FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

383 die in cult's last rite of mass murders, suicides

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (UPI) — The Rev. Jim Jones, head of a fanatical California religious cult, led his family and hundreds of his American disciples to their deaths in a mass suicide-murder ritual, the Guyanese government reported Monday.

Information Minister Shirley Field-Ridley issued a statement which put the number of Americans dead at 383 with 600 to 800 other members of the cult missing from their jungle commune 150 miles west of Georgetown.

Christopher Nascimento, the minister of state in the office of the prime minister in New York, issued a similar statement in which he said he did not know whether the 46-year-old

Related stories, Pages 10, 11

"Bishop" Jones died from poisoning or whether he was shot but said his body was found alongside his wife and their small son.

Mrs. Field-Ridley put the toll at 163 women, 82 children and 138 men.

She said authorities recovered 17 shotguns, 14 rifles, seven pistols and one flare gun.

Mark Lane, an American lawyer who acted as counsel for the cult, told newsmen earlier that the poisoned victims happily drank the lethal brew ladled out of a big tub by the commune's doctor and nurse. The nature of the poison was not immediately known.

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wspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1 & 1

San Juan St

San Juan,

Puerto Ricc

Date: 11/21/78
Edition: AM

Title: 383 Die in Cu
Last Rite of Mass
Murders, Suicides

Character: 89-123
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:
San Juan

FBI DO-

Gru executioners, loyal to "Bishop" Jim Jones unt. e end, n..ed down many of the cultists as they tried to ree screaming into the jungle.

Guyanese troops who took over the camp Monday found just one person alive.

Lane said he counted 85 bursts of semi-automatic weapons fire as the bizarre death mass suicide began on Sunday.

Members of the Peoples Temple sect massacred Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four other Americans in a jungle ambush

(See CULT, Page 14)

Cult

From Page 1

Saturday evening as the Americans were heading back to the United States with 16 defectors from the commune at Jonestown, 150 miles west of Georgetown near the Venezuela border. Eight other Americans were wounded.

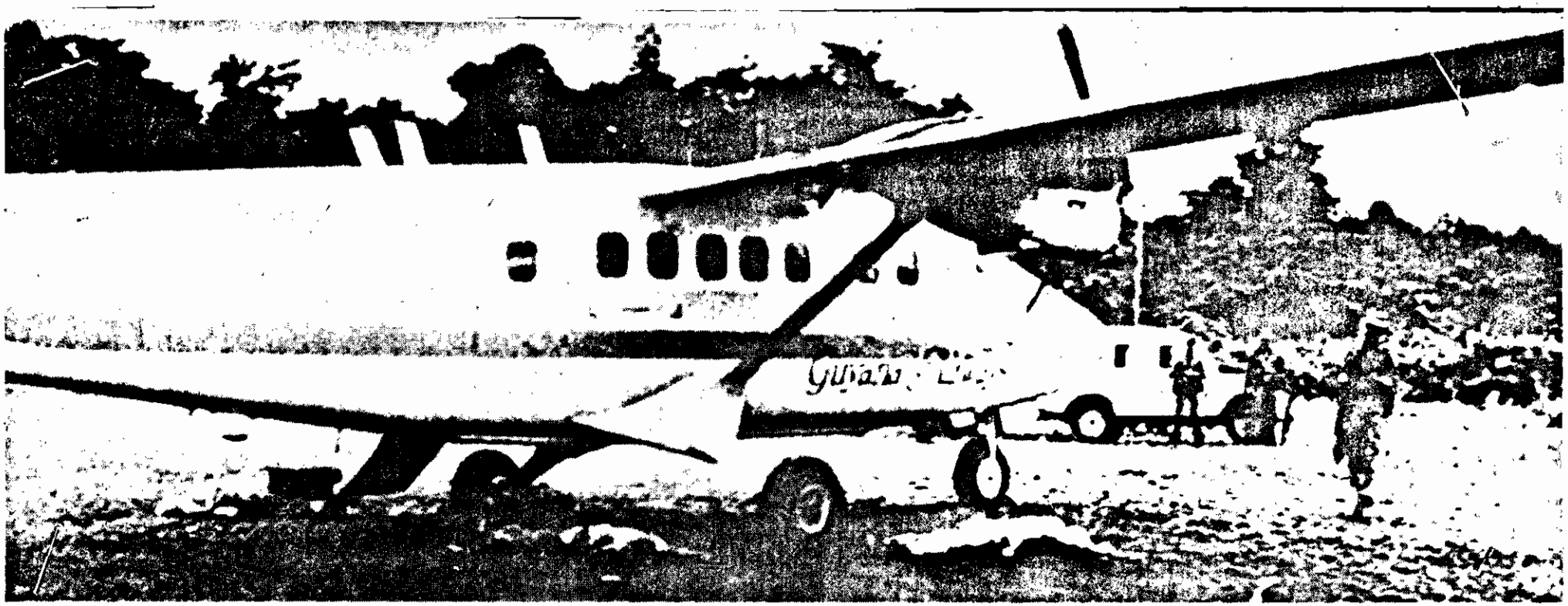
Just before the suicide ceremony Lane said he and Charles Garry, a prominent U.S. lawyer who represented Jones, encountered two armed black members of the commune en route to the auditorium where the others were assembling.

"They said to us with smiles on their faces, 'We are all going to die.' They were relaxed and happy and I wondered if they were not doped," Lane said. He said the men pointed out an escape route for them and that "they hugged us and said goodbye.

"Shortly after that we heard the shooting. We could hear the loudspeaker speaking of the dignity of death, the beauty of dying. Jones shouted 'mother! mother! mother! mother!' Then there was the first burst of shooting."

Lane said he and Garry fled into the bush and were rescued later by a unit of the Guyanese army. As they fled, he said, they heard lots of gunfire and screaming people fleeing through the brush with their children.

The self-styled reverend, Jim Jones, leader of the People Temple religious sect, is shown during an interview of Jonestown, Guyana, last Saturday shortly before gunmen opened fire on California Rep. Leo Ryan's investigate group. (San Francisco Examiner photo)



The bodies of victims in the slayings in Jonestown, Guyana, Saturday lie on the airstrip by the plane which was to carry them back to Georgetown. Congressman Leo Ryan and four other Americans were massacred by members of the bizarre religious cult, the Peoples Temple, after they had inspected the cult's camp to investigate charges by Ryan's constituents that their relatives were being held against their will and subjected to mental and sexual intimidation. (San Francisco Examiner photo)

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

300-400 SUICIDES REPORTED

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Information Minister Shirley Field Ridley reported about 300 to 400 bodies — and no one alive — had been found in the Guyana jungle camp of a California sect whose members killed five Americans including Rep. Leo Ryan of California and three newsmen.

Miss Ridley told The Associated Press yesterday that the bodies were found by troops who invaded the Jonestown camp, in northwest Guyana, of the Peoples' Temple led by the Rev. Jim Jones. She said there were no marks of violence on the bodies, but no living persons had been found in the camp so far.

The minister said she heard reports there had been a mass suicide by poison at the camp, and that she had heard nothing to discount these reports. The U.S. Embassy said it had been unable to confirm the report of the mass deaths.

About 1,100 persons, all of them Americans, had been reported living in the camp.

Stephen Katzaris, a Potter Valley, Calif., psychologist who accompanied Ryan to Guyana in a futile attempt to get his daughter out of Jonestown, said the inmates of the camp had had mass suicide rehearsals and signed undated suicide notes before they left California for Guayana.

"They will all be dead by tomorrow," said Katzaris, whose son Anthony, 23, was critically wounded in the attack in which Ryan was killed.

Survivors of the attack Saturday evening said the congressman and the others were slain with shotgun blasts fired from "inches away" by members of the sect.

Ryan, D-Calif., had gone to the camp in this small South American country to investigate reports of abuses of members of the sect. Shooting erupted as he tried to take several disenchanted sect members back to Georgetown by plane. Witnesses said a man with a knife had threatened Ryan earlier in Jonestown.

Meanwhile in San Francisco the FBI said it was investigating a report that "the People's Temple had a contingency plan to kidnap high government officials in case the Rev. Jim Jones were arrested" in Guyana.

FBI spokesman Joe Aaron said the kidnap information was received some time ago. Aaron said new information to the same effect was received yesterday morning.

Witnesses said a man with a knife had threatened Ryan earlier in Jonestown.

The State Department identified four of the dead as the 53-year-old Ryan; reporter Don Harris, 42, and cameraman Robert Brown, 36, both of NBC News and both Los Angeles residents, and photographer Gregory Robinson, 27, of the San Francisco Examiner newspaper.

The identity of the fifth victim was withheld pending notification of relatives, but Guyanese sources said she was an 18-year-old American woman from the settlement who apparently was trying to leave with Ryan.

Ten persons were wounded in the attack.

Robert Flick, an NBC News field producer with the crew, said after the inital shooting the assailants walked up to the wounded and shot them in the head with shotguns. "That was how Ryan and Harris died," he said.

Charles Krause, a Washington Post reporter with Ryan's party, said Ryan was threatened by a man with a knife in Jonestown earlier Saturday but escaped injury when the assailant was subdued.

Ryan's shirt was stained with blood when the attacker was cut by his own knife while being disarmed, Krause said.

Flick said Guyanese troops arrested nine suspects. The government, through a spokesman in New York, Jack Gelinas, confirmed one arrest. He named the suspect as Larry John Leyton and said he was an American whose age and hometown were not known.

Reston said two American lawyers, Mark Lane and Charles Garry, who were on the trip as counsel for sect founder Jim Jones, were unharmed and in Jonestown.

Lane defended Martin Luther King's convicted assassin James Earl Ray.

The U.S. Embassy identified the seriously injured as Jackie Speier, Ryan's administrative assistant; Steve Sung, 34, of Pasadena, Calif., who is a sound man for NBC, and Anthony Katsaris, Carolyn Boyd and Beverly Oliver. The embassy identified the last three as concerned sect members' relatives who accompanied the Ryan party.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 HERALD EXAMINE
LOS ANGELES, C

Date: 11/20/78
Edition: Monday Latest

Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

FBI/DOJ

Wounded less seriously were Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the U.S. Embassy here; Ron Javers, 32, a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, and Tim Reiterman, 31, a reporter for the Examiner, the embassy said.

A Guyanese military plane brought the wounded back to Georgetown, where a U.S. Air Force C-141 transport plane picked them up.

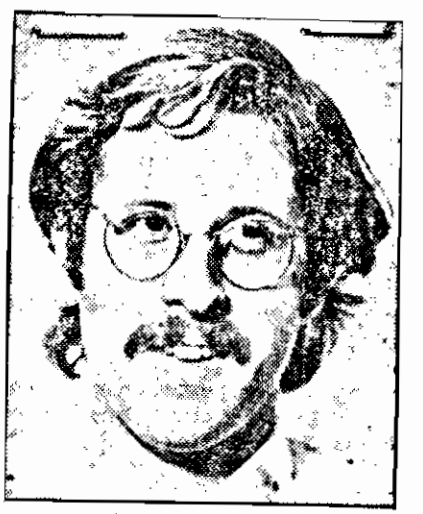
The murders of Ryan and the others were the latest and most gruesome incidents in a 20-year saga of intrigue and controversy surrounding the People's Temple and Jones.

Conceived in Indianapolis, Ind., in the 1950s with the avowed purpose of breaking down class distinctions, the Temple moved to Redwood Valley, Calif., in the late 1960s and then San Francisco in 1971.

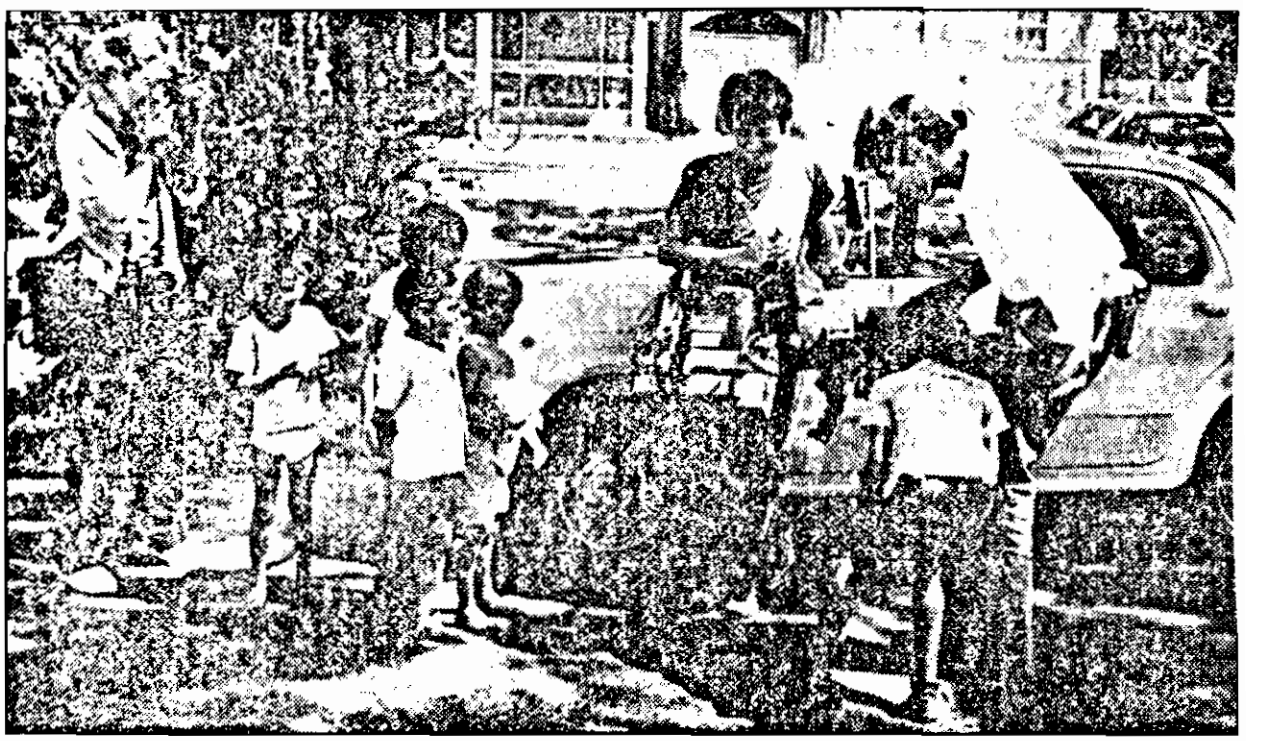
Jones listed among his friends Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, state Assemblyman Willie Brown, Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, who appointed Jones chairman of the city Housing Authority after the People's Temple helped him win the mayoral election in 1975.

DON HARRIS
Correspondent for NBC news

ROBERT BROWN
NBC television cameraman



GREG ROBINSON
San Francisco Examiner photographer



Copyright photo by San Francisco Examiner via AP

San Francisco Examiner photographer Greg Robinson, left, photographs NBC cameraman Rob Brown, right, and soundman Steve Sung in Georgetown, Guyana. Robinson and Brown were both killed in an ambush Saturday.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cult Leader Included in Mass Death

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Guyanese troops reported yesterday that they had found the body of the leader of a California cult among those of 300 to 400 of his followers, some shot but most of them poisoned. About 800 other cult members were missing.

The military tentatively identified one body as that of James Warren Jones, known as Jim Jones, who had sought to build a utopian commune in the Guyanese jungle, but who had preached mass suicide as a last resort against the cult's enemies.

The deaths reportedly occurrred shortly after Rep. Leo J. Ryan, San Mateo, Calif., Democrat, and three newsmen who had gone to investigate the cult were slain Saturday night at a nearby airport. An American woman who was trying to leave the commune also was killed.

Charles Krause, a Washington Post reporter, confirmed Jones was dead and said he had been shot in the head, one of the few to die from a bullet wound. Jones' body, clothed in black pants and a colored casual shirt, was on a stage of the meeting hall, Krause said.

Krause was with the Ryan party Saturday and was in a pool of journalists permitted to return to Jonestown with government forces yesterday.

A government spokesman said there was a report that a witness had seen commune members willingly sipping a poisonous "brew from a tub."

Mark Lane, the attorney and author who represented the cult, suggested that many of the men, women and children might have been slain by other cult members. Lane and Charles Garry, a San Francisco lawyer who also defended the cult, escaped from the group's village of Jonestown Saturday night when the killings began and were picked up in the jungle by government forces Sunday. They did not see the killings.

Lane said he and Garry had heard residents of the camp talking on a loudspeaker about mass suicide.

The Guyanese forces reported that they had found the bodies of Jones's wife and one of his sons beside him. They apparently died of poison.

Guyanese officials later put the death toll among cult members at 409, a news agency reported. They said Jones had shot himself in the right temple. Sect followers who survived were quoted as saying that unwilling fellow members were forced to take poison, a liquid laced with cyanide, against their will.

In Washington, it was announced that 150 servicemen are being assembled and will be flown to Guyana to evacuate the bodies.

John A. Bushnell, head of the special State Department task force on the Jonestown tragedy, said the servicemen will fly to Georgetown and then go to Jonestown by helicopters and transfer the bodies back to Georgetown. He said a group of 29 U.S. military specialists also would be flown in to help identify the dead.

