

UNCLASSIFIED

Memorial of Guyana Annex 52 E27

SECRET

PTO4358

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

01 PARAMA 00456 011956Z
SECTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	COME-00	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
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 INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
 AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMCONSUL CALGARY

SECRET PARAMARIBO 000456

MEXICO PLS PASS TO AMCONSUL MONTERREY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/05

TAGS: PREL, MARR, EPET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00456 011956Z
 SUBJECT: SURINAME/GUYANA BORDER DISPUTE: POSSIBLE
 CONFRONTATION

REF (A) PARAMARIBO 410 (B) PARAMARIBO 353

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DENNIS K. HAYS FOR REASONS 1.5
(B) AND (D).

1. (U) THE GOVERNMENTS OF SURINAME AND GUYANA HAVE BEEN
 TRADING DIPLOMATIC NOTES REGARDING THE PLANS OF A
 CANADIAN OIL COMPANY TO BEGIN OFFSHORE EXPLORATORY
 DRILLING IN WHAT SURINAME CLAIMS IS SURINAME TERRITORY.
 A REPRESENTATIVE OF CGX-ENERGY, THE OIL COMPANY THAT HAS
 THE GOG-GRANTED CONCESSION, CONTACTED THE EMBASSY TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
 DATE/CASE ID: 26 NOV 2004 200401802

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Governmental Documents
(Other)

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ADVISE THAT THREE US-BASED VESSELS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE DRILLING SITE. THE CREW OF THE VESSELS INCLUDES CLOSE TO 100 AMERICAN CITIZENS.

(U) ACCORDING TO THE CGX REPRESENTATIVE, THE SITE WHERE THEY ARE CURRENTLY OPERATING IS NINE MILES WEST (THEREFORE ON THE GUYANESE SIDE) OF THE "MARITIME BOUNDARY" (NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE). THERE IS ANOTHER PROPOSED DRILLING SITE THAT "STRADDLES THE BOUNDARY," BUT CGX IS NOT CURRENTLY OPERATING THERE. THE REPRESENTATIVE ADVISED THAT THE GOG IS ABOUT TO ISSUE A "COMMUNIQUE" TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME, IN RESPONSE TO SURINAME'S MOST RECENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE.

3. (S) [REDACTED]

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ADVISED THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES, COL. SECRET

PAGE 03 PARAMA 00456 011956Z
GLENN SEDNEY, WILL APPEAR ON SURINAMESE TELEVISION TONIGHT TO ADVISE THE PEOPLE OF THE SITUATION. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] GOS IS DEPLOYING FOUR VESSELS (TWO 30-METER AND TWO 16.5-METER PATROL BOATS) TO THE DISPUTED AREA FRIDAY MORNING (JUNE 2), TO ARRIVE ON SITE IN THE AFTERNOON. IF, AS CGX STATES, THE DRILLING SITE IS WEST OF THE DISPUTED AREA, THE GOS FORCES WILL FIND NO ONE TO CONFRONT. BUT SINCE CGX PROVIDED NO COORDINATES, WE ARE UNSURE WHERE THEY ARE ACTUALLY LOCATED.

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4. (C) COMMENT: THE ISSUE OF THE START OF DRILLING IN DISPUTED TERRITORY HAS BEEN SIMMERING ON A BACK BURNER IN SURINAME FOR THE LAST MONTH AS ALL EYES WERE ON THE MAY 25 ELECTIONS. WITH THE ELECTION OVER, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW FOCUSING ON GUYANA'S ACTIONS. THIS GIVES THE WIJDENBOSCH CAMP SOMETHING OTHER THAN ITS DEFEAT ON WHICH TO FOCUS. IT ALSO COULD PROVIDE THE WINNING NEW FRONT COALITION WITH A TOPIC TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM ANY PROBLEMS THEY ARE HAVING IN AGREEING TO CANDIDATES FOR THE TOP GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. THE ISSUE HAS A NATIONALISTIC COMPONENT THAT COULD TURN IT INTO A SERIOUS BILATERAL DISPUTE.

