
SURINAME. (B) DUTCH AID IS NOT CURE-ALL FOR
COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. HE URGED SURINAMERS TO ADOPT
DISCIPLINED ATTITUDE TOWARD OVERCOMING BUDGETARY
PROBLEMS OF COUNTRY. (C) OAS MEMBERSHIP SERVES
MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS FOR SURINAME, AND (D) LOCAL
JOURNALISTS MUST REFORM PAST PRACTICES AND HELP
PROMOTE SENSE OF NATIONHOOD AMONG PEOPLE AND GIVE
CITIZENS AND READERS ABROAD A REALISTIC PICTURE

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

OF SURINAME'S PLACE AND ROLE IN HEMISPHERE.
ACTION REQUESTED: NONE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MARCH 21 30-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE (REPEATED SAME EVENING ON TELEVISION) REPORTING ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO US, PM UDENHOUT MADE UP-BEAT PRESENTATION OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO US AND ADVISED SURINAMERS IN SOMETIMES BLUNT LANGUAGE THAT FOREIGN AID IS NOT A PANACEA FOR COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. MAIN POINTS OF HIS STATEMENTS FOLLOW. (PM'S STATEMENTS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN NEXT DAY'S EDITION OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR OFFER AND LEVEL OF SUSPENDED US AID CONTAINS DETAILS NOT RPT NOT PRESENTED ON TELEVISION. MARCH 22ND DAILY PAPER ALSO CONTAINS ON FRONT PAGE THREE COLUMN PHOTO OF PM SHAKING HANDS WITH SECRETARY SCHULTZ.)

RELATIONS WITH US

3. PM SAID IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT US, SEVERAL TIMES STYLED "CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY" AND OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN CARIBBEAN BASIN DID NOT
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ALWAYS HAVE CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT SITUATION. RATHER THESE COUNTRIES TENDED TO BE INFLUENCED BY DUTCH PRESS. UDENHOUT SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH TOP US OFFICIALS, HE HAD BEEN GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT REALIS-TIC PERSPECTIVE ON SURINAMESE DEVELOPMENTS.

4. HE REFERRED IN PASSING TO ALLEGED US EXCLUSION OF SURINAME FROM PARTICIPATION IN CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE (CBI) " NOT TOO LONG AGO." BUT UDENHOUT ALSO ASSURED THAT WASHINGTON HAS NOW OPENED PROSPECT OF SURINAMESE PARTICIPATION IN CBI.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, UDENHOUT ALSO STATED THAT SECRETARY OF INTERIOR CLARK HAD OFFERED TO BE HELPFUL IN FORESTRY, WATER CONTROL, ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS. THIS FORM OF ASSISTANCE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE RELATIVELY SOON. PM ALSO MENTIONED WITHOUT ELABORATION CURRENTLY SUSPENDED DOLLARS 1.5 MILLION US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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USIA FOR AR

DEPARTMENT PASS INR/B (SURINAME)

NETHERLANDS AID

6. REGARDING RESUMPTION OF DUTCH AID UDENHOUT SAID
THAT FOREIGN AID SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS IN-
DISPENSABLE ELEMENT FOR SOLVING COUNTRY'S
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE CHARACTERIZED SUCH AN ATTI-

TUDE TOWARDS EXTERNAL AID AS "SLAVE" MENTALITY. UDENHOUT SAID NO AMOUNT OF DUTCH AID NOR IMF LOANS IS RELEVANT TO GREATEST PART OF SURINAME'S PROBLEMS. HE URGED SURINAMERS TO FOCUS ON THINGS THAT FOREIGN AID COULD NOT DO FOR THEM, AND TO DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES FOR HARD TASK AHEAD. PM SAID CONTROLLING BUDGETARY SPENDING WAS NOT ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO OF ENTIRE COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES.

7. AT SAME TIME, UDENHOUT REITERATED THAT SURINAME HAD RIGHT TO DUTCH AID. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NON-CONFRONTATIONAL DIALOGUE COULD BE STARTED WITH NETHERLANDS ON THIS MATTER.

OAS MEETINGS UDENHOUT ATTENDED

8. UDENHOUT EMPHASIZED THAT PARTICIPATION IN OAS IS CRUCIAL FOR SURINAME, NOTING THAT DUE TO ITS SMALL SIZE, SURINAME COULD NOT PLACE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN EVERY COUNTRY IN HEMISPHERE. OAS MEMBERSHIP THUS FACILITATED CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS, HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT ONLY GUYANA, CUBA, AND CANADA WERE NOT MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION. UDENHOUT ALSO NOTED CONTRIBUTIONS OF OAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. PM ADDED THAT VIA AN ACTIVE ROLE IN OAS, SURINAME COULD MAKE SURE THAT HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES RECEIVED "CORRECT" INFORMATION ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN SURINAME, POINTING TO ALLEGEDLY IMPRECISE REPORTS IN WESTERN EUROPEAN, PARTICULARLY DUTCH PRESS ABOUT SURINAME. HE ADDED THAT PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE AND HISTORY CURRENTLY PREVENT SURINAME FROM TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF OAS MEMBERSHIP, HOWEVER.

MEDIA

9. UDENHOUT, IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTION, SOUGHT TO CLARIFY HIS MARCH EIGHTH STATEMENT REGARDING PRIVATE MEDIA NOW BEING GIVEN BY GOS "A CHANCE TO CORRECT THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAST DEEDS" IN ACCEPTING GOS' OFFER TO RESUME OPERATIONS ON MAY 1. UDENHOUT CLARIFIED EARLIER REMARKS AS FOLLOWS:

--A. LOCAL JOURNALISTS HAD NOT SERVED COUNTRY

WELL BECAUSE THEY HAD DISREGARDED NATIONAL NEEDS AND PROMOTED INSTEAD THEIR OWN PRIVATE AND GROUP INTERESTS. THEY HAD DONE NOTHING TO EMPHASIZE NATIONAL PRIDE AND ENCOURAGE UNDERSTANDING OF SURINAME'S NEED FOR UNITY AMID ETHNIC DIVERSITY.

--B. PM URGED JOURNALISTS TO TAKE HARD "LOOK AT MAP" IN ORDER TO OBTAIN REALISTIC VIEW OF SURINAME'S PLACE IN HEMISPHERE VIS-A-VIS OTHER NATIONS. HE ALSO MENTIONED PROBLEMS OF DEMOGRAPHY AND LANGUAGE THAT MEDIA SHOULD HELP TO RESOLVE IN ORDER TO FURTHER SURINAME'S DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION IN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

10. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL. KILLOUGH

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