They said the dead were all members of an agrarian-socialist cult called the People's Temple, which had cleared the jungle for farms in a wilderness once fit only for a penal colony when Guyana was under British colonial rule.

According to former members, the commune of 1,200 people was drilled routinely in suicide as an answer to imagined attacks by "mercenaries."

The 800 missing cult members had apparently fled into the jungle, one of the densest in the world, where flesh-eating Piranha and electric eels inhabit the rivers and quicksand holes stand in dark pools beneath the thick forest canopy.

Ryan met with Jones on Saturday at the commune, called Jonestown, to negotiate for the release of cult members whose parents in California had claimed were being held in virtual bondage.

When Ryan's party attempted to lead some cult members to two chartered planes on a small landing strip at nearby Port Kaituma, armed men from the commune opened fire on them, killing five and wounding eight.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 HERALD EXAMINER
LOS ANGELES, CA

Date: 11/21/78
Edition: Tuesday Latest

Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

FBI/DOJ

Besides Ryan, who was 53, those killed were Don Harris, 42, a television reporter for NBC News, and Robert Brown, 36, an NBC cameraman, both of Los Angeles; Gregory Robinson, 27, a photographer for the San Francisco Examiner, and Patricia Parks or Parker, a cult member. Guyanese officials said she was 18.

When government police and troops were later flown into the area, they discovered the bodies of hundreds of commune residents on the ground and in bark cottages at the settlement in Jonestown. Moreover, it was reported Monday that a People's Temple leader, Sharon Amos, and her three daughters had been found with their throats slit in the cult's headquarters in Georgetown.

The Guyanese minister of information, Shirley Field-Ridley, yesterday expressed her government's sympathy to the relatives of the dead Americans, saying the impoverished South American country had never experienced anything like the "very terrible happenings" of the weekend.

Former members of the cult had warned that it was capable of violence. Last June, one former member, Deborah Layton Blakey, said in a deposition in a Guyana custody case involving a child in the Jonestown commune: "The Rev. Jones labeled any person who left the commune a 'traitor' and 'fair game.' He steadfastly and convincingly maintained that the punishment for defection was death."

She also told of suicide preparations among the commune's entire racially mixed population, which ranged in age from infancy to retired Americans and included professionals such as physicians and nurses.

"There was constant talk of death," said Mrs. Blakey, who was raised in an affluent white family in Berkeley, Calif. "In Jonestown, the concept of mass suicide for socialism arose. Because our lives were so wretched anyway, and because we were so afraid to contradict Rev. Jones, the concept was not challenged."

The Jonestown settlement on a 27,000-acre tract in the remote northwest, was said to be an efficiently managed farm that produced fruits and vegetables, including bitter and sweet cassava, bell yams and taro. The cult's San Francisco headquarters shipped large and expensive farm machinery and other supplies to Jonestown. Since the settlement was operated as a religious society — although its philosophical core was without a deity and appeared more social and political in structure than religious — the shipments were not supervised by Guyanese customs. After the weekend's events, this decision by the government is drawing criticism in the capital.

Apparently the shipments from California also contained firearms and ammunition. These are tightly controlled in Guyana, and no one is allowed to bear arms without a government permit.

All members were supposed to turn over their possessions to the People's Temple when they joined and to give Jones the right to all future assets. Miss Crawford said cult members were instructed to break close ties with their families but to maintain some contact in order to collect inheritances. Mrs. Blakey also alleged that she had served as the cult's financial secretary, and as much as $65,000 a month in Social Security payments went to Jonestown through the American Embassy in Georgetown.

According to the testimony of former cult members:

- Farm workers worked 11 hours a day, six days a week. One former member said: "They ate rice for breakfast, rice water soup for lunch and rice and beans for dinner. They had vegetables three times a week, and an egg and cookies on Sunday."

- Guards patrolled the settlement to keep persons from entering or leaving.

AP photo

Mass suicide victims lie near tub containing drink laced with cyanide.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

300 TO 400 CULTISTS REPORTED DEAD

Mass Suicide After Ryan's Murder Seen

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Information Minister Shirley Field Ridley reported today that 300 to 400 bodies—and no one alive—had been found in the Guyana jungle camp of a California sect whose members killed five Americans including Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California and three newsmen.

Miss Ridley said the bodies were found by troops who invaded the Jonestown camp, in northwest Guyana, of the Peoples Temple led by Jim Jones, a former San Francisco city official.

Miss Ridley said she had heard there had been a mass suicide by poison at the camp, and that she had heard nothing to discount these reports.

About 1,100 persons, all of them Americans, had been reported living in the camp. There was no indication what might have happened to the others.

It was not known whether Jones was among the dead.

Stephen Katzaris, a Potter Valley, Calif., psychologist who accompanied Ryan to Guyana in a futile attempt to get his daughter out of Jonestown, said the inmates of the camp had had mass suicide rehearsals and signed undated suicide notes before they left California for Guayana.

"They will all be dead by tomorrow," Katzaris had predicted Sunday. Katzaris' son Anthony, 23, was critically wounded in the attack in which Ryan was killed.

Ryan (D-Calif.) had gone to the camp in this small South American country to investigate reports of abuses of members of the sect. Shooting erupted as he tried to take several disenchanted sect members back to Georgetown by plane. Witnesses said a man with a knife had threatened Ryan earlier in Jonestown.

In Washington, a State Department official said, "We have received from our embassy in Guyana preliminary report from the local police on the scene that it appears as if as many as 400 members of the Jonestown People's Temple may be dead. We have no further details at this time."

State Department spokesman Tom Reston said in Washington that "there are alarming indications that members of the Peoples Temple in Guyana are engaging in mass suicide.

"The Guyanese police report that a woman who ran the Peoples Temple office in Georgetown has killed her three children and taken her own life.

"Another Peoples Temple member, who says he escaped from the Temple and walked 20 miles, reported that some 200 members of the Temple were taking their own lives, having done so when he escaped."

Meanwhile, Guyana officials said that Larry John Layton, an American and a member of the Peoples Temple religious settlement at Jonestown, had been arrested in connection with the ambush-murder of Ryan and the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES LOS ANGELES, CA

Date: 11/20/78
Edition: Monday Final

Title: CULTISTS DEAD

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

FBI/DOJ

four other Americans as they tried to escort unhappy settlers from the camp.

Layton's age and hometown were not known.

Reston said the sect has about 3,000 members in California and authorities have been alerted to the possibility of mass suicide in the United States.

A Ryan aide said that James Cobb, once a bodyguard to Jones, the sect's leader, who later became disenchanted with both the sect and Jones, had gone to Guyana with Ryan and is still unaccounted for.

Sherwin Harris of Lafayette, Calif., who went to Guyana to see his daughter, a cult member, said she was killed Saturday night by church members in Georgetown.

"My daughter is dead. I'm making funeral arrangements for her now. That happened in Georgetown last night. She was murdered last night by these people—they are absolutely raving lunatics . . . They are fanatics."

A former bodyguard for the Peoples Temple warned of a wave of jungle murders and suicides because of the imminent destruction of the fanatical movement.

"I was an armed bodyguard for the Peoples Temple," said Wayne Pietilda, 25, of the San Francisco area, a relative of persons in the Guyana commune.

"Members of the cult believe that they all will be killed when the Temple is destroyed," Pietila said. "We, concerned members of the family of those in the Temple, are now very concerned about a massive wave of murders and suicides."

He said some of those who wanted to leave with the Ryan party were now hiding in the jungle, fearful that they will be hunted down by Temple assasins.

Pietila said he had warned Ryan that he should not go into Jonestown without armed bodyguards. "He just laughed at us," he said. "We did warn him there was a possibility of shooting."

MOMENTS BEFORE DEATH—NBC newsman Don Harris, left, and San Francisco Examiner photographer Gregory Robinson, right, appear in film taken by NBC cameraman Robert Brown shortly before shooting erupted at Port Kaituma, Guyana. All three newsmen were killed.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-29-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jonestown 'Mass Suicide'

'400 DEAD IN GUYANA'

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F.Chronicle

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-20-78
Edition: Home

Title: RYMURS

Character: SF 89-250
or
Classification: 89
Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

Guyana Says 400 Bodies In Jonestown

By Keith Power
Chronicle Correspondent

Georgetown, Guyana

The Guyana Ministry of Information reported early today that military troops airlifted into Jonestown found "300 to 400 dead bodies" at the jungle settlement, apparently the victims of a mass suicide.

"No living persons were found," said a ministry spokeswoman, who said troops were "going through the bodies seeking to identify the dead."

There was no other immediate confirmation of this report from any other government agency here.

The spokesman said initial reports indicated the dead "appeared to have taken poison," but that this was uncertain, and medical personnel would be sent to the scene today to determine the cause of the deaths.

Guyana police and army troops were sent to the remote Peoples' Temple agricultural mission yesterday after Congressman Leo Ryan and four others were murdered as they attempted to escort fearful and disillusioned settlers out of the jungle.

One report said that eight men and one woman were arrested shortly after the Guyana forces arrived near Jonestown, the compound named after the Rev. Jim Jones, leader of the religious sect.

A government spokesman identified one suspect as Larry John Layton, an American.

The Guyanan government expressed official regret over the incident and pledged to make "every possible effort" to arrest the persons who cut down Ryan (Dem-San Mateo) and the others.

It also said that no Guyanese were involved in the Saturday massacre, which took place at an airfield at Port Kaituma, the nearest landing place to the temple's remote outpost.

Eyewitnesses said the unprovoked, surprise attack came from Americans who were living at the mission.

The vicious assault with pistols, rifles and a shotgun taken from a Guyanese policeman, killed Congressman Ryan and four others, including three newsmen.

The other dead were identified as Gregory Robinson, 27, a photographer for the San Francisco Examiner; NBC news correspondent Don Harris, 41, and NBC cameraman Bob Brown, 36, both of Los Angeles, and Patricia Parks who was identified as a member of the temple community who was seeking her freedom with Ryan's help.

Ryan and his party — accompanied by several People's Temple followers who wanted to leave Jonestown — were set upon without warning as they attempted to board two small chartered planes that were waiting to carry them 150 miles back to Georgetown, the capital of this tiny country on the northeast coast of South America.

American government sources identified those seriously injured in the attack as Jackie Speier, Ryan's administrative assistant; NBC sound man Steven Sung of Pasadena; and Anthony Katsaris, Carolyn Boyd and Beverly Oliver, three relatives of members of the Jones sect.

Wounded less seriously were Ron Javers, 32, a Chronicle reporter who was shot in the left shoulder, Tim Reiterman, 31, a San Francisco Examiner reporter shot twice in the arm, and Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the U.S. embassy in Guyana.

The wounded fled into the surrounding swamp until the attackers left, then huddled together through the night under the limited protection of Guyana police who witnessed the attack, but said they could do nothing to stop it.

Robert Flick, an NBC field producer who survived the attack, said yesterday that at least 50 shots were fired at the unarmed party as it waited to board the planes.

"As they fell, people walked over and shot them point blank in the face," he reported.

Washington Post reporter Charles Krause, who was shot in the hip, said that all night long, the survivors waited for the gunmen to return. "Every time we heard a truck or a strange noise, we hid as best we could," Krause said in his copyrighted account.

"What had started as a zany story about a congressman wanting to investigate a freaky religious commune in Guyana was no longer zany," Krause wrote.

"Leo Ryan was right. He knew something was terribly wrong at Jonestown. He sensed — even if he might be ridiculed for making the trip — that he should come and try to unmask the horror. We are along for the ride."

Small planes carried the wounded from the airstrip near Jonestown back to Georgetown early yesterday, where they were put aboard a U.S. military hospital plane sent to pick them up.

(Five of the survivors — Speier, Sung, Reiterman, Javers and Boyd — were admitted to Andrews Air Force Base Hospital near Washington, D.C., last night.

(A hospital spokesman said

Speier and Sung both sustained extensive gunshot wounds and were in surgery last night. Speier was listed in serious condition, and Sung in satisfactory condition.

(Javers and Reiterman appeared to be in good condition as doctors examined them to see if surgery was necessary. Boyd suffered no physical wounds, but was in shock, the spokesman said.

(Three other of the wounded were taken off the military plane at a refueling stop in Puerto Rico, and admitted to a U.S. Navy hospital there.

(They were Katsaris, 23, of Potter Valley, Calif., who suffered a chest wound; Ben Gozney of Jonestown, who was shot in the abdomen; and Mrs. Oliver of San Francisco, who was shot in both feet. Mrs. Oliver's husband, Howard, had suffered a stroke in Georgetown, and was flown out with the others and hospitalized with his wife.)

The two lawyers who accompanied the ill-fated mission on behalf of People's Temple were reported to have returned safely to Georgetown, the capital city.

Former Black Panther lawyer Charles Garry is "safe and alive" and in some form of police or protective custody there, reporters said.

(In New York, the family of attorney Mark Lane told reporters that Lane had called his family to say he was safe in Georgetown, and was being guarded.)

In Georgetown, police surrounded the temple's headquarters, where temple spokeswoman Sharon Amos and her three children were found dead Saturday night. Their throats were cut.

Local police said they did not know if they were dealing with murder or suicide in the Amos case, but American government spokesmen said they were hearing rumors of mass suicide among temple members.

Police in San Francisco and Los Angeles, where the temple has its churches, were alerted to the possibility of further violence.

Ryan, a globe-trotting legislative investigator, had taught in a ghetto school in Los Angeles, spent a week in Folsom Prison, and watched baby harp seals clubbed to death in Newfoundland as he tried to probe events first-hand.

On November 8, the day after he was elected to a fourth term in Congress, Ryan announced that he would be making a fact-finding trip to Guyana to investigate complaints by relatives of some temple members that their kin were being held against their will at the mission.

He went, despite warnings from government officials and his own staff; and he was accompanied by a group of newsmen and concerned relatives.

The Ryan group was admitted to the colony at Jonestown on Friday, after they had waited three days in Georgetown for permission to enter the remote church facility.

The visit was tense on Friday night and grew increasingly troubled Saturday morning, when several temple members asked to be helped to leave and the attempted knife attack on Ryan took place.

The Congressman and his party, joined by several disgruntled temple members, left Jonestown and were able to drive through the jungle to the airport at Port Kaituma before the fatal attack.

The airstrip is eight miles south of Jonestown and about 150 miles northwest of the capital, near the Venezuelan border.

According to the State Department officials, they were in the process of boarding the rescue aircraft when a flatbed trailer, pulled by a tractor, appeared on the airstrip.

A number of men, perhaps as many as six, jumped from the trailer and opened fire on Ryan's group, which reportedly included 27 persons.

The gunfire disabled the larger of two chartered planes but the crew of a second, smaller, plane was able to take off and escape during the attack.

First news of the shooting in the remote area, where communications are virtually non-existent, came from crew members of the plane that escaped.

(Officials in Washington, led by President Carter, expressed shock and sadness over the killing of Ryan and the others.

(The President called Ryan's mother, Autumn, at the congressman's townhouse home to express his condolences.

("The President said Leo had done many fine things in his years in Congress and that he would always remember that Leo was the first member from California to support him for the White House," said Mrs. Ryan.

(One of his Democratic colleagues on the House International Relations Committee, Representative Lester Wolff of New York, described Ryan as "one of a whole new breed of investigative congressmen who just don't sit, but go out and see things for themselves. He wouldn't take the State Department's word for things. Unfortunately, it led to this great tragedy.")

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bodies of Jim Jones, 409 Cult

ing lower pay raise
1, Page 7.)

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Th... bodies of the Rev. Jim Jones and at least 409 of his followers were found by Guyana officials Monday after a weekend of horror and killing at an American religious commune in the jungles of this South American nation.

Commune members had shot and killed Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and four other Americans at a jungle airstrip Saturday. The bodies were reported to be victims of a mass suicide pact, though some had been murdered.

The Guyana Ministry of Information said that by midafternoon Monday soldiers reported counting the bodies of 163 women, 138 men and 82 children. A police spokesman said later that the toll was 409 and that bodies were still being found.

By dark, police and soldiers had found only 12 survivors from among the estimated 500 to 900 who had fled into the bush. All of the settlers were believed to be Americans, most from California.

Guyana officials said the victims appear to have died of poisoning in a mass suicide pact, but some of them had been shot with rifles and automatic weapons.

U.S. attorney Mark Lane, one of the few survivors of the mass killing to reach this capital so far, told the Los Angeles Times in an interview Monday night, "There was no mass suicide. It was mass murder, planned to look like mass suicide."

Guyana army officers returning to Georgetown Monday night told nightmare tales of bodies piled in the sect's community center and the stench of death under the tropical sun.

Officials said Jones, a former San Francisco city official who founded the Peoples Temple Christian Commune, had been shot and near him were the bodies of his wife and one of his children, who had apparently been poisoned.

... agreed to represent the community only a few weeks ago in the face of growing criticism in the United States from relatives of people who lived there, said poison was taken into the community center hall Saturday night. Then the sect members, surrounded by armed men, some of whom had modern automatic weapons, were persuaded or ordered to take the poison.

"They lined up women, even little children, to take poison. It was crazy. This was not suicide, it was poison or a bullet."

Events at the commune last Saturday are still confused, and there are very few known survivors. Those who have reached Georgetown have been put under protective custody by the Guyana authorities, Lane said.

But Lane himself, who went to the commune last week with Ryan and a party of U.S. journalists, lawyers and diplomats, gave one of the most coherent accounts.