HAYS

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Governmental Documents
(Other)

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B6, B1, 1.4(D)

01 GEORGE 00544 01 OF 04 052059Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CEA-01
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	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	FMC-01
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03
	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
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O 051040Z JUN 00
 FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5493
 INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
 AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
 AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
 USEU BRUSSELS
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL//J2
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BELIZE
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMCONSUL TORONTO
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 04 GEORGETOWN 000544

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR-BARNES AND OTIS AND USOAS-GODARD
 KINGSTON FOR ANDREW PARKER
 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/10
 TAGS: PETS PGOV PREL PINR MARR EPET ETRD CASC ASEC GY NS VE
 SUBJECT: GUYANA/SURINAME MARITIME DISPUTE ESCALATES;
 CGX SUSPENDS OPERATIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
 DATE/CASE ID: 26 NOV 2004 200401802

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REF: A) GEORGETOWN 537; B) PARAMARIBO 456;
C) CARACAS 1657

(U) CLASSIFIED BY POL/ECON CHIEF HENRY BISHARAT.
REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: THE ARRIVAL JUNE 1 OF AN AMERICAN OIL RIG IN DISPUTED WATERS CLAIMED BY SURINAME FINALLY ALERTED GUYANA THAT IT HAD A SERIOUS PROBLEM ON ITS HANDS. THE GOG'S SLOW AND UNCERTAIN RESPONSE DURING THE PAST THREE WEEKS TO SURINAMESE OBJECTIONS TO THE INTENDED DRILLING CREATED THE POTENTIAL FOR AN OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORS. ALTHOUGH NO SHOTS WERE FIRED, ON JUNE 3 SURINAMESE PATROL VESSELS' THREATS FORCED THE OIL RIG, UNDER CONTRACT TO CANADIAN-BASED CGX ENERGY, TO SUSPEND DRILLING AND MOVE OUT OF DISPUTED WATERS. ACCORDING TO A GOG ANNOUNCEMENT, GUYANA AND SURINAME ARE
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NOW DUE TO ENGAGE IN TALKS IN TRINIDAD IN THE COMING DAYS
ON THE DISPUTE.

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SUMMARY.

ROHEE'S MEETING WITH ROHEE

3. (C) ON JUNE 2, CHARGE RAISED WITH GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER CLEMENT ROHEE OUR CONCERNS FOR THE SAFETY OF 80 AMCITS ON A U.S.-OWNED OIL DRILLING RIG AND TWO SUPPLY BOATS WHICH WERE BEGINNING OPERATIONS UNDER A GUYANESE CONCESSION IN AN AREA ALSO CLAIMED BY SURINAME. ROHEE'S INITIAL REACTION WAS NERVOUS LAUGHTER. ROHEE THEN ASSERTED THAT "HE WAS ON TOP OF THE SITUATION," ADDING THAT HE COULD NOT GO INTO DETAILS. HE DID STATE THAT THE OIL COMPANY WITH THE DRILLING CONCESSION IN THE DISPUTED WATERS (CANADIAN-BASED CGX ENERGY) HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH PRIME MINISTER SAM HINDS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

4. (C) ROHEE NOTED THAT IN 1994 DURING A VISIT TO PARAMARIBO BY THEN-PRESIDENT CHEDDI JAGAN, GUYANA AND SURINAME HAD SET UP A BILATERAL BORDER COMMISSION. ROHEE ALLOWED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO MEETINGS BETWEEN 1994 AND 1996, BUT THAT, DESPITE GUYANESE REQUESTS, SURINAME HAD NOT AGREED TO ADDITIONAL MEETINGS. ACCORDING TO ROHEE, NEITHER

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COUNTRY FAVORED USING OUTSIDE ARBITRATION TO RESOLVE THEIR
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1 DER DISPUTE DURING THE DISCUSSIONS THAT DID TAKE PLACE.

5. (C) ROHEE OUTLINED THREE AREAS OF DISPUTE WITH
SURINAME:

- A) THE NEW RIVER TRIANGLE IN THE SOUTH;
- B) THE CORENTYNE RIVER;
- C) THE OFFSHORE AREA.

6. (C) WHEN PRESSED, THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH SURINAME ON
THE MARITIME DISPUTE. HE STATED THAT ON MAY 17 GUYANA HAD
RESPONDED TO A SURINAMESE DIP NOTE BY PROPOSING ANOTHER
MEETING OF THE BILATERAL BORDER COMMISSION. ROHEE
EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT THAT SURINAME HAD THEN RESPONDED BY
REPEATING ITS EARLIER NOTE AND DID NOT REACT TO THE
PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING.

