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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Executive Registry
80-917

Date: 4 April 1980

TO: Legislative Counsel

FROM: [Redacted]

OLC #83-663/H

SUBJECT: Guyana - HFAC

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REMARKS:

John McMahon denies any Agency involvement.

Per DCI, write a note [Redacted] to Zablocki or Boland [Redacted] "HPSCI agrees to investigate." [Redacted] etc. [Redacted]

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My perception is that this is better done staff to staff. Do you concur?

[Redacted]

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w/ [Redacted] incurs [Redacted] # Apr. [Redacted]

Yes!
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2007

[Redacted]

4 APR 1980

UPI

DDO- Is this any shed?

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(JONESTOWN)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - HEARINGS EARLIER THIS YEAR ON THE JONESTOWN MASS SUICIDE PRODUCED NOTHING NEW, BUT PERSISTANT RUMORS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRAGEDY SHOULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER, A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF SAID TODAY.

THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SAID THE CIA ALLEGATIONS "ARE LARGELY SPECULATIVE AND UNSUBSTANTIATED."

BUT IT TOLD REP. CLEMENT ZABLOCKI, D-MIS., CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL, THAT THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE SHOULD GIVE THEM ANOTHER LOOK. IN PARTICULAR IT SAID THE PANEL SHOULD INVESTIGATE:

- "THE CONTENTION THAT THE CIA CONDUCTED A VARIED RANGE OF 'ACTIVITIES' IN GUYANA.

- "THE CONTENTION THAT A CIA AGENT WITNESSED REP. LEO RYAN'S ASSASSINATION.

- "THE CONTENTION THAT THE CIA MAY HAVE VIOLATED THE HUGHES-RYAN ACT BY FAILING TO REPORT A COVERT OPERATION IN GUYANA.

- "THE CONTENTION THAT THE CIA MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO ALLOW THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF NOV. 18, 1978, TO OCCUR IN ORDER TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF CIA COVERT ACTIVITIES IN GUYANA.

- "THE CONTENTION THAT THIS ALLEGED REPORTING FAILURE WAS CONSCIOUS AND CALCULATED BECAUSE REP. RYAN WAS COAUTHOR OF THE HUGHES-RYAN ACT.

- "THE CONTENTION THAT THE CIA WAS USED TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT AMERICAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN GUYANA."

UPI 04-03 02:00 PES

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17 APR 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA :

FROM : Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Guyana - HFAC/HPSCI

1. After talking to the staff, I believe that the best course of action with regard to the UPI item on the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC)/House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) Guyana inquiry is not to write to Zablocki or Boland.

2. The HFAC staff advised us on 14 April that neither the Fascell Subcommittee nor the staffers which did the initial study find any substance or evidence to support so-called "persistent rumors about CIA". Chairman Zablocki, therefore, does not plan any further action aside from referring the matter to HPSCI.

3. His reason for doing so, according to the staff, is that perhaps a "fresh look" at the information might help to quell the rumors about CIA. At the same time, he said the allegations are being made by Joe Halsinger and others who were very close to Reverend Jones. Their mind-set is such that he has concluded that nothing will persuade them that there wasn't a conspiracy against Representative Ryan. His comments suggested that since Zablocki's Committee feels it has done as much as it can, it would like to get rid of the troublesome issue by passing it to the HPSCI.

4. In a conversation on 15 April with Tom Latimer, HPSCI Staff Director, we learned that the matter had already been referred to HPSCI. Although Tom is also convinced that there is no substance to the allegations, he is recommending to Chairman Boland that they conduct a low-key investigation to discharge their responsibility to the HFAC. His plan is to have a single staff member review the same material that was made available to the HFAC.

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5. At this point, Zablocki has wiped his hands of the matter and HPSCI feels that it must "do something". [redacted]

[redacted]

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted]
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - [redacted]

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

1 - OLC Subject

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OLC: [redacted] (15 April 1980)

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FROM :	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUSPENSE DATE	

SUBJECT: Memo to DCI re Guyana - HFAC/HPSCI

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NOTES

*Re-do -
New Sentence*

COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices)

NAME	OFFICE	DATE

ACTION REQUIRED BY GXX

Signature on memo to DCI

*Signed
17/11/80*