He said there was intense bitterness in the commune, especially on the part of Jones and the small clique which ran the commune, about criticism they had been receiving in the United States.

He said that there was strong opposition to Ryan's visit and that Ryan had been told not to bring any journalists, especially not to bring television crews.

Robert Brown and Don Harris, two members of an NBC television team on the fact-finding mission, and Ryan were among the first to die. Also among the first victims were Gregory Robinson, a photographer with the San Francisco Examiner, and a female member of the community.

At a meeting Saturday afternoon, Lane said, a man grabbed Ryan around the throat from behind and pushed a knife to his chest, shouting, "You son of a bitch. I'm going to kill you."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES
LOS ANGELES, CA

Date: 11/21/78
Edition: Tuesday Final

Title: BODIES FOUND

Character:
or RYMUR
Classification:
Submitting Office:
Los Angeles

FBI/DOJ

But several people grabbed the man and prevented the killing. Lane and a U.S. diplomat accompanying the group persuaded Ryan to leave the commune to ease the tension.

Ryan, members of his delegation and several disgruntled members of the sect who had asked to leave the commune with Ryan were ambushed at a remote jungle airstrip at Port Kaituma. Ryan and four others were killed and 10 others wounded.

News of the violence shocked the commune and a meeting was called to decide what should be done about it.

"I told Jones he must call in the police," but nothing was done about it, Lane said. "During our conversation I gradually began to see that Jones had planned the knife attack on the congressman that afternoon.

"He talked of a mass suicide pact and I told him 'You can't do that.' "

Lane said he and another American lawyer, Charles Garry, of San Francisco, were taken by a group of men Saturday night to a building called the East House, close to the big community center.

"I think we were taken there so that we could not interfere in the proceedings," Lane said.

From there they could hear Jones addressing members of the sect over the public address system.

Jones, Lane said, told the sect members, "There is dignity in death." Then there was a debate about suicide, but from where he and Garry were held it seemed that Jones was not anxious that there should be a debate. At one point he told the people, "Let us not argue amongst ourselves about this."

Lane said that after some heated debate he saw 10 to 15 men leave the community hall and run to a nearby building. They came out of it with rifles and automatic weapons and ran back to the community center.

"Then I knew for sure that this mass suicide was going to be imposed on them," Lane said.

Lane said he and Garry feared they were being included on the death list, and the men who had taken them to the East House told him that everyone was going to die.

"I told them, 'Well, then, when we get back we can tell the world how it all ended.' "

Lane said the men agreed to let them go and showed them a path out of the commune.

"The last thing I head ~~Jones say~~ over the loudspeaker was 'Mother, mother, mother . . . mother, mother, mother.' Then we heard a lot of shots, probably 80 or 90, and we ran off along the path."

Lane said that at one point he and Garry got lost. When they found the path again they decided to cut up a pair of shorts he had with him and leave the pieces along the trail to find their way back should they get lost again.

They slept for several hours, then continued again at first light Sunday morning, finally reaching a rough road where they were picked up by Guyana soldiers.

Lane said that he had met Jones himself only twice. The first time was several weeks ago when he agreed to become the commune's lawyer. He was shown the commune, and at first everything seemed perfect.

"Then I began to wonder. It was too perfect. I would see a young girl helping an old woman across the road. Many things like that. These things were in my mind when some people living there came to me to complain. They were afraid. They were terrified.

"Their mail was censored, in and out. Their lives were controlled. I was shown some houses where they lived and they seemed fine. Then I began getting information that this was all being put on for my benefit.

"After that first visit, I kept up the investigation. Then I got what I considered was very sound evidence that it had been a charade to lead me astray."

Asked what this evidence was, Lane refused to say. "I'm not saying anything more that might put people in danger until I'm sure this is all over," he said.

Lane said the evidence he had received confirmed that Jones had enormous amounts of money at the commune.

"I was convinced by my informants that he had one foot locker with $3 million in $100 bills at the commune," he said.

"When I found out these things, even before I made this last trip, I knew there was something rotten. I believed the charges by concerned relatives in the United States were true. But what do you do about it? I had no proof.

"I decided that the only way was to try to get close to Jones and improve things. To get him to make it easier for people who wanted to leave to go, to give them a bigger say.

"But the people around Jones didn't like that. The first stirrings of democracy did not please Jim Jones. He had to destroy it."

American officials here announced Monday night that 12 U.S. military helicopters would be arriving to go to the jungle landing strip near Jonestown to move the bodies of other American victims. They would take them to another, bigger, landing strip about 50 miles away where they could be put on a transport plane to be brought out of the jungle.

The mass killing shocked the government and people of Guyana. In the streets of Georgetown, the capital, local people approached U.S. journalists to express their regrets.

Many of the victims were black Americans, to whom Jones had promised a better life, free of prejudice.

One of the survivors, Grover Davis, 79, told pool reporters who accompanied the Guyanese officials into the Jonestown compound that he realized what was going to happen as the settlers were being directed to the meeting hall, and he ran into the bush and hid.

Another survivor who gave her name as Hyacinth Prash said she was in her 70s and ill and remained in her cabin when the others were called together. Apparently she was overlooked.

Another son of Jones, Stephen, 19, said Monday night that if his father had been responsible for the killing of Ryan and the deaths of his followers, "he must have gone insane."

"There is no way I can justify what happened," Stephen told Reuters news agency in a telephone interview.

Police said they found large quantities of Guyanese and U.S. money and checks in the settlement. They believe it may total more than $1 million. They also found a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Guyanese Information Minister Shirley Field-Ridley told wire services that a group of people acquainted with camp members—apparently relatives—were flying to the scene to help the army and police in the grim and difficult task of identifying the dead.

Denying reports that as many as nine suspects had been arrested in connection with the Ryan ambush, Miss Field-Ridley said only one man had been taken into custody—American Larry Layton, about 32 years old. His hometown was not known, and she did not reveal the charges against him.

Officials said that the bodies of Ryan and the four others killed in the attack on his party were being flown back to the United States late Monday.

Mark Lane telling of ordeal.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

INSIDE JONESTOWN CAMP - THE MASS POISONING

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F.Chronicle

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-21-78
Edition: Home

Title: RYMURS

Character:
or SF 39-250
Classification: 39
Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

Rev. Jones Found Dead

400 Stood in Line to Die

Hundreds Fled Into the Jungle

By Keith Power
Chronicle Correspondent

Georgetown, Guyana

The death toll at Jonestown grew to 405 last night from the mass suicides and killings that began Saturday when the babies at the People's Temple settlement were lined up and given cups of purple Kool-Aid laced with cyanide.

Then the older children and adults took their turn, marching past the big soup kettle to receive their fatal doses.

It took the victims five minutes to die, one of the three survivors at the scene reported.

Most went to an altar at the end of the open-air pavilion where the Rev. Jim Jones had summoned his flock to tell them that the plan to kill not only Congressman Leo J. Ryan but also the visiting newsmen and relatives had failed.

The bodies of the dead were clustered so tightly it wasn't possible to see the ground near the altar.

Jones was one of only three who died by gunshot. He was shot in the right temple, apparently a suicide.

Jones' wife, Marceline, and their three children were also dead.

Apparently about 400 managed to flee into the jungle, escaping a fusillade of shots fired by guards stationed outside the central area of the colony.

Earlier estimates that Jonestown had a population of 1200 were scaled down when it was discovered that there were only 800 passports in Jones' office.

The first reporters to reach the scene found the dazed survivors.

One was Grover Davis, 79, who had been able to run away and hide in the brush. Another was Hyacinth Prash a white-haired woman who stayed in her dormitory bed because she was too ill to get up and attend the ghastly ceremonies.

The third survivor was Odell Rhodes, 36, a former teacher, who said he had been asked by the camp's doctor, Lawrence Schact, to bring him a stethoscope after Schact and the colony's nurses had completed making their cyanide brew.

Rhodes left on the errand as requested — and he didn't return.

Instead, he found a nearby refuge in the jungle, where he could view and hear the terrible scene.

It took five minutes for the convulsions that came from drinking the poison to result in death, Rhodes said — time enough for families to reunite with arms closed about one another before falling.

There was supposed to be a radioed signal as well, Rhodes said, with the words "White Knight," ordering People's Temple members in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Georgetown to kill themselves in Jones' name.

But the signal never went out.

Rhodes told reporters what the original attack plan

against the Ryan mission had been:

Larry Layton, a fanatically loyal cult member, was to pose as a refugee seeking Ryan's help. And then when Ryan's charter plane was airborne, Layton was to shoot the pilot so the 18-passenger plane would crash — killing everyone in the congressman's party.

The scheme collapsed when Ryan told Layton he had to leave on a second, smaller plane brought in to take out those members who sought to leave Guyana.

Layton, now under arrest in Georgetown, got into the smaller craft and fired his pistol at two fugitives until he was subdued and his gun taken away.

Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the United States mission in Guyana, was given the gun, and Guyanese police seized Layton.

The shots Layton fired were the signal for other gunmen on the field to fire their weapons, Rhodes told reporters in Guyana. The gunman killed Ryan and four others, but they had to return to Jonestown to report that "the mission had failed," Rhodes said.

Only one woman protested, Rhodes continued, when Jones assembled the group and announced the suicide plan would go into effect.

She was shouted down.

"Most of the people did it more or less willingly," Rhodes said.

And for those who might have had some doubts, Jones offered words of comfort and promises of heaven.

"We're going to meet," he said, "in another place."

About a dozen of the dead were in Jones' house. Maria Katsaris, 24, whose brother, Anthony, was injured in the airstrip attack after making a vain effort to persuade her to come home, was found dead in Jones' bed — a bullet in her head.

Jones' wife, Maceline, and their children died of poisoning.

There were two other witnesses within earshot of the scene — attorneys Mark Lane, known for his assassinations conspiracy theories, and Charles Garry of San Francisco, longtime defender of Jones and his temple.

As Lane and Garry escaped into dense rain forest, they could hear Jones telling his followers over the settlement's loudspeaker that it was time for them to die.

"There is great dignity in dying," Lane quoted Jones as saying. "It is a great protest, a great demonstration for everyone to die."

Then came the final six words of the former San Francisco evangelist's address: "Mother, mother, mother, mother, mother, mother."

Lane said he counted 85 shots. Then there was silence.

The first outsiders to reach the carnage were Guyanese soldiers.

They had expected to find many victims of gunfire, but apparently the shots Lane heard were fired as succcessful escapers.

The Guyanese forces found, to no one's surprise, a store of arms and ammunition in the deserted settlement.

And there was also an unexpected discovery: a large quantity of United States currency, checks and gold apparently worth more than a million U.S. dollars.

It will be at least a day or two before a list of the dead can be prepared, Shirley Field-Ridley, Guyana's minister of information, declared at a press conference.

Most of the dead are believed to be from Northern California.

"Please be patient," the information chief pleaded.

Field-Ridley said 30 members of the People's Temple residing at a house in Georgetown have agreed to go to Jonestown, 150 miles away, to try to identify the dead.

The police kept the house at Georgetown under close guard, protecting the residents from possible attack by the guards who had overseen the suicide ceremony at Jonestown.

It was not known how many of the guards themselves escaped after the other settlers died.

As the long and dreadful task of trying to learn the names of the dead goes on, first priority will be placed on finding temple members who fled into the jungle to avoid the slaughter.

Commissioner of Police Lloyd Barker held little hope that many of the escapers could survive for long without help.

"They will die of exposure, insects or snake bite if they stay in there too long," Barker said.

By dark, police and soldiers had found only 12 survivors from among those who had fled into the bush.

Anyone who loses his bearings more than a few hundred yards away from a road or clearing may end up entrapped in the dark green jungle.

The area is almost uninhabited. The only established settlements are Port Kaituma, six miles to the east, and Wheeler Ridge, 30 miles away. Tiny bands of Amerindians, Guyana's indigenous inhabitants, are camped at irregular intervals.

The landscape may be familiar to movie buffs: Jonestown is 90 miles away from the beautiful but wild setting where "Lost Horizons" was filmed.

While work continued in the vast interior, planeloads of American officials — diplomatic and medical — kept arriving in Georgetown during the day to bolster the small diplomatic mission here.

A U.S. Army team trained in handling corpses is due at Jonestown today.

The soldiers, many of them veterans of similar duty in Vietman, will pick up the bodies in helicopters and fly them to Wheeler Ridge, where the corpses will be transferred to military airplanes.

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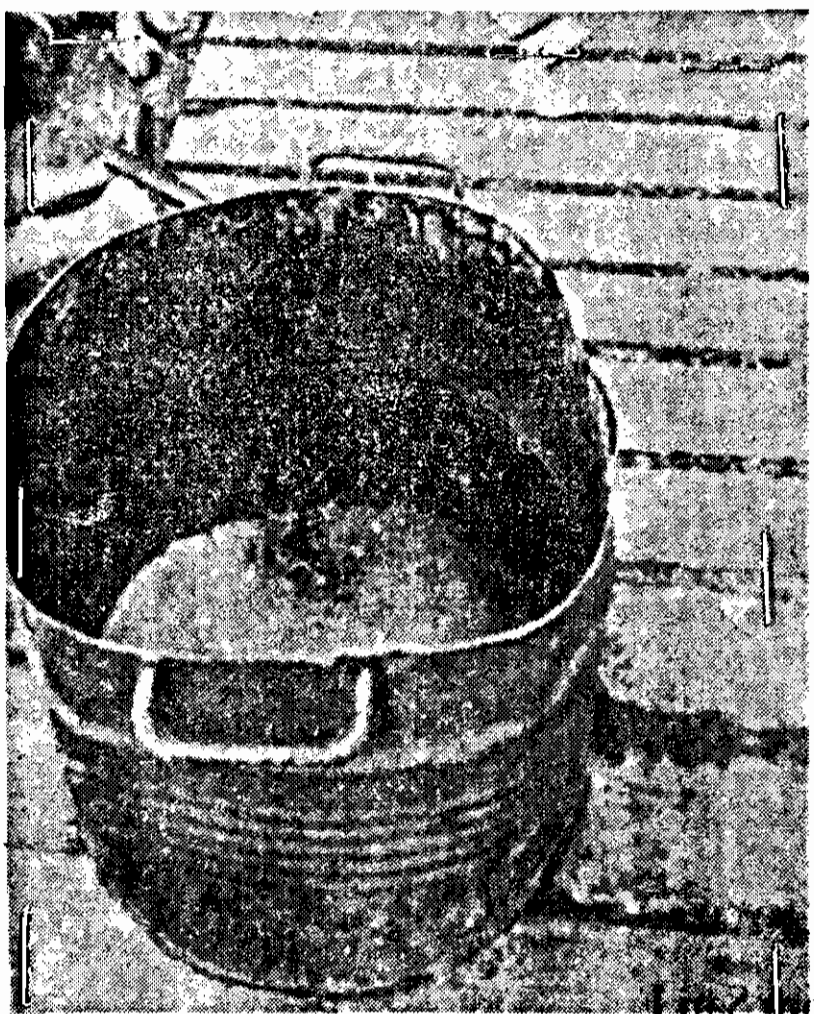
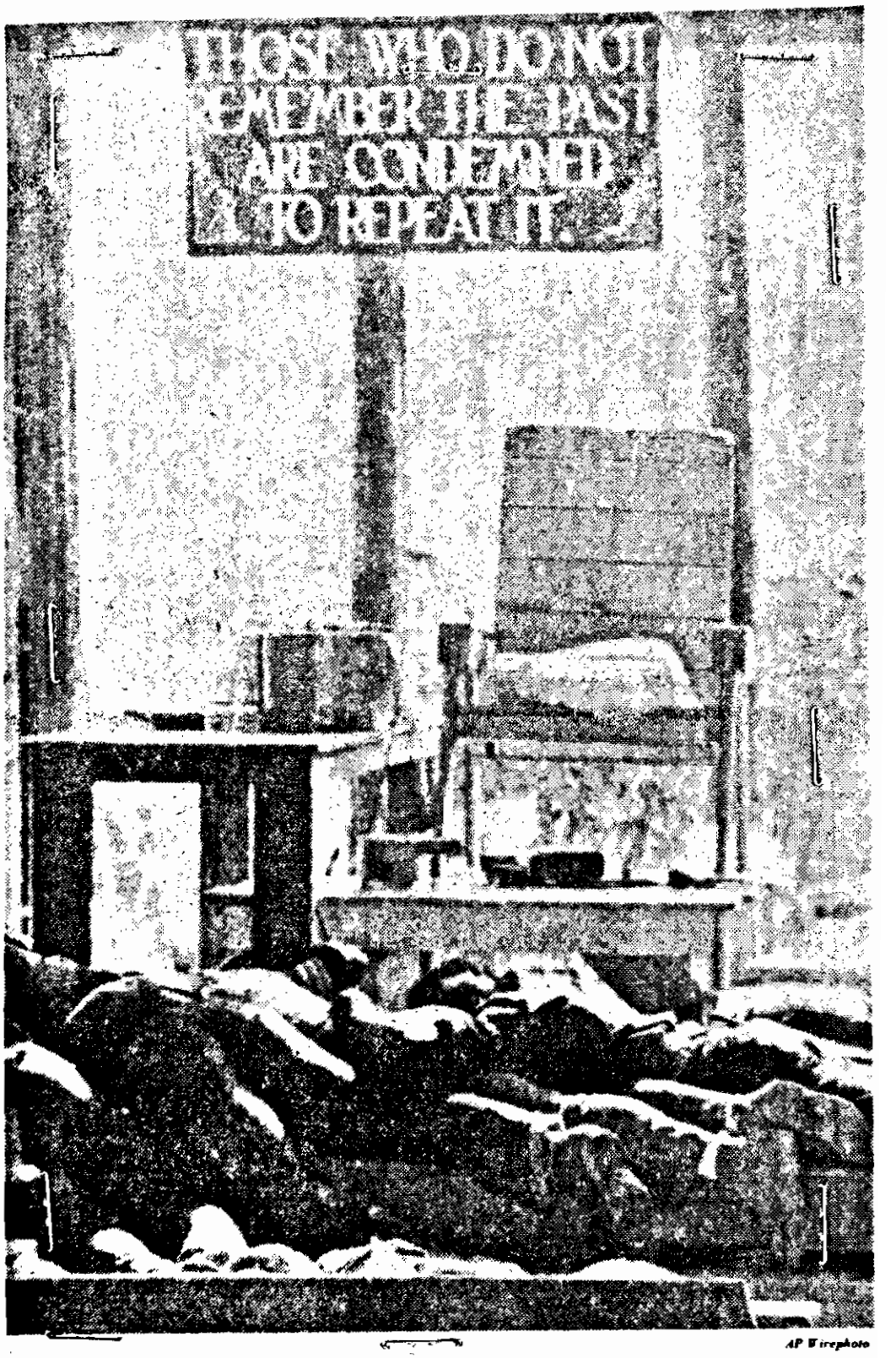
San Francisco Examiner