ROHEE PRESS CONFERENCE

7. (U) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 2,
ROHEE, ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER
GENERAL MICHAEL ATHERLY, ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE FLOYD
DONALD, AND THE GEOLOGY AND MINES COMMISSIONER BRIAN
SCORE, ANNOUNCED THAT GUYANA HAD INVITED A SURINAMESE

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CEA-01
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	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	FMC-01
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03
	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5494
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USEU BRUSSELS
USCINCSO MIAMI FL//J2
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 GEORGETOWN 000544

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR-BARNES AND OTIS AND USOAS-GODARD
KINGSTON FOR ANDREW PARKER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

F O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/10
S: PBTS PGOV PREL PINR MARR EPET ETRD CASC ASEC GY NS VE
SUBJECT: GUYANA/SURINAME MARITIME DISPUTE ESCALATES;
CGX SUSPENDS OPERATIONS

DELEGATION TO VISIT GEORGETOWN TO DISCUSS GUYANA'S "RIGHT
OF ACCESS TO THE CORENTYNE RIVER" AND OFF-SHORE RESOURCES.
ROHEE SAID HE EXPECTED SURINAME TO AGREE TO SUCH A MEETING
SINCE THEY WERE "HARDLY REJECTED" IN PAST SITUATIONS OF
THIS SORT BETWEEN GUYANA AND SURINAME. THE FOREIGN
MINISTER ALSO AVERRED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THERE WOULD BE
ANY LAPSE IN SURINAME'S INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY AS A RESULT OF
THE RECENT ELECTIONS THERE. HE NOTED THAT THE DIP NOTE
SENT TO SURINAME ON JUNE 2 FURTHER EXPLAINED GUYANA'S
POSITION ON THE MARITIME BOUNDARY, WHICH IS:

BEGIN QUOTE: "THE COMMON BOUNDARY COMMENCES AT THE
INTERSECTION OF THE SEAWARD PROLONGATION OF THE N 10 E LINE
BETWEEN TWO CONCRETE MARKS ON THE GUYANA MAINLAND WITH THE
LINE OF MEAN LOW WATER SPRINGS AND EXTENDS THENCE SEAWARDS
ALONG THE LINE OF EQUIDISTANCE TO THE OUTER LIMIT OF
GUYANA'S CONTINENTAL SHELF." END QUOTE.

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8. (C) THROUGHOUT THE DIPLOMATIC WRANGLING BETWEEN GUYANA AND SURINAME, CGX OPERATED ON A FULL STEAM AHEAD SCHEDULE WITH THEIR PROPOSED DRILLING OPERATION. BY JUNE 1 THE HOUSTON-BASED U.S.-OWNED (R&B FALCON) RIG "C.E. THORNTON" WAS IN PLACE AND HAD ALREADY BEGUN PREPARATIONS TO DRILL AT ITS "EAGLE" SITE, WHEN AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT JUNE 2-3, TWO SURINAMESE PATROL BOATS CAME ALONGSIDE THE RIG AND ORDERED IT TO MOVE OUT OF "SURINAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS" WITHIN 12 HOURS OR FACE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. THE SURINAMESE AND THE RIG'S CAPTAIN THEN AGREED ON A LOCATION THAT THE RIG COULD MOVE TO IN UNDISPUTED GUYANESE WATERS. AS A RESULT, CGX DECIDED, DUE TO CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE RIG'S WORKERS, TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS AND MOVE TO UNDISPUTED WATERS AT FIRST LIGHT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 3. EMBASSY MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER (MLO) WAS IN DIRECT CONTACT BY INMARSAT WITH THE AMCIT CAPTAIN ON THE RIG DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF JUNE 3 AND WAS INFORMED LATER THAT MORNING THAT THE RIG HAD BEGUN MOVING AT 0915 HRS IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE RIG'S RADAR REVEALED THAT THE SURINAMESE PATROL BOATS WERE ABOUT EIGHT MILES EAST OF THE RIG.

9. (C) ON JUNE 3 AT 1730 HRS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] NOTIFIED POL/ECON CHIEF THAT THE RIG WAS THEN IN UNDISPUTED GUYANESE WATERS. HE NOTED THAT A SURINAMESE AIRCRAFT HAD BUZZED THE RIG AT 1205 HRS.

