

May 20, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

The Guyana Police Force is responding to statements made on VCT Channel 28 Evening News yesterday Tuesday May 19, 2008, by the Opposition Leader Mr. Robert Corbin, concerning the breach of the rule of law by refusal to grant permission to march.

It wishes to record that when permission was granted for the march, the PNC/R breached the rule of law by throwing down police barriers and flouting the route granted by the Chief Officer of Police 'A' Division who is lawfully empowered to do so under the Public Order Act. The Force has drawn these issues to Mr. Corbin and Mr. Oscar Clarke's attention in writing.

On May 19, 2008, Mr. Oscar Clarke was spoken with by the Divisional Commander 'A' Division who advised him that the position of denial would be reconsidered if marshals were provided and an undertaking was given by the PNC/R to follow the approved route and control its supporters. At the time of this release no response was forthcoming concerning the undertaking.

The Police and Public Order Acts provide for the Force to maintain order and provide adequate security for citizens. Persons wishing to exercise the right to process may do so under the directions of the Chief Officer of Police and must do so peacefully and not trample on the rights of other citizens to go about their lawful business.

JOINT SERVICES PRESS RELEASE

Ten fields of cannabis sativa plants containing some 14, 900 plants ranging in height of 1 to 12 feet and with an estimated weight of 3, 305 kgs were destroyed in the Linden areas of Coomacka, New England and Wisroc by the Joint Services during an operation last Saturday and Sunday.

The operation, codenamed Operation Greenfield, was a combined one that involved air, river and ground assets with the Bell 206 helicopter executing reconnaissance and vectoring tasks, the river assets providing transport for the forces to access the sites and the ground forces locating and destroying the fields, executing arrests, and seizing equipment.

During the operation, which was conducted over a seven acre wide area, in addition to the plants, 684 kilograms of dried marijuana were found along with 14 nurseries that contained some 5,550 seedlings. Eleven camps were destroyed and one person was arrested. The arrested man was found in a house with eight kilograms of marijuana near one of the fields and he is presently in police custody assisting with the investigations.