REV. JIM JONES
Dead of a gunshot wound

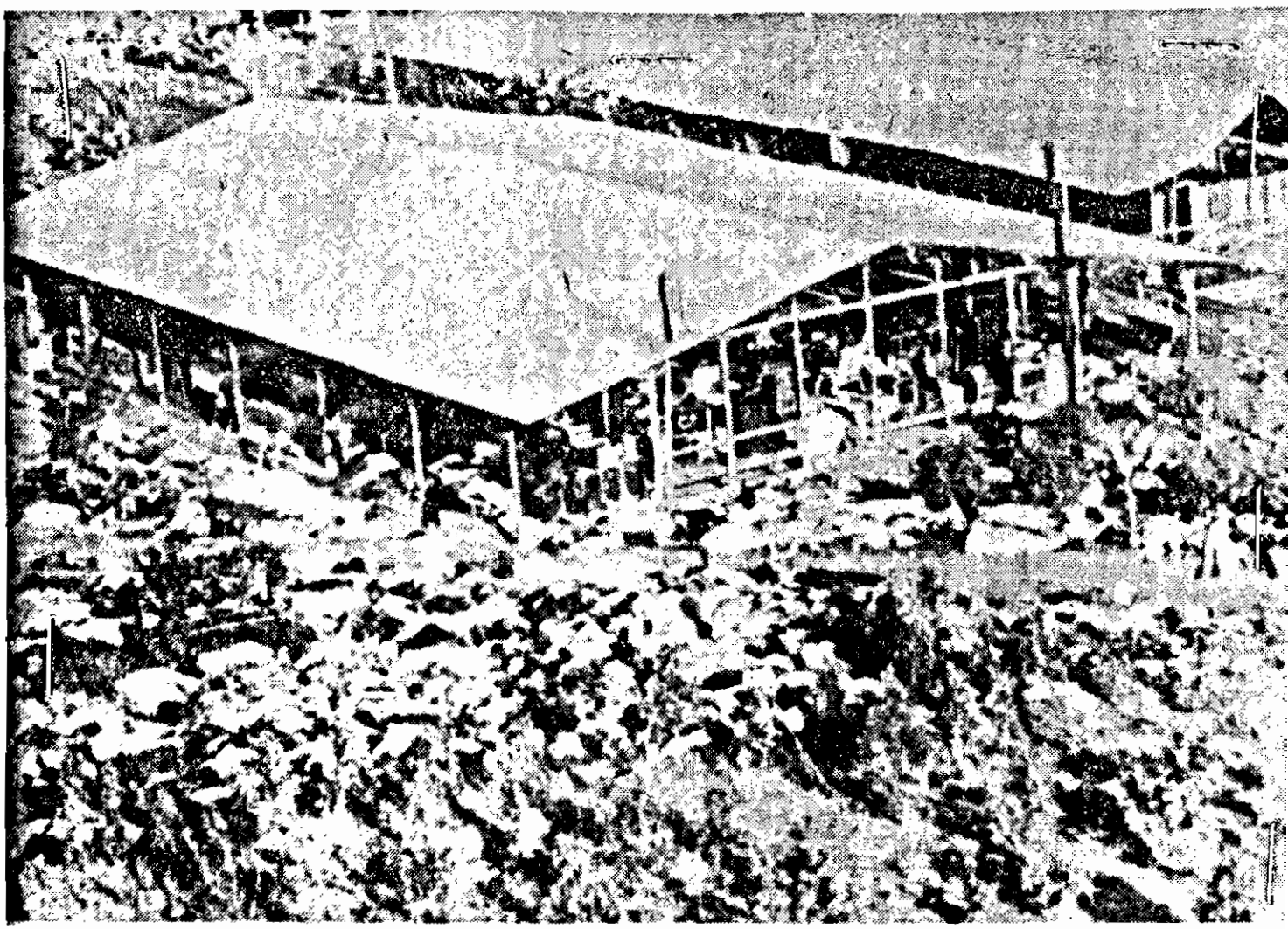


A vat containing a poisoned soft drink stood on a sidewalk at the enclave



AP Wirephoto

The 'throne' used by the Rev. Jim Jones, leader of People's Temple



UPI Telepho

Sheet-covered bodies lay on the grounds of the People's Temple settlement, Jonestown, Guyana

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Survivors of cult hunted in jungle

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Guyanese soldiers searched through a steaming jungle Monday for hundreds of American religious zealots who fled their remote compound after the suicide-murder deaths of at least 409 fellow cultists.

Some were shot, but most apparently lined up and took doses of cyanide poison mixed in a tub with flavored water. A witness said poison was spoon-fed to babies.

Several hundred bodies were sprawled around a communal meeting hall, packed so closely together that many had fallen across others who had died minutes earlier. Some had embraced as they died.

Bush

By dark, police and soldiers had found only 12 survivors from among the estimated 500-900 who had fled into the bush.

All of the settlers were believed to be Americans, most from California.

Those who were killed or took their own lives perished at about the same time Saturday that enraged members of the sect attacked an investigative group led by Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif. at a dirt airstrip. They killed Ryan, three U.S. newsmen and a woman from the settlement.

Bodies

By midafternoon, soldiers reported counting the bodies of 163 women, 138 men and 82 children. A police spokesman said later the toll was 409 as the terrible task continued at the settlement in this small South American country tucked beside Venezuela. He said bodies still were being found.

Also found in the fields, huts and dormitories were 17 shotguns, 14 rifles, seven pistols, a flare gun and large amounts of ammunition, government officials said.

Among the dead were Jim Jones,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Date: 11-21-78
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: PG
Submitting Office: SAN ANTONI

☐ Being Investigated

founder of the People's Temple settlement called Jonestown, his wife and one of their sons.

Jones, the offspring of an inter-racial marriage, and his followers, both blacks and whites, established the inland settlement last year. It was carved from the jungle in an isolated region 150 miles northwest of Georgetown and 50 miles south of the Venezuelan border.

White House press secretary Jody Powell said President Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, expressed their shock and grief and Carter "certainly is taking a personal interest" in the tragedy.

Charles Kraus, a reporter for the

See SURVIVORS, Page 14A

CONGRESSMAN LEO J. RYAN, shown with blood on his shirt after attack at Jonestown compound. This is believed to be the next-to-last picture shot by San Francisco Examiner photographer Greg Robinson before both Ryan and Robinson were killed.

SURVIVORS

Continued from Page 1A

Washington Post who was with the Ryan party Saturday but escaped death, was in a pool of journalists permitted to return to Jonestown with government forces Monday.

He said Jones had been shot in the head and was one of the few to die from a bullet wound. Jones' body, clothed in black pants and a colored casual shirt, was on a stage of the meeting hall, Kraus said.

Scores of bodies were packed in the hall, a round pavilion about 120 feet in diameter with a roof but no walls, he said. Other bodies were virtually in piles outside the hall and in small groups farther away.

Government investigators told reporters Jones apparently had shot himself. They said most of the dead drank the fruit-flavored water spiked with cyanide, but it appeared some had poison injected in their veins while infants were fed the deadly doses.

Jones' wife and son, one of the couple's seven children, died of poison, the investigators said.

Evacuate

In Washington it was announced that 150 U.S. servicemen are being assembled at various bases to be flown to Guyana and evacuate the bodies.

John A. Bushnell, head of the special State Department lask force on the Jonestown tragedy, said the servicemen will fly to Georgetown and then go to Jonestown by helicopters and transfer the bodies back to Georgetown. He reported a group of 29 U.S. military specialists also would be flown in to help identify the dead.

Christopher A. Nascimento, a Guyanese Cabinet minister visiting New York City, said one reason establishment of the settlement was approved was reference letters submitted by Jones. He said the People's Temple supplied some 60 letters, including ones signed by first lady Rosalynn Carter, Vice President Walter F. Mondale, and several congressmen, that complimented Jones and his followers for their activities in California.

Odell Rhodes, a 36-year-old teacher and one of the camp survivors, told the pool reporters elaborate preparations were made for the mass suicides and killings triggered by Ryan's visit.

Rhodes said he remained through the first part of the suicide ceremony, but when a Dr. Lawrence Schact said he wanted a stethoscope, Rhodes volunteered to get it and hid in the jungle.

He told the reporters Schacht prepared the cyanide potion and the doctor and two nurses ladled it out, starting with the infants by spooning or squirting it into their mouths.

Adults

Adults lined up and received the poison drink in paper cups, sipping it there or taking it back to their places to join friends and relatives in a death toast, Rhodes said.

Armed guards were stationed around the group, he said, and one woman who first refused to take the poison drank it after others shouted, "No, no, if Father says to do it you should do it!"

Jones was called father by his followers.

Rhodes said the original plan was for all the people in Ryan's main aircraft to be killed by a gunman who would pose as a defector and get on the plane, then kill the pilot, causing the plane to crash.

He said the man got on the secondary aircraft by mistake at the tiny airstrip in the village of Port Kaituma, eight miles south of Jonestown, then started shooting and other armed men on a truck-trailer also opened fire.

Suicide

When the killers returned and to Jonestown it was known some members of Ryan's group had escaped, the suicide ritual was ordered, Rhodes said.

He said People's Temple members in Guyana and the United States had been planning a simultaneous suicide ceremony for months, to be carried out if the code "white knight" was broadcast.

Rhodes said the code apparently was not broadcast, and Jones summoned his followers to the death meeting by telling them over the loudspeaker, "The time has come for us to meet in another place."

According to Rhodes, Jones used the loudspeaker after Ryan's party had left, to announce he had ordered the deaths of the congressmen and all other members of his party.

Another survivor, Grover Davis, 79, told the pool reporters he realized what was going to happen as the settlers were being directed to the meeting hall and he ran into the bush and hid.

A woman who gave her name as Hyacinth Prash and said she was in her 70s was ill and remained in her cabin where she apparently was overlooked.

Blood had seeped from the noses of many of the dead, and there was a frothy substance on their lips.

Five minutes

Doctors said it probably would have taken about five minutes for the poison to bring death.

Government officials and witnesses said about 1,000 acres of the 4,000 acres leased by the People's Temple had been cleared and the settlers were cultivating bananas, orange and grapefruit trees, okra, potatoes, corn and cassava, a tropical root.

In San Francisco, Dr. Carlton Goodlet said he had examined Jones in August and found he was seriously ill. Goodlet, Jones' regular doctor, said, "I insisted he go into the hospital."

He would not discuss Jones' ailment, but Donald Freed, a writer who also had visited Jones in Guyana in August, said Jones told him he was terminally ill, possibly with cancer, and that he was "distressed" about the illness.

American lawyer Mark Lane, who escaped from the jungle camp just before the mass deaths, told reporters of terrifying hours he and another attorney, Charles Garry, spent in the camp and the rainy jungle late Saturday and Sunday.

Lane

Lane, a prominent champion of controversial cases and a legal counsel to the sect, said he and Garry were barred from a mass meeting at the camp but heard residents discussing communal suicide over a loudspeaker. Lane said one spoke of "the beauty of death as part of our struggle."

The cultists reportedly had long considered mass suicide if they felt their sect threatened. Jones and the sect had been under investigation in California before he founded the Guyana camp.

California police and the FBI had been alerted to the possibility of cult members in San Francisco also committing suicide, but police said there were "no signs of anybody administering poison to themselves or to others."

The People's Temple in San Francisco was quiet Monday, with a lone guard standing at the steel fence. Angry residents of the predominantly black neighborhood told reporters nobody had paid attention to them when they aked that the sect be investigated.

Lane said the Jonestown meeting began at about 5 p.m. Only 40 minutes earlier, a half-dozen sect members had attacked Ryan's group at the airstrip where they were trying to fly out some disenchanted sect members.

Guarded

Lane, being guarded with Garry in a building some distance from the meeting, said he had heard medical personnel were preparing poison in a large vat somewhere in the camp.

He said that from their vantage point they also saw a dozen men take "many" automatic rifles from a shed.

One of their two guards told them, "We are all going to die now," Lane said.

"They were smiling. They looked genuinely happy," he said.

He and Garry persuaded the guards to release them, Lane said, by telling them he would "write the story" of Jonestown for the outside world. Before letting them go, the two guards hugged both lawyers.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Bodies of 300-400 found at sect camp

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Information Minister Shirley Field Ridley reported about 300 to 400 bodies — and no one alive — had been found in the Guyana jungle camp of a California sect whose members killed five Americans including Rep. Leo Ryan of California and three newsmen.

Miss Ridley told The Associated Press the bodies were found by troops who invaded the Jonestown camp, in northwest Guyana, of the People's Temple led by the Rev. Jim Jones.

Mass suicide

The minister said she heard reports there had been a mass suicide by poison at the camp, and that she had heard nothing to discount these reports.

About 1,100 persons, all of them Americans, had been reported living in the camp. There was no indication what might have happened to the others.

In Washington, the State Department said the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown reported local police officials told it: "It appears as if as many as 400 members of the Jonestown People's Temple community may be dead."

Stephen Katzaris, a Potter Valley, Calif., psychologist who accompanied Ryan to Guyana in a futile attempt to

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Date: 11-20-78
Edition: SPORTS FINAL
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 89-
Submitting Office SAN ANTONI

☐ Being Investigated

NBC NEWSMAN Don Harris, 42, left, and San Francisco Examiner photographer Gregory Robinson, 27, right, are shown in film taken Saturday by NBC-TV cameraman Robert Brown minutes before the three were shot to death on an airstrip at Port Kaituma, Guyana. Also killed at the site was U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California.

get his daughter out of Jonestown, said the inmates of the camp had had mass suicide rehearsals and signed undated suicide notes before they left California for Guayana.

"They will all be dead by tomorrow," said Katzaris, whose son Anthony, 23, was critically wounded in the attack in which Ryan was killed.

Survivors

Survivors of the attack Saturday evening said the congressman and the others were slain with shotgun blasts fired from "inches away" by members of the sect.

Ryan, D-Calif., had gone to the camp in this small South American country to investigate reports of abuses of members of the sect.

Shooting erupted as he tried to take several disenchanted sect members back to Georgetown by plane. Witnesses said a man with a knife had threatened Ryan earlier in Jonestown.

The State Department identified four of the dead as the 53-year-old Ryan; reporter Don Harris, 42, and cameraman Robert Brown, 36, both of NBC News and both Los Angeles residents; and photographer Gregory Robinson, 27, of the San Francisco Examiner newspaper.

The identity of the fifth victim was withheld pending notification of relatives, but Guyanese sources said she was an 18-year-old American woman from the settlement who apparently was trying to leave with Ryan. Ten persons were wounded.

Robert Flick, an NBC News field producer with the crew, said after the initial shooting the assailants walked up to the wounded and shot them in the head with shotguns.

"That was how Ryan and Harris died," he said.