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REUTERS REPORTED LATE JUNE 3 THAT SURINAMESE ARMY CHIEF GLENN SEDNEY HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THE RIG HAD INDEED LEFT THE DISPUTED AREA AND WAS NO LONGER IN "SURINAMESE TERRITORY."

ROHEE BRIEFS OPPOSITION/DIPLOMATS

10. (C) ON JUNE 3, ROHEE BRIEFED OPPOSITION LEADERS, AND, IN A JOINT MEETING, THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, CANADIAN AND U.S. CHARGES, AND THE EU REPRESENTATIVE. ROHEE PASSED TO THE WESTERN DIPLOMATS COPIES OF ALL THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SURINAME AND GUYANA DURING THE PAST MONTH ON THE BORDER DISPUTE AND A COPY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF

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GUYANA'S JUNE 2 PRESS RELEASE. AMONG THESE ITEMS WAS A
DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO SURINAME DATED JUNE 3 IN WHICH GUYANA
PROTESTED SURINAMESE INCURSIONS INTO GUYANESE AIRSPACE AND
TERRITORIAL WATERS AND ITS HOSTILE TREATMENT OF CGX
BOATSONNEL IN GUYANESE WATERS.

11. (C) ROHEE DID NOT OVERTLY SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE
DIPLOMATS FOR GUYANA'S POSITION NOR ELICIT SUGGESTIONS FOR
RESOLVING THE DISPUTE. HE DISAVOWED ANY EXPERTISE AS TO
DETAILS OF THE BORDER DISPUTE, DEFERRING MOST QUESTIONS TO
HIS SUBORDINATES, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE ALSO APPEARED TO BE
LIMITED. HIS ANSWERS WERE VAGUE TO U.S. CHARGE'S QUERIES

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CEA-01
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	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	FMC-01
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03
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	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5495
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USEU BRUSSELS
USCINCSO MIAMI FL//J2
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL TORONTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 03 OF 04 GEORGETOWN 000544

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR-BARNES AND OTIS AND USOAS-GODARD
KINGSTON FOR ANDREW PARKER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/10
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CGX SUSPENDS OPERATIONS

AS TO A TIMETABLE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND THE
ACCEPTABILITY OF CARICOM'S OR ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL BODY'S
ASSISTANCE. ROHEE SEEMED NOT TO COMPREHEND CANADIAN
CHARGE'S SUGGESTION THAT THE GOG MIGHT BE LIABLE FOR
DAMAGES AS A RESULT OF CGX'S FINANCIAL LOSSES CAUSED BY THE
SUSPENSION OF DRILLING.

GUYANA ANNOUNCES TALKS IN TRINIDAD

12. (U) GUYANESE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION NEWS ANNOUNCED AT
1800 HRS JUNE 3 THAT BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN GUYANA AND
SURINAME WOULD TAKE PLACE "EITHER SUNDAY OR MONDAY" IN
TRINIDAD, I.E., JUNE 4 OR 5. NO FURTHER DETAILS HAVE BEEN
RELEASED OR ANNOUNCED ABOUT THESE UPCOMING TALKS.

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CGX WANTS TO RETURN TO "EAGLE"

13. (C) WHILE THE RIG HAS MOVED AWAY FROM "EAGLE," [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TOLD POL/ECON CHIEF JUNE 3 THAT CGX
PLANS TO WAIT FOR THE GUYANESE TO NEGOTIATE ITS RETURN. HE
WAS HOPEFUL THAT TALKS BETWEEN GUYANA AND SURINAME THIS
WEEK WOULD LEAD TO SUCH AN OUTCOME. (NOTE: CGX'S ONLY
ASSETS ARE ITS CONCESSIONS IN GUYANA, WHICH ARE NEAR BOTH
THE SURINAMESE AND VENEZUELAN BORDERS. FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON CGX'S OPERATIONS AND THE HISTORY OF ITS
CONCESSIONS IN GUYANA, CHECK CGXENERGY.COM. END NOTE.)

