

RELEASE AUTHORITY: P.HARE, SENIOR REVIEWER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RELEASE DECISION: RELEASE IN FULL
DATE: NOVEMBER 26, 2019

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ACTION AF-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-01
OMB-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 /039 W
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R 210501Z SEP 84
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7671
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ VICTORIA 01294

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE AND PRESUMED DEATH OF SEYCHELLOIS
- DISSIDENT

1. e - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON 17 SEPTEMBER CONSOFF WAS VISITED BY FAMILY OF MR. ALTON AH-TIME WITH A REQUEST TO APPROACH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE HIS RECENT DISAPPEARANCE. AH-TIME LEFT HIS HOME EVENING OF 13 SEPTEMBER ON A MINOR ERRAND (AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN UNNAMED PERSON), BUT NEVER RETURNED. HIS ABANDONED CAR, WITH KEYS, WAS FOUND AT FISHERMAN'S COVE BEACH. AN INVESTIGATION OF HIS BACKGROUND REVEALED THAT MR. AH-TIME HAS HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE GOVERNMENT SINCE 1978 FOR HIS CRITICISM OF THE REGIME, ALTHOUGH HIS FAMILY INSISTED THAT HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES. AH-TIME, HOWEVER, WAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF MR. SIMON DENOUSSE WHO WAS MURDERED ALONG WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MIKE ASHER BY THE SEYCHELLES MILITARY IN NOVEMBER 1982 FOR THEIR ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN THE ABORTED MERCENARY ATTACK SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER.

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3. SINCE THE KILLING OF MR. DENOUSSE, AH-TIME HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SECURE ANY PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT WITH THE LABOR DIVISION BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT BLACKLISTING. HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE SPECIAL BRANCH IN JANUARY 1983 AND DECEMBER 1983 AND INTERROGATED FOR HAVING ALLEGED CONTACTS WITH THE OPPOSITION ORGANIZATION "MOUVEMENT POUR LA RESISTANCE." IN BOTH CASES, AH-TIME WAS RELEASED AFTER SEVERAL DAYS FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. IN MAY 1983 HE WAS AMBUSHED BY 15 SOLDIERS NEAR THE BEACH AND SEVERELY BEATEN. BROTHER OF AH-TIME PROVIDED SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF THE SEYCHELLES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND CARS USED TO SURVEIL AH-TIME SINCE 1983. BROTHER MENTIONED THAT SURVEILLANCE WAS ALMOST CONSTANT DURING MID-AUGUST 1984, A MONTH BEFORE AH-TIME'S DISAPPEARANCE, AND WHEN STRONG COUP RUMORS ON THE ISLAND STARTED TO CIRCULATE. FAMILY OF AH-TIME IS POSITIVE THAT ALTON'S DISAPPEARANCE IN MID-SEPTEMBER IS

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RELATED TO THE FULL MILITARY ALERT WHICH WAS ACTIVATED AT THAT TIME DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PERCEPTION THAT A COUP WAS IMMINENT. FAMILY IS CONVINCED THAT AH-TIME HAS BEEN KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES SINCE POLICE ARE APPARENTLY RELUCTANT TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION INTO HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

4. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH POLICE COMMISSIONER ON 20 SEPTEMBER, CONSOFF ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF INVESTIGATION. COMMISSIONER (PROTECT) SAID THAT HE HAD EVIDENCE AH-TIME WAS INVOLVED IN OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES, BUT THAT STATE HOUSE SECURITY, NOT THE POLICE, WERE CARRYING OUT AN INVESTIGATION. COMMISSIONER SAID THAT AH-TIME WAS SECRETLY ARRESTED BY SEYCHELLES ARMY PERSONNEL ON 13 SEPTEMBER AND TAKEN TO ONE OF THE ARMY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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CAMPS FOR INTERROGATION. HE BELIEVES THAT AH-TIME WILL NOT BE SEEN AGAIN. FISCHER

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