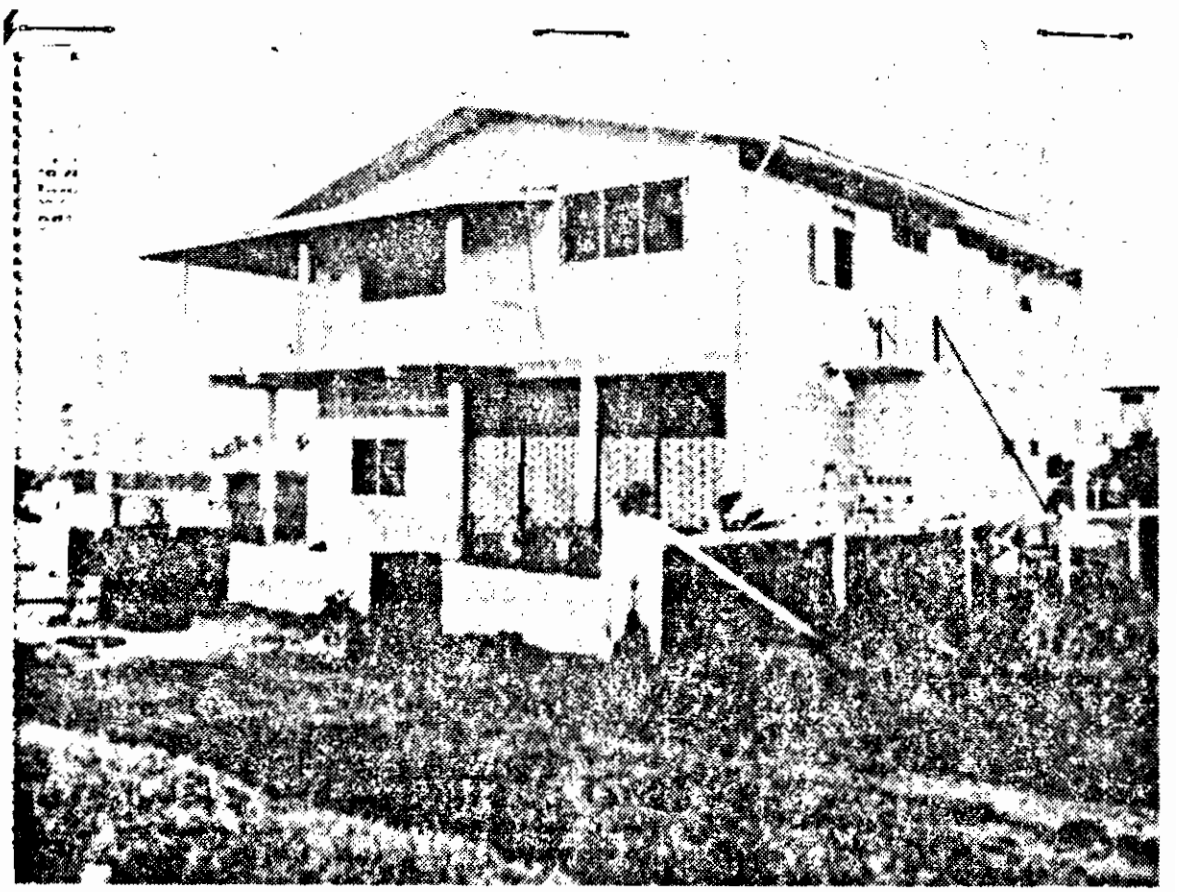
In an account given on NBC television, he said he saw soldiers guarding the wreckage of a Guyanese plane that had recently crashed at the airstrip and ran to them for help. Flick said the soldiers, armed with M-16 rifles, refused to intervene.

"The congressman.... dived behind the opposite wheel of the airplane from the gunfire and was hit almost

immediately," Flick said. "Then he was shot by people walking through with their guns." He said the others died the same way.

According to Flick, there were from eight to twelve gunmen, both black and white, who apparently had acted as Ryan's guides and became enraged and

See BODIES, Page 9A



THIS HOUSE in Georgetown, Guyana, is owned by the People's Temple, a controversial settlement of about 1,200 Americans founded a year ago by Jim Jones, a former San Francisco city official.

BODIES

Continued from Page 1A

started shooting when they saw some sect members try to leave with him. He said from 50-75 shots were fired.

San Francisco Chronicle reporter Ron Javers, who was wounded in the arm, said in a copyright account for his paper that NBC cameraman Brown continued filming even as the attackers charged and "I saw Brown go down.

Shotgun

"Then I saw one of the attackers stick a shotgun into Brown's face, inches away, if that."

He said the troops told him they did not intervene for fear of hitting the Americans.

Charles Krause, a Washington Post reporter with Ryan's party, said Ryan was threatened by a man with a knife in Jonestown earlier Saturday but escaped injury when two members of Ryan's group subdued the assailant.

Ryan's shirt was stained with blood when the attacker was cut by his own knife while being disarmed, Krause said.

Kause gave this account of the fatal attack at the airstrip at Port Kaituma, eight miles south of Jonestown and 150 miles northwest of Georgetown:

Most of Ryan's party went to the air strip from Jonestown Saturday afternoon and started discussing who would be the first to fly out in the two waiting planes and who would wait for later flights.

As a group boarded one plane three sect members standing nearby "were glaring at us."

As the filled plane was taxiing and the other was warming up, the three went to a flatbed trailer, picked up rifles and began firing at the stationary plane from the moving trailer.

Another settler aboard the taxiing plane started shooting at the other occupants.

The pilot stopped the plane and the gunman jumped out and ran into the brush. The pilot taxied back, picked up the badly wounded and flew to Georgetown for help.

Survivors

Krause said the survivors huddled in the jungle until police and soldiers arrived at daybreak.

All the dead and wounded were Americans, according to the U.S.Embassy.

Port Kaituma is a village on the Kaituma River 50 miles south of the border with Venezuela.

State Department spokesman Tom Reston said in Washington that the bodies would be flown from Port Kaituma to Georgetown where autopsies would be performed to comply with Guyanese law in cases involving homicide.

Suspects

Flick said Guyanese troops arrested nine suspects. The government, through a spokesman in New York, Jack Gelinas, confirmed one arrest. He named the suspect as Larry John Leyton and said he was an American whose age and hometown were not known.

The State Department said it had unconfirmed "alarming indications" that at least 200 of the outpost's estimated 1,100 American settlers committed suicide after the attack.

Reston said one settler from the compound walked 30 miles to Mathews Ridge, where the troops had stopped because of darkness Saturday night, and reportedly said at least 200 had killed themselves before he left.

Reston said two American lawyers, Mark Lane and Charles Garry, who were on the trip as counsel for sect founder Jim Jones, were unharmed and in Jonestown.

Lane defended Martin Luther King's convicted assassin James Earl Ray.

Krause said the lawyers did not return to the airstrip with the others.

Examiner Publisher Reg Murphy Sunday praised the slain photographer as one "who represented the very best in American photojournalism."

Wounded

The U.S. Embassy identified the seriously injured as Jackie Speier, Ryan's administrative assistant; Steve Sung, 34, of Pasadena, Calif., who is a sound man for NBC, and Anthony Katsaris, Carolyn Boyd and Beverly Oliver.

The embassy identified the last three as relatives of sect members and said they had been with the Ryan party.

Some 40 relatives of sect members went from the United States to Guyana with Ryan, but only four had been permitted to visit Jonestown.

A Jonestown resident, Ben Gozney, described as in his early 20s, was among those wounded. He was shot in the abdomen.

Wounded less seriously were Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the U.S. Embassy here; Javers, 32, and Tim Reiterman, 31, a reporter for the Examiner, the embassy said.

The Washington Post said Krause received a slight hip wound.

Murder-suicide

A Guyana police spokesman said an unidentified member of the sect and her three children were found dead Saturday night at a People's Temple complex in a suburb of Georgetown, apparently a triple murder-suicide.

In San Francisco, a People's Temple spokesman who identified himself as Archie James said sect members did not commit the Jonestown killings and denied the suicide reports.

A White House statement said President Carter was saddened by Ryan's death. "It was this drive to get his information at first-hand that led to his tragic death," the statement said in part.

Suicide

The State Department said members of the People's Temple, which claims about 20,000 followers in California, had previously mentioned the possibility of suicide if they felt the sect was threatened. The FBI in California was alerted, the department said.

A Guyanese military plane brought the wounded back to Georgetown, where a U.S. Air Force C-141 transport plane picked them up. The plane made a stop at Roosevelt Roads Naval Base in Puerto Rico and then left for Andrews Air Force Base, outside Washington.

A Navy spokesman in Puerto Rico said three of the wounded were taken off at the Navy base along with the husband of one of the three who had suffered a stroke.

The wounded, taken to a Navy hospital, were identified as Mrs. Oliver of San Francisco, wounded in both feet; Katsaris, 23, of Potter Valley, Calif., chest wound, and Ben Gozney of Jonestown, wounded in the abdomen.

The Navy spokesman said Mrs. Oliver's husband, Howard, suffered a stroke in Georgetown and was flown out with the others and hospitalized at the Puerto Rican base. The Olivers reportedly were among the relatives who went to Guyana with Ryan to try and get their two sons, William, 18, and Bruce, 20, to return home. The brothers refused to leave Jonestown, survivors said.

0-19 (Rev. 1-27-78)

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Bodies of Jim Jones, 382 Cultists Found

Police Discover 138 Men, 163 Women, 82 Children Dead by Murder or Suicide

BY LEONARD GREENWOOD
Times Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—The bodies of the Rev. Jim Jones and nearly 400 of his followers were found by Guyanan officials Monday after a weekend of horror and killing at an American religious commune in the jungles of this South American nation.

Commune members had shot and killed Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and four other Americans at a jungle airstrip Saturday. The bodies were reported to be victims of a mass suicide pact, though some had evidently been murdered.

The Guyana Ministry of Information announced Monday night that troops and police flown into the remote settlement had found 383 bodies so far—138 men, 163 women and 82 children.

Guyanan officials said the victims appear to have died of poisoning in a mass suicide pact, but some of them had been shot with rifles and automatic weapons.

Guyana army officers returning to Gebrgetown Monday night told nightmare tales of bodies piled in the sec't community center and the stench of death under the tropical sun.

Officials said Jones, a former San Francisco city official who began the People's Temple Christian Commune four years ago, had been shot and near him were the bodies of his wife and one of his children, who had apparently been poisoned.

But U.S. attorney Mark Lane, one of the few survivors of the mass killing to reach this capital so far, told the Los Angeles Times in an interview Monday night, "There was no mass suicide. It was mass murder, planned to look like mass suicide."

Lane, who agreed to represent the community only a few weeks ago in the face of growing criticism in the United States from relatives of people who lived there, said poison was taken into the community center hall Saturday night. Then the sect members, surrounded by armed men, some of whom had modern automatic weapons, were persuaded or ordered to take the poison.

"They lined up women, even little children, to take poison. It was crazy. This was not suicide, it was poison or a bullet."

Events at the commune last Saturday are still confused, and there are very few known survivors. Those who have reached Georgetown have been put under protective custody by the Guyana authorities, said Lane.

Still unaccounted for are about 400 who were living in the community. They are believed to have fled into the surrounding jungle.

But Lane himself, who went to the commune last week with Ryan and a party of U.S. journalists, lawyers and diplomats, gave one of the most coherent accounts.

He said there was intense bitterness in the commune, especially on the part of Jones and the small clique which ran the commune, about criticism they had been receiving in the United States.

He said that there was strong opposition to Ryan's visit and that Ryan had been told not to bring any journalists, especially not to bring television crews.

Robert Brown and Don Harris, two members of an NBC television team who accompanied Ryan to the commune, were with Ryan among the first small group to die. Also among the first victims were Greg Robinson, a photographer with the San Francisco Examiner, and Patricia Park, a member of the community.

At a meeting Saturday afternoon, said Lane, a man grabbed Ryan around the throat from behind and pushed a knife to his chest, shouting, "You son of a bitch. I'm going to kill you."

But several people grabbed the man and prevented the killing. Lane and a U.S. diplomat accompanying the group persuaded Ryan to leave the commune to ease the tension.

Ryan, members of his delegation and several disgruntled members of the sect who had asked to leave the

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times ✓

Date NOV 21 1978

FBI/DOJ

commune with Ryan were ambushed at a remote jungle airstrip at Port Kaituma. Ryan and four others were killed and 10 others wounded.

News of the violence shocked the commune and a meeting was called to decide what should be done about it.

"I told Jones he must call in the police," but nothing was done about it, Lane said. "During our conversation I gradually began to see that Jones had planned the knife attack on the congressman that afternoon.

"He talked of a mass suicide pact and I told him 'You can't do that.'"

Lane said he and another American lawyer, Charles Garry, of San Francisco, were taken by a group of men Saturday night to a building called the East House, close to the big community center.

"I think we were taken there so that we could not interfere in the proceedings," Lane said.

From there they could hear Jones addressing members of the sect over the public address system.

Jones, Lane said, told the sect members, "There is dignity in death." Then there was a debate about suicide, but from where he and Garry were held it seemed that Jones was not anxious that there should be a debate. At one point he told the people, "Let us not argue amongst ourselves about this."

Lane said that after some heated debate he saw 10 to 15 men leave the community hall and run to a nearby building. They came out of it with rifles and automatic weapons and ran back to the community center.

In his interview with The Times and with wire services, Lane said he had heard medical personnel were preparing poison in a large vat somewhere in the camp.

One of their two guards told them, "We are all going to die now," Lane said. "They were *smiling*. They looked genuinely happy," he said.

He and Garry persuaded the guards to release them and they fled into the jungle. As they did, they heard Jones chanting over the loudspeaker, "Mother! Mother! Mother! Mother!" and suddenly gunfire erupted.

Through the night and into Saturday morning, as they hid in the bush, they periodically heard the sound of people running through the jungle, some screaming. The two men eventually made their way to the fatal airstrip at Port Kaituma.

Guyanese Information Minister Shirley Field-Ridley told reporters that most of the bodies found Sunday by a company of troops who raided the camp showed no signs of violence, though some had gunshot wounds.

A witness who fled the camp told authorities "poison was being administered to them, that they were lining up for it." This witness reportedly said the poison was prepared in a tub of some kind.

"I really can't find the words . . . We're all in a state of shock," the official said, visibly shaken.

She said a group of people acquainted with camp members—apparently relatives—were flying to the scene to help the army and police in the grim and difficult task of identifying the dead.

Denying reports that as many as nine suspects had been arrested in connection with the Ryan ambush, Miss Field-Ridley said only one man had been taken into custody—American Larry Layton, about 32 years old. His hometown was not known, and she did not reveal the charges against him.

Reporter Tim Reiterman of the San Francisco Examiner, a member of the Ryan group and a survivor of the ambush, said in a copyrighted story Monday in the Examiner that Layton was one of the several supposed defectors Ryan was trying to escort away from the commune.

Reiterman and other survivors said they split up to take off in two small planes at the Port Kaituma airstrip, eight miles south of Jonestown, but were suddenly fired upon by about a half-dozen or more temple members who rode up in a truck and a trailer towed by a tractor. When the blaze of gunfire finally ended, Reiterman wrote, he was told by those in the other plane that Layton had pulled out a pistol and fired at them.

Those killed in the ambush were the 53-year-old Ryan, who represented San Mateo County; NBC Correspondent Don Harris, 42, and NBC cameraman Robert Brown, 36, both Los Angeles residents, and a woman camp member who was trying to leave. She was identified by Guayanese officials as Patricia Parks, 18, but some U.S. officials said her name was Parker and her hometown was not known.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

400 CULTISTS DEAD IN MASS MURDER-SUICIDE

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 3A

SAN ANTONIO LIGHT
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Date: 11-20-78
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 89-
Submitting Office: SAN ANTONI

☐ Being Investigated

Leader Believed Poisoned

(Related Stories, Photos on Page 3A.)

By NIGEL CUMBERBATCH

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (UPI) — A Guyana government official said today the band of American religious fanatics who massacred a California congressmen and four members of his party had begun a wave of mass suicide and murder that left 400 persons dead and 600 missing.

Guyana Minister of Information Shirley Field-Ridley, who at first reported the mass suicide, said Guyanese troops today captured the headquarters of the Peoples Temple in the jungle city of Jonestown and found that some of the victims apparently were murdered.

Unconfirmed reports reaching the United States Monday said Jim Jones, leader of the religious band, had died from poisoning in the mass suicide.

Mrs. Field-Ridley told a news conference that some of the victims "showed sings of violence, including presumed gunshot wounds, which were not consistent with suicide." She said some of the victims showed no signs of violence and were presumed to have been poison victims.

Jones, 46, variously called himself the "prophet of God" and "father" and preached a flamboyant mixture of old-time faith healing, racial intergration and socialism.