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GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE RESPONSE/DETAINED VENEZUELAN VESSELS

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14. (C) ON JUNE 1, THE GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE (GDF) SENT ITS
BY HELICOPTER, A BELL 206 WITHOUT PONTOONS, TO THE
"EAGLE" LOCATION. ON JUNE 2, THE GOG DECIDED TO PLACE SOME
GUYANESE POLICE OFFICERS ON THE TWO AMERICAN SUPPLY SHIPS
THAT WERE MOVING BETWEEN NEW AMSTERDAM AND THE RIG.
ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] ON JUNE 2 THE GDF
HAD OFFERED TO STATION ARMED MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE RIG
FOR PROTECTION, WHICH CGX REFUSED. (THIS HAS NOT BEEN
CONFIRMED BY THE GDF.)

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15. (U) IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, ON JUNE 2, THE GDF COAST
GUARD, WHICH HAS NO BOATS, BORROWED THE COMMERCIAL SHIPPING
VESSEL "HAMPTON ROADS" TO PATROL THE VICINITY OF THE RIG AT
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"EAGLE." THE COAST GUARD DISCOVERED TEN VENEZUELAN FISHING
TRAWLERS, AND FIVE OF THE VESSELS WERE ESCORTED BACK TO
GEORGETOWN AND THEIR CREWS DETAINED. THE COAST GUARD
ANNOUNCED IT COULD NOT ESCORT ALL TEN TRAWLERS BACK TO
GEORGETOWN BECAUSE IT DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MANPOWER TO DO
SO.

VENEZUELA AND SURINAME: PARTNERS?

16. (C) WHILE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SURINAME AND VENEZUELA
ACTIVELY COORDINATED THEIR ACTIONS RELATED TO THEIR
RESPECTIVE BORDER DISPUTES WITH A WEAK GUYANA, IT IS CLEAR
THAT THEY CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER'S DEALING WITH GUYANA.
AT THE OPENING OF SURINAMESE PAINTING EXHIBITION IN
GEORGETOWN THE EVENING OF JUNE 2 (WHICH HAD ONLY NINE
ATTENDEES - MOST OF WHOM WERE DIPLOMATS), THE VENEZUELAN
AND SURINAMESE AMBASSADORS TO GUYANA HUDDLED IN A CORNER
AND ENGAGED IN A SERIOUS CONVERSATION. VENEZUELA HAS
ISSUED TWO COMMUNIQUE IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS CONDEMNING THE
BEAL AEROSPACE ROCKET LAUNCH DEAL IN THE DISPUTED ESSEQUIBO
REGION (REF C REPORTS THE FIRST COMMUNIQUE). [REDACTED]

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CEA-01
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	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
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	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01
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	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
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	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/024W			

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5496
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL TORONTO
COMMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 GEORGETOWN 000544

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR-BARNES AND OTIS AND USOAS-GODARD
KINGSTON FOR ANDREW PARKER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/10
TAGS: PBTS PGOV PREL PINR MARR EPET ETRD CASC ASEC GY NS VE
SUBJECT: GUYANA/SURINAME MARITIME DISPUTE ESCALATES;
CGX SUSPENDS OPERATIONS

CRITICAL REACTION IN GUYANA

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17. (U) WHILE THE OFFICIAL MEDIA HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PORTRAY GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA ACTIONS ON THE BORDER DISPUTES IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, THE INDEPENDENT "STABROEK NEWS," IN A (THING EDITORIAL JUNE 4, CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ING HAD NO BORDER POLICY FOR YEARS. THE EDITORIAL BLAMED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS LONG-TERM FAILURE TO CREATE A NATIONAL CONSENSUS ON BORDER ISSUES, TO INVOLVE THE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, AND TO BRING IN THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS. IT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THIS IS A "PRE-ELECTION" YEAR WITH POLITICAL DIVISIONS HEIGHTENED, GUYANA'S NEIGHBORS MIGHT BE MORE WILLING THAN USUAL TO APPLY PRESSURE ON GUYANA BECAUSE THE

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GUYANESE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ACHIEVING UNITY ON MOST SUBJECTS.

