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ACTION ARA-16**RELEASE IN FULL**INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
IO-15 NSC-05 NSAE-00 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-09 OMB-01  
STR-13 SP-02 /091 W  
-----337532 022146Z /62R 021700Z FEB 82  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8396  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 12065: GDS 2/2/88 (LA ROCHE, RICHARD R.) OR-M  
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, EAID, NS  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER NAARENDORP ON CBI

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER HARVEY NAARENDORP WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CDCC) FEBRUARY 3-4 IN NEW YORK. AT A PRESS BRIEFING ON JANUARY 29, NAARENDORP SAID THE MAJOR FOCUS OF THE MEETING WOULD BE THE STATUS AND EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE. IN HIS VIEW, THE CBI REPRESENTS A THREAT TO CARIBBEAN UNITY IF IT EVOLVES INTO MERELY A FRAMEWORK FOR BILATERAL AID AND THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO ACHIEVE A CDCC CONSENSUS ON THE CBI TO ENHANCE THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES' BARGAINING POWER VIS A VIS THAT OF THE FOUR DONORS. END SUMMARY.
3. AT A JANUARY 29 PRESS BRIEFING, FM NAARENDORP ONCE AGAIN AFFIRMED THE GOS COMMITMENT TO NON-ALIGNMENT. HE  
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SAID SURINAME DOES NOT SELECT ITS FRIENDS FROM ANY ONE BLOC, EAST OR WEST, NORTH OR SOUTH, BUT SEEKS IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. SURINAME IS ALSO WILLING TO CONSIDER AID FROM ANY SOURCE AND THEREFORE IS CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN THE CBI. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO NAARENDORP, THE CBI, AS OUTLINED BY THE FOUR DONOR COUNTRIES (AND LATER EXPLAINED TO NAARENDORP BY DAS BOSWORTH DURING HIS JANUARY 14-16 VISIT HERE), POSES A THREAT TO CARIBBEAN UNITY.

4. ACCORDING TO NAARENDORP, THE CARIBBEAN CONSISTS OF A

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

GREAT NUMBER OF MINI-STATES, WHO MUST WORK TOGETHER NOT ONLY TO GAIN ADDITIONAL BENEFITS BUT FOR SHEER SURVIVAL. SINCE MANY OF THESE STATES ARE NEWLY INDEPENDENT, THEY TEND TO BE "EGOCENTRIC" AND ARE ONLY NOW LEARNING TO COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER ON AN ECONOMIC PLAIN. THE BILATERAL FOCUS OF CBI COULD, IN HIS OPINION, CAUSE THE RE-EMERGENCE OF THE "ME AND THEM" SYNDROME, NEGATING THE ADVANCES MADE IN FOSTERING COORDINATION AMONG THE MINI-STATES BY SUCH GROUPS AS THE CDCC.

5. NAARENDORP FURTHER STATES THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF IMPORT DUTY RELIEF IF APPLIED ON A NATION-BY-NATION BASIS WOULD BENEFIT SOME COUNTRIES TO THE DETRIMENT OF OTHERS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE CARIBBEAN SINCE MOST OF THE COUNTRIES PRODUCE SIMILAR PRODUCTS AND ALL VIE FOR A SHARE OF THE HUGE US MARKET. IF COUNTRY X IS GIVEN IMPORT DUTY RELIEF FOR SUGAR BUT COUNTRY Y IS NOT, Y WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPETE AND ITS ECONOMIC SITUATION COULD BE DAMAGED RATHER THAN HELPED BY CBI.

6. NAARENDORP STATED THAT HE INTENDS TO RAISE THESE ISSUES AT THE FEBRUARY 3-4 CDCC MEETING IN NEW YORK. HE HOPES THAT THE GROUP CAN REACH A CONSENSUS ON HOW THE RECIPIENT  
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COUNTRIES CAN UTILIZE CBI SO AS TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS FOR ALL COUNTRIES WITHOUT SUFFERING THE ALIENATING EFFECTS MENTIONED ABOVE. HE APPARENTLY FEELS THAT BY FORMING A UNITED FRONT, THE RECIPIENTS MAY BE ABLE TO EXERT MORE INFLUENCE OVER THE DONOR COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE CBI FORMAT.

7. COMMENT: THESE CRITICISMS OF CBI ARE BASICALLY THE SAME AS THOSE EXPRESSED TO DAS BOSWORTH BY NAARENDORP EARLIER. ONE ISSUE NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS PRESS BRIEFING WAS THE US-MEXICO CONFLICT CONCERNING THE CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CBI. NAARENDORP HAS INFORMED US THAT HIS POSITION IS THAT CUBA, WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE NAM, SHOULD BE INCLUDED. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NAARENDORP WILL PROCEED TO CUBA FROM THE CDCC MEETING BEFORE RETURNING TO SURINAME. THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS.  
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