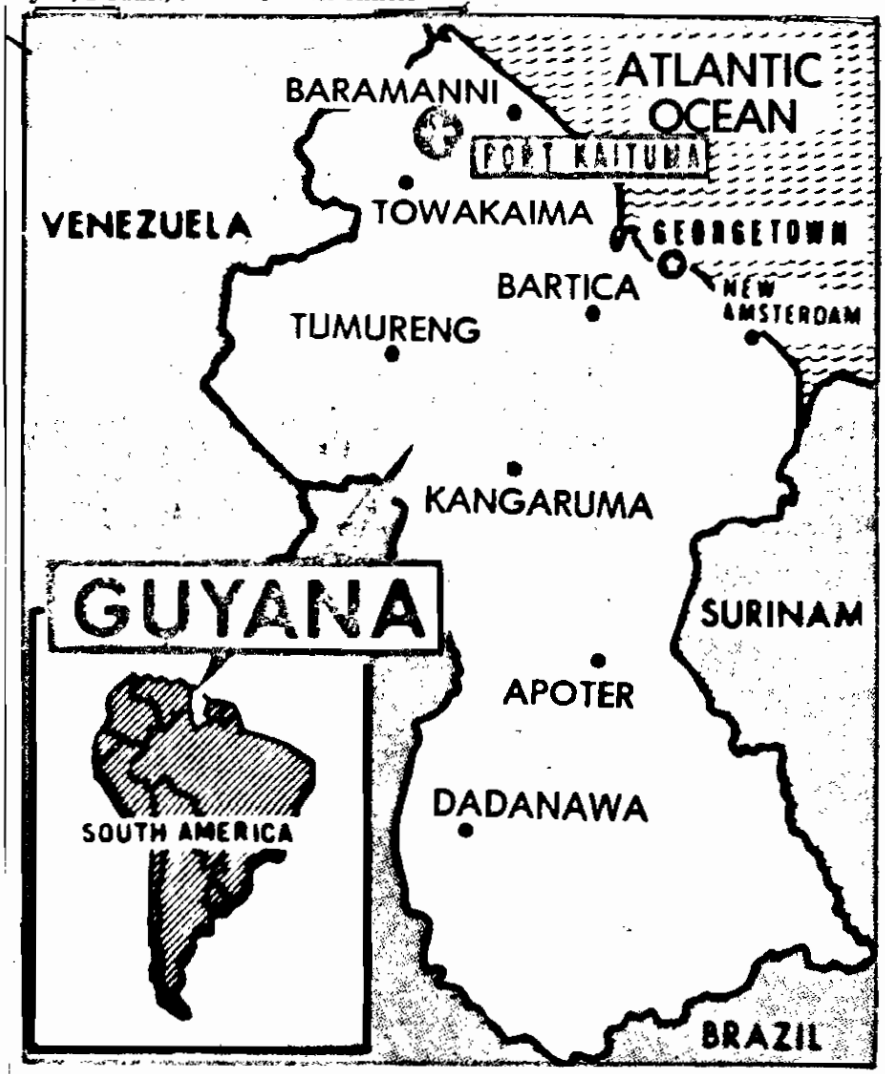
Mrs. Field-Ridley said, "some of the bodies were found in homes, some were found in clearings in the forests, but no live persons were found...The troops are searching for them. We estimate some 600 persons may be missing."

It was not immediately known if they had fled into the jungle surrounding the Peoples Temple 150 miles west of Georgetown near the Venezuelan border or if they were dead.

The bizarre case blazed into violence at 4:20 p.m. Saturday when an ambush by members of the sect at a jungle airport killed Rep. Leo J. Ryan, DCalif., and four other Americans when Ryan was leaving with 20 members of the sect after investigating reports that many Americans were being held against their will.

Killed with him were NBC television reporter Don Harrys, 42; NBC cameraman Robert Brown, 36, both of Los Angeles, San Francisco

(Continued, Page 3, Col. 1.)



MAP SHOWS the South American country of Guyana and Port Kaituma, the location of the jungle airstrip where a U.S. congressman and four members of his party were murdered by fanatic religious cultists of the People's Temple.

400 Die in Mass Cult Suicide Pact

(Continued from Page 1.)

Examiner photographer Gregory Robinson, 27, and Patricia Park, 18, an American settler.

Mrs. Field-Ridley said troops had been unable to locate Jones, a former San Francisco Housing Authority director but refugees said he had forced his followers — known as "a bunch of crazies" — to make a suicide pact with him and predicted all 1,200 members of the sect would die.

Mrs. Kathy Hunter, a free-lance writer from Ukiah, Calif., who is familiar with the Peoples Temple sect, said a Guyanese parliamert member had told her in a telephone conversation that Jones had committed suicide — a fate many cultists had predicted for the bizarre figure.

Mrs. Field-Ridley said U.S. lawyers Mark Lane and Charles Garry were in Georgetown and not in custody. They had been at the settlement when the shooting incident occurred. She said she did not know where they were staying.

Lane and Garry accompanied Ryan on the investigative trip as attorneys for the religious leader. Lane wrote Ryan an unfriendly letter Nov. 6 threatening "dire consequences" if the American government continued to harass the Peoples Temple, Ryan's administrative assistant Joe Holsinger said in Washington.

A short time before the massacre on the airstrip, Ryan had escaped a knife attack by a young cultist in the Jonestown compound. The congressman, whose shirt was drenched with his assailant's blood, credited Lane with saving his life at that time, but he lived only a few minutes longer.

Mrs. Field-Ridley said one suspect, Larry Layton, 32, an American member of the sect, had been arrested but no charges had yet been filed. Police reported nine other suspects had been arrested in connection with the murder of the California congressman.

The minister also confirmed that a mother and her three children, members of the sect, were found with their throats cut in Georgetown in a presumed murder-suicide. The sect maintained an office in Georgetown, the capital.

"Nothing indicates the suicides at Jonestown were ritual," she said.

She said action to be taken by Guanayense goverment "would depend upon the decision of our leader," Prime Minster Forbes Burnham.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid flew by helicopter to the site today to head the search and identification efforts.

State Department officials in Washington said a plane is expected to bring the bodies of Ryan and other victims of the airport massacre to the United States this afternoon and that Guyana officials had completed autopsies as required by Guyanese law.

Department spokesman Mary Ann Bader said the United States was dispatching a four-man communications team and consular officers to Jonestown this afternoon. She said it woild be a long process since the area around the temple is remote and inaccessible and the difficulties are increased by the current rainy season.

The State Department in Washington also confirmed reports of the mass suicide.

"We have received from our embassy in Guyana preliminary reports from the local police on the scene that it appears as if as many as 400 members of the Jonestown Peoples Temple may be dead," it said.

There was no indication of the kind of poison used. Mass suicide of this magnitude would fit in with the cult's belief of resurrection from the dead.

After Ryan and his group examined the camp and were preparing to board planes Saturday at Port Kaituma, seven miles from Jonestown, members of the cult opened fire with shotguns and then executed their victims with shotgun blasts to the heads at point blank range.

Survivors crawled into the jungle and hid for the night until Guyanese troops arrived Sunday morning.

At least 10 members of the ambushed party still were missing, presumably hiding in the jungle.

President Carter hailed Ryan for his attempts to investigate the People's Temple and the FBI said in San Francisco it had assigned agents to determine whether there had been a conspiracy or violation of U.S. statutes.

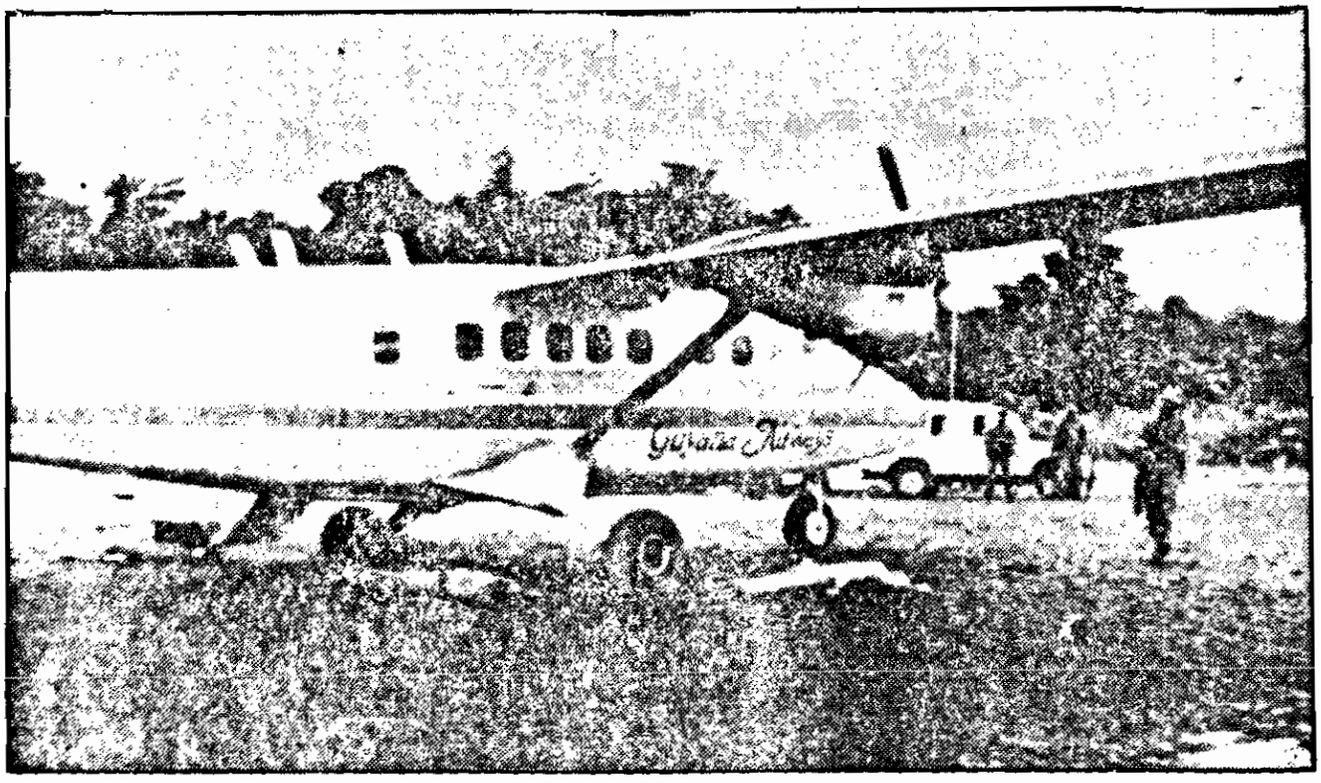
Survivors of the massacre were evacuated to Georgetown and from there to Puerto Rico where the most seriously injured were hospitalized. Five survivors, including Jacqueline Speier, a legislative aide to Ryan, were flown to Andrews Air Force base near Washington Sunday.

"I saw one of the attackers stick a shotgun right into Brown's face — inches away, if that," San Francisco Chronicle reporter Ron Javers said in a copyright article. "Bob's brain was blown out of his head. It splattered the blue NBC minicam."

The 53-year-old Ryan was found in a blue cord suit lying in the mud in front of the right week of the aircraft, has face shot off, Javers said.

Ryan's party had agreed to take a small group of 20 disciples back to the United States and was boarding the plane with them with the shooting broke out. Some of the apparent defectors whipped out weapons, and a truck rolled up at the last minute with men in the back resting shotguns on the side of the tractor-trailer.

Survivors said the gunmen circled the airplane in their vehicle, firing continuously and then dismounted to administer the death shots.



THE BODIES of Rep. Leo Ryan and members of his party killed by members of the Jonestown Peoples Temple are shown in this photo by the San Francisco Examiner lying beside the plane that was to carry them back to California. Ryan was in Guyana investigating the cult, which some of his constituents charged was holding their relatives against their will.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jonestown Mystery Grows - 400 of the Cult Still Missing

Guyana Cops Make Some Arrests

By Keith Power
Chronicle Correspondent

Georgtown, Guyana

A stream of air traffic and search patrols broke Jonestown's jungle isolation yesterday, but hours of intense searching failed once more to solve the mystery of what happened to 400 or more members of People's Temple who have been missing since Saturday's mass suicide and killings.

There was limited action.

Several followers of Jim Jones were arrested, including Michael Prokes, 31, the former San Francisco evangelist's longtime spokesman, who was discovered near the Port Kaituma airstrip.

Prokes, a former television bureau chief in Stockton and then Jones' press spokesman when the People's Temple operations were centered in San Francisco, was carrying an automatic pistol when he was seized by Guyanese police.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F.Chronicle

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-22-78
Edition: Home

Title: RYMURS

Character:
or SF 89-250
Classification: 89
Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

He reportedly was carrying a great deal of money with him as well. The police would not give a precise amount but there were reports the figure might approach $100,000.

Tim Carter, 30, formerly of Garden City, Idaho, who had stayed at the People's Temple residence in Georgetown, was also arrested.

The charges against the two men and the others ordered into custody by Police Commissioner Lloyd Barker are to be disclosed today.

Earlier, police had seized Larry Layton, who had posed as a fugitive from Jones and who is said to have fired the first shots in the airstrip murders of Congressman Leo J. Ryan and four others.

During the day, small numbers of stragglers — not more than three dozen and probably fewer — emerged from the almost impassable rain forest around the 27,000-acre farming settlement where Jim Jones and his followers had proclaimed a socialist commune.

Some of the survivors were flown to Georgetown, where they were hospitalized. By late yesterday the hospital had about 30 patients from Jonestown — all of them exhausted, frightened and in shock.

There was no information about the injuries or the condition of the patients.

Like many public institutions in Georgetown these last few days, the hospital maintained a strict guard — wary of the possibility that some outsiders posing as friends might turn out to be bent on revenge against the defectors who had fled from Jones' tightly disciplined and isolated sect rather than submit to the cult leader's final exhortation to suicide.

A tight guard was also placed around a building here where Stephan Jones, 19-year-old son of the People's Temple leader, met with the press and denounced his father.

There were armed guards at all the hotels where foreigners were staying, at public buildings throughout this tropical capital and at Temehri International Airport.

The problem was that no one knew when a potential killer might appear — or where.

Dozens of suspects, men who had carried guns and wielded clubs, were believed to be among the 400 or so who are still unaccounted for after the dead at Jonestown were numbered.

"Where are they? That's the $64,000 question," said John Adams, a U.S. Foreign Service officer who had served in France and Israel and who was flown here to provide expert help for the beleaguered local embassy staff.

"It's inconceivable that any people would get very far in this terrain."

During a visit by helicopter to Jonestown, Adams examined the hoard of American passports that Jones kept at the settlement and said he thought the estimate of 800, given earlier by the Guayanese army, was probably low.

He did not have time to count the documents, but he said there might have been 900 or more passports in the pile.

Obviously not all of the passports represented people who were still alive at the time that Ryan, concerned relatives and the press paid their two-day visit to the jungle commune.

Some of the residents may have have died in the months before Ryan's mission.

About 30 of the documents were held for the 30 or so People's Temple members stationed in Georgetown, and a few more were the passports of the cult settlement's traveling basketball squad.

That still left far too many unaccounted for — at a time when stories were fresh in everyone's mind about the plans of People's Temple militants to wreak horrible revenge if disaster from outsiders struck the community.

Sherwin Harris, ex-husband of Sharon Amos, who was found dead with her three children at the Georgetown People's Temple on Saturday — an apparent murder-suicide — was terrified and distraught.

One of the dead children in the Georgetown house was his daughter, Liane.

Harris, a big, bearded man who was carrying lists of people in the Jones cult he considers dangerous, marched into the U.S. embassy here yesterday and demanded FBI protection for people in the United States who might be targeted by terror squads.

"I want to make it a mathematical certainty that it (the slaughter) ends here," Harris said.

The details of the plans for keeping the sect alive were already known.

Chronicle reporter Ron Javers and others who survived last Saturday's lethal raid at the Port Kaituma airstrip were told the plan was that after most members of the sect had committed suicide a band of armed survivors, led by Jones himself, would steal back into the United States and kill their families.

The plan was well known to all members of the cult, and although Jones was identified by Guyanese authorities as dead from a shot in the right temple during the mass suicide at the camp, there was no assurance that the movement — or the killings — would stop as a result.

The scene at the death camp grew worse by the hour yesterday.

"We felt that local burial would be the most sanitary and humane

way of dealing with the problem," Adams said after walking among the decaying bodies.

"The magnitude of the death — the dimension of the problem — is so great."

Even in the helicopter some distance above the central open-sided, tin-roofed meeting hall, the stench was frightful, Adams said.

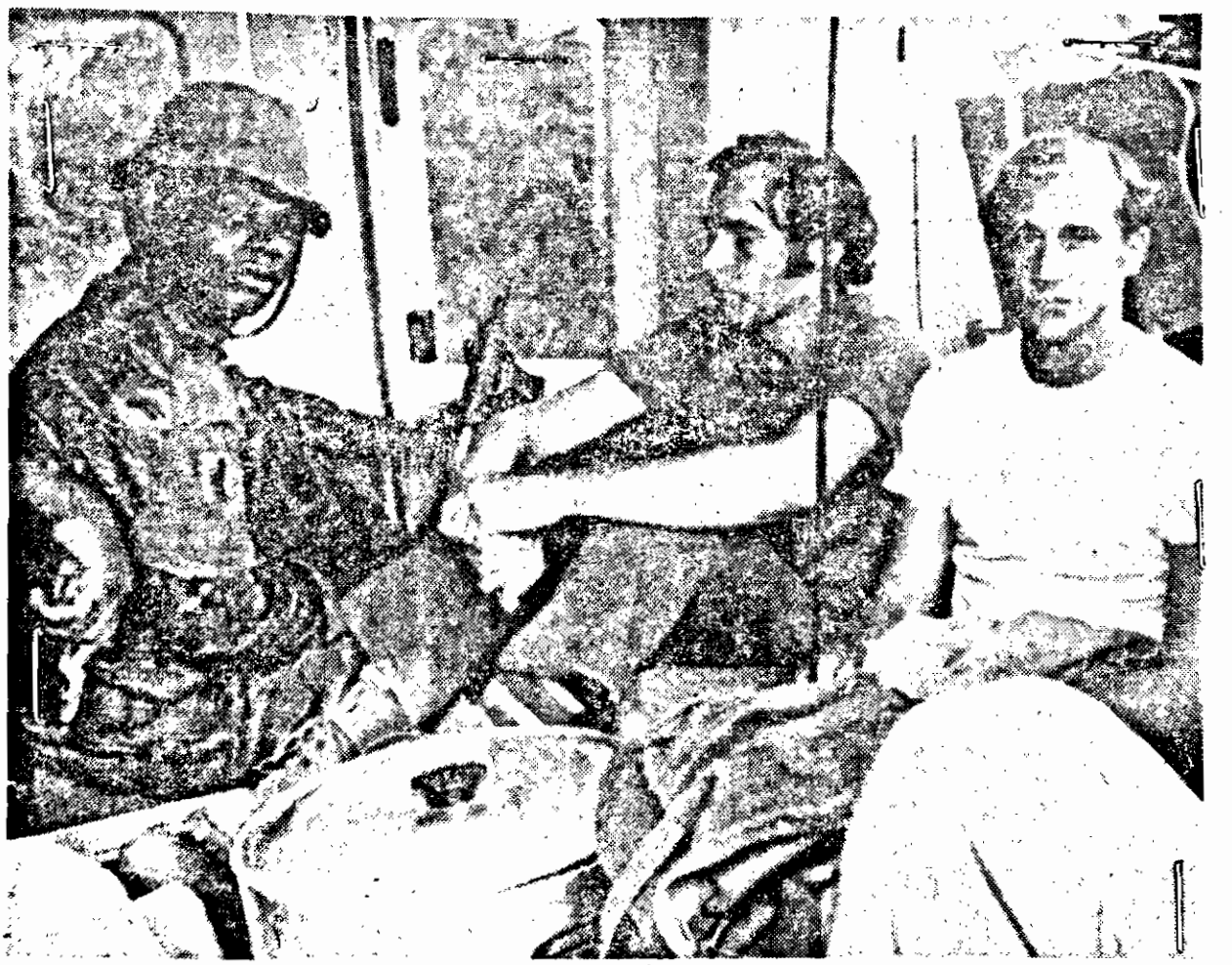
On the ground, it was awful.