18. (U) IN ADDITION, THE EDITORIAL CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS AMBIVALENCE ABOUT THE ARMY, LEAVING THE SECURITY FORCES "UNDERFUNDED AND UNDEREQUIPPED," AND FOR "FACILITATING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY LAMBASTING FOREIGN MINISTER ROHEE FOR ASSERTING PUBLICLY THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE OPPOSITION IN ORDER TO BROADEN THE MINISTRY'S KNOWLEDGE. IT POSITED THAT ROHEE HAD "NEVER DISPLAYED AN ATTITUDE FOR BUILDING CONSENSUS, AND HAS NEVER APPEARED LING TO EMBRACE THE COUNSEL PROFFERED BY PROFESSIONALS G., FOR THAT MATTER, THE OPPOSITION ..." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON BORDER ISSUES AND FOR MORE ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT BY PRESIDENT JAGDEO ON THE ISSUE.

COMMENT

19. (C) SADLY, THE "STABROEK NEWS" EDITORIAL IS ON THE MARK. GUYANA'S MINIMAL ABILITY TO PROTECT ITS OFFSHORE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ), DUE TO NEGLIGIBLE MARITIME ASSETS, HIGHLIGHTS GUYANA'S WEAK POSITION RELATIVE TO ITS NEIGHBORS, WHO MAINTAIN SIGNIFICANT NAVAL ASSETS. AFTER YEARS OF NEGLECT OF ITS FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ARMED FORCES, GUYANA WILL NOW BE NEGOTIATING FROM A POSITION OF WEAKNESS WITH SURINAME. IT IS THEREFORE HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT CGX

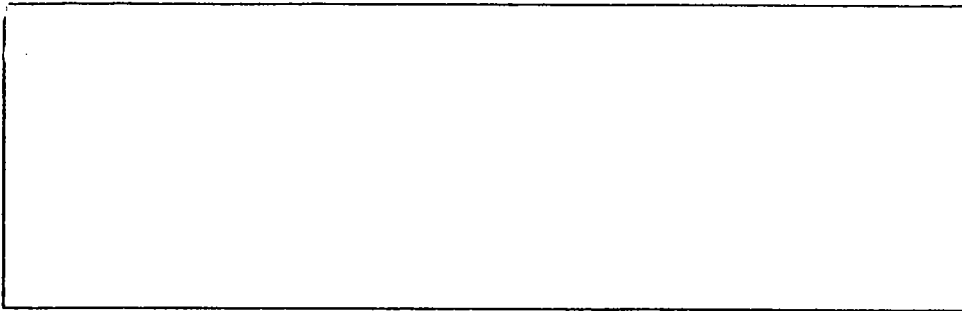
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WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO ITS PREFERRED DRILLING LOCATION

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IN THE NEAR FUTURE.



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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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The CARICOM summit statement on Guyana and Suriname

THE Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community meeting in Canouan in St Vincent and the Grenadines on the occasion of the 21st meeting of the conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, discussed the situation arising out of the longstanding territorial dispute between two of its member states, Guyana and Suriname, and the most recent dispute between the parties concerning the grant of a licence by the Government of Guyana to CGX for the purposes of conducting exploratory drilling in an area of joint claim by the parties and beyond their respective territorial sea limit.

The Heads of Government affirmed the vital importance of settling this dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and the need to ensure that the benefits of existing resources in the area redound to the benefit of their respective peoples.

The conference recognised that both Guyana and Suriname are signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which established a two hundred mile Exclusive Economic Zone beyond the limits of the coastal states' territorial sea.

It recognised that wherever states have contiguous borders, there will likely exist an area mutually exclusive to both states which create a joint interest in the area of overlap.

It was accepted that the settlement of claims by both parties in their respective Exclusive Economic Zone is contingent on the final settlement of the border dispute and conference recalled that a mechanism for the settlement of outstanding border disputes exists for the purposes of delineating the territorial boundaries between both states.

Both Guyana and Suriname expressed their commitment to the earliest resolution of outstanding border claims and pledged to act in good faith to accomplish this end. They further restated their intention to reconvene their Joint Border Commissions for dialogue in respect of these claims.

The Presidents of Guyana and Suriname agreed to meet in Jamaica within the next seven days in order to expedite a resolution of outstanding differences which have recently arisen. They also agreed to determine a modality for exploiting the benefits of the exploratory drilling activities to be undertaken in the disputed area.

In this connection, they noted a number of proposals raised earlier which include:

- a. The establishment of a Joint Commission to undertake the granting of licensing activities in the area;
- b. the joint superintendence of any and all activities to be carried out in the area;
- c. the sharing of any data and information resulting from the exploratory activities in the area being placed on a transparent basis;
- d. the equitable distribution of the proceeds deriving from any exploitative activities in the area.

These and other proposals constitute elements which could facilitate an acceptable framework for full agreement.

Both Guyana and Suriname made it clear that the right of any underlying claim subsisting in the area would be preserved without prejudice.

It was also accepted that they will have to procure the concurrence of their constitutional and institutional bodies before arriving at final agreement.

The Heads of Government were pleased to offer the good offices of the Chairman of Conference to monitor the progress of meetings related to the Joint Border Commissions.

The conference welcomed the assurances by the Presidents of Guyana and Suriname that they would do everything possible to avoid the escalation of tension and work towards restoration of normalcy in their relations as befits sister nations in the community.

They further undertook to pursue all modalities for the strengthening and deepening of relations between them.

July 6, 2000

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	EPAE-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
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O 171233Z APR 03 (587)
 FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4941
 INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARAMARIBO 000255

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR ROWDYBUSH

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SNAR, PBTS, NS, GY, BR, FR, FG
 SUBJECT: SURINAME/FRENCH GUIANA BORDER DISPUTE: NO
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 RESOLUTION YET, BUT RELATIONS STILL AMICABLE

REF: (A) PARAMARIBO 117; (B) 02 PARAMARIBO 1169; (C) 02
 PARAMARIBO 1055; (D) PARAMARIBO DAO 010753Z NOV 02, IIR 6
 894 0022; (E) 02 PARAMARIBO 949; (F) PARAMARIBO DAO 290924Z
 OCT 02, IIR 6 894 0029

SUMMARY

1. WHILE RHETORICAL BATTLE OVER BORDER DEMARCATION CONTINUES
 WITH THE GUYANA (SEE SEPTTEL), SURINAME'S RELATIONS WITH ITS
 EASTERN NEIGHBOR, FRANCE, ARE FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL DESPITE
 ONGOING BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. IN A RECENT MEETING WITH THE
 EMBASSY, FRENCH DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION JEAN-FRANCOIS BONNET
 SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE GOS ARE IN GENERAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
 DATE/CASE ID: 26 NOV 2004 200401802

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AGREEMENT REGARDING THEIR BORDER DISPUTE -- BOTH MARITIME AND LAND. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS MORE CONCERNED, HE ADDED, ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SURINAME'S DETERIORATING ECONOMY AND THE RESULTING FLOOD OF ILLEGAL GUYANESE, HAITIAN, AND CHINESE MIGRANT WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN FRENCH GUIANA. END SUMMARY.

GOS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

2. IN CONTRAST TO THE CONTINUOUS SURINAME-GUYANA SQUABBLE OVER THEIR ONGOING BORDER DISPUTE, SURINAME ENJOYS MORE AMICABLE RELATIONS WITH FRANCE DESPITE THEIR MUTUAL BORDER DISPUTE CONCERNING FRANCE'S OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT, FRENCH
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GUIANA. DURING A RECENT MEETING WITH THE EMBASSY, FRENCH DCM JEAN-FRANCOIS BONNET NOTED THAT CURRENTLY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE WEAKENING SURINAMESE ECONOMY THAN REACHING A BORDER AGREEMENT WITH SURINAME. ACCORDING TO BONNET, SURINAME'S DETERIORATING ECONOMY DIRECTLY AFFECTS FRENCH GUIANA IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, SPECIFICALLY THROUGH THE INCREASE IN ILLEGAL MIGRANTS (PRIMARILY CHINESE, HAITIAN AND GUYANESE) LEAVING SURINAME FOR THE MORE DEVELOPED AND ECONOMICALLY STABLE FRENCH GUIANA.

3. THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND THE FOCUS ON THE ECONOMY DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE ONGOING BORDER DISPUTE WITH FRENCH GUIANA IS OF NO CONCERN. SIMILAR TO THE SURINAME/GUYANA BORDER DISPUTE, THE SURINAME/FRENCH GUIANA DISPUTE HAS TWO ASPECTS, A LAND BORDER DISPUTE AND A MARITIME BORDER DISPUTE. BONNET NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT REMAINS FOREMOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE MARITIME BOUNDARY, PARTICULARLY OVER-FISHING OF SURINAMESE WATERS. ACCORDING TO BONNET, AS FISH STOCKS IN SURINAMESE WATERS DWINDLE, FISHERMEN (SURINAMERS AS WELL AS CHINESE AND JAPANESE) ARE ENCROACHING INTO FRENCH WATERS.