A plan to bury the dead then and there was quashed, however, by the Guyana government, which said it wanted the bodies removed and taken from the country.

About 200 American troops, including 29 identification specialists, are expected to arrive at Jonestown today to undertake the task.

Four large transport planes, big enough to carry helicopters, trucks, portable generating plants and other equipment, will bring forces into Timehri International Airport, outside Georgetown.

From there the troops and their equipment — including body bags to carry the dead home to the United States for burial — will be transported by small planes and helicopter to Jonestown.



AP Wirephoto

Michael Prokes (center) and another American, Tim Carter, in custody of the Guyana police

UPI Telephoto

Instruments of death: A pile of hypodermic syringes and paper cups of cyanide-laced soft drinks at Jonestown

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Guyana Jungle Searched for Cult Survivors

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Nearly 200 police and soldiers searched without success Tuesday for hundreds of survivors of the Jonestown horror in jungles and swamps where experts say it is easy for people to get lost and die of hunger.

As many as 500 men, women and children were believed to have fled from the ghastly scene of last Saturday night when the Rev. Jim Jones, leader of the Peoples Temple religious community, led more than 400 fellow Americans into an orgy of killing and suicide with Kool-Aid laced with cyanide.

A police spokesman in Georgetown said Tuesday night that because of spotty communications with the remote jungle settlement little information was available on how many others—dead or alive—had been found, although it was believed the number was small.

He said two men who had been found were being brought to Georgetown and will be charged today. They were identified only as Mike Prokes and Tim Carter. Charges were not announced, but it was presumed they were being questioned in connection with the airstrip massacre in which Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and four others were killed and 10 others were wounded Saturday.

Another sect member, Larry Layton, about 32, was arrested Sunday as a prime suspect in the airport murders.

Guyana's assistant crime commissioner, Cecil (Skip) Roberts, who is in charge of the search and the investigation into the mass killing at Jonestown, told reporters who visited the settlement Tuesday morning that most of the missing people were probably wandering around in circles in the jungle within three miles of the settlement.

The survivors fled into a thick tropical jungle where the rainy season has just begun. Jones' son Stephan put their number at approximately 500.

The area is sparsely populated, the only other inhabitants being Warou and Carib Indians who still live in tribal villages.

A surveyor who has worked in the area said in an interview that the rivers contain the alligator-like cajman and piranhas, a fearsome, flesh-eating fish.

"For someone who knows the jungle it is easy to survive," he said. "There are berries, roots and with more than 100 inches of rain a year, there is plenty of water . . ."

"But for those who are not used to it, it is very easy to get lost, run out of food and die. How these people fare will depend on how much they learned about jungle survival in the time they have been at Jonestown . . . If they panic, they can go round and round in circles and never get out."

The missing cultists are generally believed to have fled the settlement in terror when the suicides began. Some here think they still may be pursued by commune members bent on taking their lives.

Roberts said he planned to send helicopters out over the surrounding forest this morning with loudspeakers telling people it was safe for them to come out of hiding.

Ryan led a fact-finding mission to Jonestown to investigate charges by his constituents of brutality and virtual imprisonment of disenchanted cultists. They were trying to escort members from the settlement when they were attacked at a remote airstrip at Port Kaituma Saturday.

Ryan, who represented San Mateo County; NBC correspondent Don Harris, 42, of Los Angeles; NBC cameraman Robert Brown, 36, also of Los Angeles; photographer Gregory Robinson, 27, of the San Francisco Examiner, and a female member of the cult, still not officially identified, were killed in the ambush by Peoples Temple members.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES LOS ANGELES, CA

Date: 11/22/78

Edition: Wednesday Final

Title: GUYANA JUNGLE

Character:

or RYMUR

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

FBI/DOJ

After the news of the violence reached the Jonestown settlement, survivors reported, Jones called the members to the camp's center and told them the time had come to commit the mass suicide they had rehearsed several times before.

A camp survivor, Odell Rhodes, said armed men were stationed in a ring around the assembled congregation at Jonestown Saturday evening as the 46-year-old Jones declared, "The time has come for us to meet in another place!"

The camp doctor and two nurses had prepared the lethal potion in a tub and began handing out a dose to each resident, Rhodes said.

A U.S. official late Tuesday said the Guyanese government had asked the United States to remove all of the victims' bodies from Guyana.

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Sixteen Air Force C-141 jet transports loaded with medical and sanitation gear were dispatched from Fort Bragg, N.C., and arrived in Georgetown late Tuesday.

Mark Lane, an attorney who represented the Peoples Temple and barely escaped the slaughter, said in Georgetown that the membership consisted mostly of working-class blacks—men, women and children. He said there were some middle-class and upper middle-class whites among the members and in the administrative staff.

Transport planes arrived in Georgetown Tuesday carrying the first helicopters that will fly the bodies to a landing strip about 50 miles from Jonestown, where bigger transport planes will pick them up.

The U.S. announcement said military transports would carry the bodies home, but it was not yet known when or where they would arrive in the United States.

There are already many U.S. military personnel in Guyana helping with the arrangements. Some estimates put the number at more than 200 but there is no official figure. Some are in Jonestown helping to identify bodies.

The bodies of Jones, his wife Marceline and other sect members were still lying Tuesday night where they had fallen three nights earlier after taking the poison or being shot.

Members of an NBC television crew that flew into the commune said the scene was eerie. Everything was exactly as it had been when the people died.

"Everything was dead, except one dog which ran around in the settlement," one member of the crew said. "Before they died, they had killed all their animals, their livestock, their dogs, even Mr. Muggs, their pet monkey.

"Police and troops would not let anyone touch anything while the investigation is going on."

On the third day of lying in the tropical sun the piles of bodies of men, women and children were still stretched out around the settlement's community center badly bloated.

Jungle Area Searched for Cult Survivors

Guyana Troops Hunt Without Success for 500 Adults, Children

BY LEONARD GREENWOOD
Times Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Nearly 200 police and soldiers searched without success Tuesday for hundreds of survivors of the Jonestown horror in jungles and swamps where experts say it is easy for people to get lost and die of hunger.

As many as 500 men, women and children were believed to have fled from the ghastly scene of last Saturday night when the Rev. Jim Jones, leader of the Peoples Temple religious community, led more than 400 fellow Americans into an orgy of killing and suicide with Kool-Aid laced with cyanide.

A police spokesman in Georgetown said Tuesday night that because of spotty communications with the remote jungle settlement little information was available on how many others—dead or alive—had been found, although it was believed the number was small.

He said two men who had been found were being brought to Georgetown and will be charged today. They were identified only as Mike Prokes and Tim Carter. Charges were not announced, but it was presumed they were being questioned in connection with the airstrip massacre, in which Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and four others were killed and 10 others were wounded.

Another sect member, Larry Layton, about 32, was arrested Sunday as a prime suspect in the airport murders.

Guyana's assistant crime commissioner, Cecil (Skip) Roberts, who is in charge of the search and the investigation into the mass killing at Jonestown, told reporters who visited the settlement Tuesday morning that most of the missing people were probably wandering around in circles in the jungle within three miles of the settlement.

The survivors fled into a thick tropical jungle where the rainy season has just begun. Jones' son Stephan put their number at approximately 500.

The area is sparsely populated, the only other inhabitants being Warou and Carib Indians who still live in tribal villages.

A surveyor who has worked in the area said in an interview that the rivers contain the alligator-like cajman and piranhas, a fearsome, flesh-eating fish.

"For someone who knows the jungle it is easy to survive," he said. "There are berries, roots and with more than 100 inches of rain a year, there is plenty of water . . ."

"But for those who are not used to it, it is very easy to get lost, run out of food and die. How these people fare will depend on how much they learned about jungle survival in the time they have been at Jonestown . . . If they panic, they can go round and round in circles and never get out."

The missing cultists are generally believed to have fled the settlement in terror when the suicides began. Some here think they still may be pursued by commune members bent on taking their lives.

Roberts said he planned to send

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Jungle Searched for 500 Who Survived Cult Horror

Continued from First Page

helicopters out over the surrounding forest this morning with loud speakers telling people it was safe for them to come out of hiding.

Ryan led a fact-finding mission to Jonestown to investigate charges by his constituents of brutality and virtual imprisonment of disenchanted cultists. They were trying to escort members from the settlement when they were attacked at a remote airstrip at Port Kaituma Saturday.

Ryan, who represented San Mateo County; NBC correspondent Don Harris, 42, of Los Angeles; NBC cameraman Robert Brown, 36, also of Los Angeles; photographer Gregory Robinson, 27, of the San Francisco Examiner, and a female member of the cult, still not officially identified, were killed in the ambush by Peoples Temple members.

After the news of the violence reached the Jonestown settlement, survivors reported, Jones called the members of the camp's center and told them the time had come to commit the mass suicide they had rehearsed several times before.

A camp survivor, Odell Rhodes, said armed men stationed in a ring around the assembled congregation at Jonestown Saturday evening as the 46-year-old Jones declared, "The time has come for us to meet in another place!"

The camp doctor and two nurses had prepared the lethal potion in a tub and began handing out a dose to each resident, Rhodes said.

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"Police and troops would not let anyone touch anything while the investigation is going on."

VATICAN CRITICAL OF CULT OVER DEATHS

ROME (AP)—The Vatican daily newspaper L'Osservatore Romano on Monday called the Jonestown deaths "a manifestation of a pseudo-mysticism which betrays the cause of man because it betrays the cause of Christ."

"Christianity is a religion of life, not death," the paper said, adding that pretending to be "new prophets" of Christianity is like "putting oneself outside history and setting out on a mad venture."

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Fleeing Cult Survivors Elude Search

From Press Dispatches

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Survivors of the Jonestown cult suicide, menaced by flesh-eating piranha fish and other deadly perils of the jungle, eluded searching soldiers in the Guyanese wilderness for a third day Tuesday.

Some U.S. military assistance teams arrived here during the day along with helicopters to widen the search for the up to 800 cultists either lost or hiding in one of the most isolated areas in this hemisphere. American officials said they expected 12 helicopters on the scene by Wednesday.

Police Commissioner Lloyd A. Barker said the survivors who fled into the bush may have made it to friendly Indian villages.

At the site of the mass suicide, the corpses of 409 members of the American religious sect lay decomposing in the equatorial sun. U.S. military officials were planning to airlift the bodies to the United States.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said Guyana asked that the U.S. government remove all the bodies, despite their state of decomposition. He had said earlier some of the bodies might be buried at the jungle settlement.

"The bodies are starting to swell and some seem ready to burst," said U.S. Embassy official Peter Londoner.

U.S. Army grave registration experts were collaborating in the grim identification task, helped by a handful of surviving members of the cult.

Meanwhile, a flag-draped coffin bearing the body of Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., whose murder and that of four other Americans touched off the mass deaths, was flown back to San Francisco.

Estimates of the number of sect members who fled the Jonestown camp Saturday during the ritual of self-destruction by poison ranged from 200 to more than 775. Stephan Jones, son of the Peoples Temple founder, the Rev. Jim Jones, estimated some 500 had gone into the inhospitable rain forest.

Nineteen-year-old Stephan Jones on Tuesday denounced his father as ill, paranoid and drugged when he ordered the mass suicide. The California-based cult "is finished," the younger Jones said.

At a police-conducted news conference, Jones said his father was sick and his action had destroyed the cult.

"I hated him. He became a Fascist ... He destroyed everything we lived and worked for," Jones said. "He was not well. He was paranoiac and he had been taking drugs — I don't know what kind — quite a bit lately. He was not as sensible as he used to be."

The younger Jones, who had left the camp three weeks ago on a trip with its basketball team, said the survivors could never return to Jonestown, a four-year-old agricultural commune cut out of virginal forest. Some 45 cult members were in Georgetown when the Jonestown settlers killed themselves.

Stephan Jones said his greatest concern now was for the well-being of those who fled into the jungle, apparently unwilling to destroy themselves along with their suicidal master.

Commissioner Barker, whose national police are conducting the search along with Guyanese soldiers, said there are trails linking Jonestown to small Indian villages and also crossing into Venezuela, about 15 miles to the north. Some Indians had traded with the U.S. settlers and received medical treatment at the camp, he said, and he felt any survivors seeking refuge with the Indians would be well treated.

Defense Department officials in Washington said Guyana asked that U.S. helicopters be equipped with loudspeakers to help contact the survivors. They emphasized no U.S. forces would be

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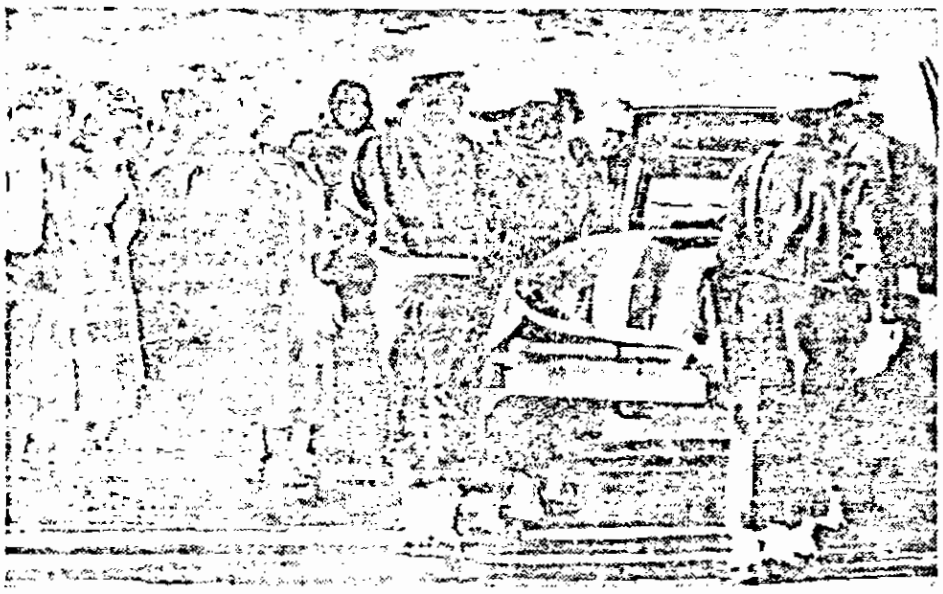

Associated Press Photo

The Body Of Rep. Leo J. Ryan Is Carried From C-141 At San Francisco

engaged in the search on the ground.

Members of the Army medical staff at Fort Benning were airlifted Tuesday from Georgia to Guyana, an Army spokesman said. At Fort Benning, 43 members of the 498th Medical Company were affected by the orders.

A spokesman at the Pentagon said that U.S. military personnel from Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, N.C., McDill Air Force Base, Fla.; and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., will arrive in Guyana Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

About 200 Guyanese troops and policemen were reported trying to find survivors in the jungles surrounding the Jonestown camp.

Jim Jones ordered the mass suicide, a ritual he code-named "White Knight" and had rehearsed with his followers, after sect members ambushed and killed Rep. Ryan and four members of Ryan's party that made an investigative visit to the camp.

Jones was one of three persons who died of gunshot wounds, apparently self-inflicted. About one-quarter of the dead were children, some babies whose mothers reportedly fed them the brew of Kool-aid and cyanide.

U.S. officials have said 14 surviors reappeared in Jonestown and Guyanese authorities say three sect members have been arrested in connection with the attack on Ryan's party at the Port Kaituma airstrip, eight miles south of Jonestown.