4. BONNET REVEALED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION ON THE MARITIME BORDER WAS TO EXTEND THE MERIDIAN FROM THE CENTER OF THE MAROWIJNE RIVER THAT DIVIDES THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO BONNET, THIS SOLUTION POSES A DILEMMA FOR SURINAME BECAUSE THE GOS IS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE SAME AGREEMENT WITH GUYANA IN THAT MARITIME BORDER DISPUTE. BONNET WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE LAND BORDER ISSUE WAS LARGELY SETTLED, FROM THE FRENCH PERSPECTIVE, BY A 1915 FRANCO-DUTCH
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AGREEMENT THAT ESTABLISHED THE CENTER OF THE MAROWIJNE RIVER
THE BORDER FROM THE COAST TO STOELMAN'S ISLAND,
.. ROXIMATELY 200 KM INLAND. BONNET STATED THAT THIS LINE
OF DEMARCATION COULD BE EXTENDED THE FULL LENGTH OF THE
BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

FRANCE WANTS TO SEE INTEGRATION AMONG THE GUIANAS

5. IN AN ASIDE, BONNET REMARKED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT
WANTED TO SEE A GREATER DEGREE OF INTEGRATION IN THE GUIANAS
AS A WHOLE BETWEEN GUYANA, SURINAME, AND FRENCH GUIANA.
BONNET POINTED TO THE SHARED CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A BENEFIT
TO INCREASED INTEGRATION. IN BONNET'S OPINION, SURINAME
MUST DECIDE WHETHER IT WANTS TO ORIENT ITSELF EAST AND WEST
WITH FRENCH GUIANA AND GUYANA OR NORTH AND SOUTH WITH
BRAZIL. BONNET ADDED THAT, LIKE SURINAME, THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT IS ALSO DEALING WITH ILLEGAL BRAZILIAN GOLD
MINERS AND THAT SURINAME WILL EVENTUALLY FACE AN
INTEGRATION/ASSIMILATION DECISION WITH REGARDS TO THE
ESTIMATED 40 TO 70,000 BRAZILIANS ILLEGALLY PRESENT IN
SURINAME.

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
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	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	EPAE-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-01	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/003W		

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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMCONSUL CURACAO
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Memorial of Guyana
Annex 55

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PT FOR WHA/CAR ROWDYBUSH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SNAR, PBTS, NS, GY, BR, FR, FG

SUBJECT: SURINAME/FRENCH GUIANA BORDER DISPUTE: NO

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RESOLUTION YET, BUT RELATIONS STILL AMICABLE

SURINAME AGREES

6. IN A RECENT MEETING WITH THE EMBASSY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY FRED BOEKSTAAF CONCURRED WITH THE FRENCH POSITION ON THE BORDER DISPUTE, STATING THAT THE BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRENCH WERE GOING WELL. HE CORROBORATED MUCH OF WHAT BONNET HAD SAID AND MAINTAINED THAT THE MARITIME DISPUTE WAS ESSENTIALLY RESOLVED. "WE ONLY NEED TO IDENTIFY THE POINTS ON EACH SIDE OF THE BORDER TO DEMARCATATE THE DIVIDING LINE IN THE RIVER," HE EXPLAINED, ADDING THAT SURINAME HOPES TO PRESENT ITS PROPOSAL TO FRANCE SOMETIME THIS AUGUST. THE SOUTHERN BORDER NEGOTIATIONS, BOEKSTAAF SAID, ARE NOT MOVING BUT SHOULD NOT BAR AGREEMENT THE MARITIME BORDER.

COMMENT

7. SURINAME'S BORDER DISPUTE WITH FRENCH GUIANA IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUYANA. THE SURINAME/FRENCH GUIANA BORDER DISPUTE HAS MANY OF THE SAME ELEMENTS BUT THE LEVEL OF RHETORIC PRESENT IN THE SURINAME/GUYANA BORDER DISPUTE NEGOTIATIONS IS NONEXISTENT. THE FRENCH, MEANWHILE, SEEM TO TAKE A PRIMARILY ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE AND ARE SEEKING MORE INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE GUIANAS. END COMMENT.

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Governmental Documents
(Other)