Guyanese familiar with the area questioned whether the fugitives could long survive without shelter and food in a jungle filled with swamps and criss-crossed by rivers inhabited by piranhas and electric eels. The region is also home to the poisonous bushmaster snake and the night-roaming jaguar, as well as clouds of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders.

To further complicate the search, the rainy season has just begun.

The Peoples Temple sect consists mostly of Californians, both black and white. Fearful relatives have been waiting outside the sect headquarters in San Francisco the past two days for word of the fate of loved ones who traveled with Jones to this former British colony on South America's northeast shoulder.

The bizarre and bloody episode has left questions gnawing even at cult members.

"We all here and in the States are shocked," Stephan Jones told reporters. "I can't believe that this was a voluntary suicide. There had to be the use of force, although some of it was blind loyalty."

A camp survivor, Odell Rhodes, said armed men were stationed in a ring around the assembled congregation at Jonestown Saturday evening as the 46-year-old Jones declared, "The time has come for us to meet in another place!"

The camp doctor and two nurses had prepared the lethal potion in a metal tub and began handing cut doses to each resident, Rhodes said. After they drank the poison, they went into convulsions, their eyes rolled up, they had difficulty breathing and they were dead in about five minutes, according to Rhodes.

He said he fled before the end of the macabre scene and did not see Jones die.

FD-358 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cultists elude jungle hunt

Associated Press

Georgetown, Guyana—Survivors of the Jonestown cult suicide, menaced by flesh-eating piranha fish and other deadly perils of the jungle, eluded searching soldiers in the nearly impenetrable Guyanese wilderness for a third day yesterday.

Police Commissioner Lloyd A. Barker estimated 200-300 survivors fled into the bush and said some possibly made it to friendly Indian villages. Other sources place the number of survivors at nearly 800.

At the site of the mass suicide, the corpses of 405 members of the American religious sect lay decomposing in the equatorial heat. The toll had been placed earlier at 409, but that was revised to 405 by both Guyanese investigators and the U.S. Embassy.

U.S. military officials were planning to airlift the bodies to the United States.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said Guyana asked that the U.S. government remove all the bodies, despite their state of decomposition. He had said earlier some of the bodies might be buried at the jungle settement.

"The bodies are starting to swell and some seem ready to burst," said U.S. Embassy official Peter Londoner. About 200 U.S troopers, awaiting the arrival of a dozen helicopters, were standing by in Georgetown for the evacuation operation.

Estimates of the number of sect members who fled the Jonestown camp Saturday during the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Tribune

Oakland,Ca.

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Commissioner Barker, whose national police are conducting the search along with Guyanese soldiers, said he believed the figures for the Jonestown population and survivors had been over-estimated. "We think the survivors would be more like 200 to 300," he said.

Barker told reporters in Georgetown there are trails linking Jonestown to small Indian villages and also crossing into Venezuela, about 15 miles to the north. Some Indians had traded with the U.S. settlers and received medical treatment at the camp, he said, and he felt any survivors seeking refuge with the Indians would be well treated.

Search parties were sent to some of the villages, he said, but had not yet reported back.

Defense Department officials in Washington said Guyana asked that U.S. helicopters be equipped with loudspeakers to help contact the survivors. They emphasized no U.S. forces would be engaged in the search on the ground.

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U.S. officials have said 14 survivors reappeared in Jonestown and Guyanese authorities say three sect members have been arrested in connection with the attack on Ryan's party at the Port Kaituma airstrip, eight miles south of Jonestown.

Barker said about 40 settlers had been found both at Jonestown and Port Kaituma, but he gave no breakdown of the figures.

Guyanese familiar with the area questioned whether the fugitives could survive long without shelter and steady food supplies in a jungle filled with swamps and criss-crossed by streams and rivers inhabited by piranhas and electric eels. The rainy season is just starting.

Barker said there were indications some of the survivors were working in the jungle and when they returned to the camp and saw the bodies they gathered food supplies and went back into the bush.

Jones is known to have instilled a fervid will to survive among some of his followers, telling them their settlements could become sanctuaries where they would escape a nuclear holocaust or other calamity. A fear that outsiders were about to destroy their small society apparently triggered the mass suicide.

About 200 Guyanese troops and police were trying to track down the survivors, but officials said they were hampered by thick brush. There is only one road in the area, and its potholed surface turns to mud with the rains. Aerial surveillance is nearly useless because of the heavy tree cover. According to American officials, 14 Jonestown survivors including four children reappeared in the area after initially going into hiding.

Guyanese authorities said yesterday they had arrested two sect members found in the jungle near Port Kaituma. They were identified only as Mike Prokes and Tim Carter. Charges were not announced, but it was presumed they were being questioned in connection with the airstrip massacre, in which 10 persons also were wounded.

Another sect member, Larry Layton, about 32, was arrested Sunday as a prime suspect in the ambush.

State Department official John Bushnell said in Washington about half the bodies at the camp had been tentatively identified. The Peoples Temple sect consists mostly of Californians, both black and white. Fearful relatives have

been waiting outside the sect headquarters in San Francisco the past two days for word of the fate of loved ones who traveled with Jones to this former British colony on South America's northeast shoulder.

Washington, responding to the Guyanese request that all bodies be removed, said C-141 transports would leave Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina carrying grave registration specialists and equipment.

Other C-141 transports from Ft. Benning, Ga., were to deliver UH-1 helicopters to Georgetown while three long-range Navy helicopters were to fly from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to Guyana.

The tragic episode left questions gnawing even at cult members.

"We all here and in the States are shocked," Stephan Jones told reporters.

"I can't believe that this was a voluntary suicide," he said. "There had to be the use of force although some of it was blind loyalty."

He said he fled before the end of the macabre scene and did not see Jones die.

Stephan Jones, whose mother also died in the suicide ritual, said his father was a sick man, "a very frightened man ... the most egotistical man I ever knew." The son said he would have gone before the congregation to denounce his father to prevent the communal deaths.

Another question was the source and purpose of a huge treasury amassed by Jim Jones at the camp. Washington Post reporter Charles Krause, who visited the camp as a representative of the foreign press, said authorities found $500,000 in cash and a safe containing jewelry. Unconfirmed reports said $500,000 in gold and hundreds of Social Security checks were found.

Commissioner Barker said the reports involving $500,000 worth of gold were not true, but declined to give details about the quantity of money and weapons found, saying the matter eventually would be presented in court.

Stephan Jones said he had been told by reliable sources that his father had $3 million stashed away at the camp.

Jones' sect demanded complete devotion, and as part of this members reportedly had to hand over their worldly goods to their leader. Many members were elderly, a fact that might explain a cache of Social Security checks.

The U.S. House International Relations Committee will conduct an investigation into how U.S. officials handled complaints about the Jonestown colony.

A State Department official in Washington said yesterday that U.S. consular officers here had systematically checked out reports of "physical, mental and sexual abuse" at the camp but came up with no evidence to support them.

The Vatican daily newspaper L'Osservatore Romano on Monday called the Jonestown deaths "a manifestation of a pseudo-mysticism which betrays the cause of man because it betrays the cause of Christ."

"Christianity is a religion of life, not death." It said that pretending to be "new prophets" of Christianity is like "putting oneself outside history and setting out on a mad venture."

Former sect members say the Peoples Temple, which Jones founded with the avowed purpose of abolishing class distinctions, was more a social than a religious organization.

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Mystery Is Intensifying in Guyana Over Those Who Fled Suicide Rite

By JON NORDHEIMER

Special to The New York Times

TIMEHRI AIRPORT, Guyana, Nov. 22 — The mystery of how many California cultists survived the mass suicide at their jungle camp increased today as a newly arrived United States military mission said its primary purpose was to recover the bodies of the dead.

"As far as I know," the deputy commander said, "we have no positive evidence that there even are any people out there in the jungle."

The officer, Lieut. Col. Al Heeter of the Air Force, said his first responsibility was to evacuate the bodies of the 409 American citizens who perished on Saturday night at the Jonestown commune of their cult, the People's Temple.

Envoy Expected U.S. Copter Search

"Any other assistance requested by the Guyana Government will take place after that job is completed," he said, alluding to a statement made yesterday by John R. Burke, the United States Ambassador in Georgetown, 30 miles from here, that American helicopters would be used to search the jungles for about 500 men, women and children who have not been accounted for.

In Washington, spokesmen for the State Department and the Defense Departments acknowledged that the mission of the military contingent was primarily to evacuate the dead and also the sick and wounded. But they stressed that the United States would do everything it could to help search for the missing.

Colonel Heeter's statements added to the questions about how many people had been at the Jonestown commune.

Cult leaders and visiting journalists previously said the commune had a population of 1,000 to 1,200, ranging in age from infants to a 108-year-old man, Pops Jackson, whose body has been identified among those who died last weekend.

After the mass suicide, searchers found more than 800 passports and it was assumed that 500 or more commune members had fled into the jungle rather than join the others in death. But only about 60 have emerged from the jungle — 30 of them today — and, with the 50 held in the commune's house in Georgetown, the Guyanese capital, many would apparently still be missing.

John A. Bushell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, suggested in Washington today that faulty Guyanese immigration records perhaps accounted for the discrepancy.

In a Georgetown magistrate's court, meanwhile, a 32-year-old cultist, Larry Layton, was charged with the murder of

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Representative Leo J. Ryan and four other Americans on Saturday as they were about to leave from Port Kaituma, an airstrip eight miles south of Jonestown.

Mr. Ryan, a California Democrat, had visited the commune to investigate charges that cult members had been abused by their leader, the Rev. Jim Jones. The killings at the airstrip were followed by the mass suicides.

Mr. Layton was one of three Americans under arrest. The others — Michael Prokes and Tim Carter — did not appear in court. There was no explanation.

The next hearing in the case was set for Jan. 15, at which time the specific charge, whether first-degree murder or a lesser degree of homicide, is to be announced. Those convicted of first-degree murder in Guyana face hanging.

Colonel Heeter, who arrived today, offered no theories of his own on what had become of any cultists that might still not be accounted for. His orders, he said, are to remove the dead and possibly to lend a hand later.

Conceivably hundreds could hide out in the jungle, but it is considered unlikely here that they could survive there long. Doubts have also been expressed that any survivors could make their way through the bush to Venezuela or to the sea.

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Officials Think Most Accounted For

Missing Cultists in Doubt

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Nov. 23—U.S. officials supervising the airlift of the bodies of the 400 Americans who died in Jonestown have raised doubts here about whether there really were 300 to 400 more Jonestown residents who disappeared into the surrounding rain forest.

Under pressure from reporters, who asked why U.S. military aircraft and personnel were not being used to help the Guyana Defense Force search the dense forest for missing Americans, a apokesman said the U.S. military personnel here doubted there were many missing people to find.

"The evaluation that we have made," U.S. Army Maj. Richard T. Helmling told reporters, "is simply that there were not many more people in Jonestown at the time of the suicide.

"We cannot find hard evidence that people did go off into the jungle, more than what have already returned. This is not to say that there aren't more out there somewhere, but if there are, they are a long way from Jonestown."

A new ingredient was added to the mystery today when Guyanese authorities announced they had located two of Jonestown's three ocean-going boats.

One of them, a fishing boat called the Cudjoe, was found by a Guyana Defense Force patrol boat about 20 miles up river from Port Kaituma, where it was usually docked. At least two Peoples Temple members were found on board and turned over to police here for questioning.

The largest of the Jonestown boats, the Albatross, reportedly was found at port in Trinidad, where it regularly delivered produce and picked up supplies. It is believed that the Albatross left Guyana for Trinidad well before Saturday's violence.

A third boat, the fastest, called ti Marcellene after cult leader Jim Jone wife, is still missing. It is thus possib that a small number of missing Jonestow residents—possibly including armed s curity guards believed to be among tr missing—escaped on the small boat t neighboring Venezuela or a Caribbe island.

In the Jonestown agricultural communi itself, 409 bodies have been found, ti victims of the mass suicide-murder led b the Rev. Jones. Three, including Jone died of gunshot wounds, the rest of poiso

By tonight, 270 bodies have been brouch by helicopter out of Jonestown to Timehr international airport here. More than 20 of them had already been taken by mili tary cargo plane to the U.S. Air Force base at Dover, Del.

In addition to 409 known dead, whic includes about eight Guyanese childre

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living in Jonestown, 32 other Jonestown residents who escaped on Saturday are here in Georgetown. Some of them slipped out of the commune early Saturday and others fled into the surrounding forest late that afternoon when Jonestown security guards began rounding people up for the ritual suicide that they had rehearsed many times.

Others of the 32 survivors had left Jonestown with the fact-finding mission of Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) on Saturday afternoon and survived the ambush by gunmen who killed Ryan, three newsmen and one of the Jonestown defectors on a nearby airstrip.

There are also 46 more Peoples Temple Church members under house arrest inside the cult's headquarters house here in Georgetown.

One cult member, Sharon Amos, and her three children were found in the Georgetown house with their throats slashed after the Jonestown mass suicide, Saturday night.

That makes a total of just under 500 Peoples Temple Church members in Guyana who have been accounted for. The mystery that Guyanese and U.S. officials are now trying to solve is how many more there were and where they are now.

Correspondents and lawyers who went into Jonestown with Ryan and toured its housing and attended a mass meeting of its residents said they saw about 800 people there, although they did not count them.

Guyana and U.S. military personnel found 803 passports in a trunk in Jonestown. Residents had been told they did not need to carry passports there and should turn them over to Jonestown leaders. This apparently was one of many measures taken to keep residents from leaving Jonestown.

Those passports were turned over today to U.S. Embassy officials here, who will compare them to the lists of known Jonestown dead and survivors.

Questions have been raised about whether there was a live person in Jonestown for each passport, especially since so many older people had been brought there by Jones and their Social Security checks confiscated. But military spokesman said they had no information on whether any graves have yet been found in Jonestown.

Whether there are hundreds of survivors of Jonestown somewhere in the rain forest "remains the big mystery," said James Ward from the State Department's Office of Emergency Services.

All 32 survivors came out of the forest within a day or two of the mass suicide. No more have appeared during the last two days, according to U.S. and Guyanese officials.

Embassy officials said they were acting to see that the survivors are housed and fed and receive assistance in returning to the United States. A few of the survivors are in hotels. Nearly 20 are staying, at their request, under police protection in a single floor of one downtown hotel.

They are still afraid they will be killed by cult gunmen.

One theory about the people who may be mising from Jonestown is that they were led into the forest to be killed by Jonestown guards or were shot while fleeing through the forest. Lawyer Mark Lane, who went to Jonestown with Ryan and escaped into the forest when the mass suicide roundup began, told reporters later that he heard screaming and shooting in the forest.

Another theory, one offered by some Guyanese authorities, is that a number of Jonestown residents who lived in buildings on its periphery scattered into the forest when Jones summoned them for the mass suicide.

In the rain forest they may not have survived exposure, dampness, poisonous snakes or numerous jaguars.

One Guyana Defense Force soldier asked by a reporter touring Jonestown if he and the other soldiers were making a wide search of the forest answered that the reporter must be joking.

"If you went 15 feet in there," the soldier said, "you would be so lost we might never find you."

What the Guyanese troops apparently have done is travel down the paths through the forest to the few mines and camps of people who live in the forest, looking for signs of peo-

ple traveling recently along the paths and asking if the Indians have seen anyone.

Maj. Helmling told reporters, "If people go off in the jungle they leave trails, they leave evidence. These have not been found. There are some existing trails in the area and these trails to the best of my knowledge and belief have been covered, and people have not been found."

Meanwhile, the military spokesman here made clear that/their first priority is to use the aircraft and personnel brought here to move the decomposing bodies out of Jonestown as quickly as possible.

"I don't think the priorities are necessarily backward," James Ward said. "The fact remains that 400 deceased people in this situation demands a certain immediate action. This does not mean that there is no concern for survivors. The fact remains we have to try in addition to searching for survivors to try identify which people are potential survivors."

U.S. Air Force Capt. John J. Moscatelli said today that after all the bodies have been transported to the United States the aircraft and 200 U.S. military personnel here might be used for a wider search of the rain forest.

The airlift of bodies, begun late yesterday, continued with dispatch today.

After technicians spent the night under field lights putting the dead into plastic body bags in Jonestown, huge HH-130 "Super Jolly Green Giant" U.S. military helicopters ferried them from Jonestown to Georgetown.

At the rate the airlift was moving, barring bad weather, the task could be finished Friday.

The more than 200 bodies that still have not been identified are among the first being transported back to the United States.

"We have to get them out first," said Moscatelli, "to arrest decomposition as soon as possible [by refrigeration in the U.S.] and make identification."

About 175 of the bodies were tentatively identified as they lay on the ground in Jonestown by a team of Guyanese and U.S. Embassy officials assisted by about a dozen of the survivors, including, as it turned out, two of Jones' lieutenants who were then arrested by the Guyanese police.

The two men, Mike Prokes, 32, from Modesto, Calif., and Tim Carter, 28, of Boise, Idaho, have been held by police under suspicion of having some connection with violence in Jonestown because of the guns and large sums of money they were reportedly carrying when arrested.

A third surviving Jones lieutenant, Larry Layton, 32, from San Francisco, has been formally charged in court here with five counts of murder, three counts of attempted murder and one count of discharging a loaded firearm in connection with the ambush of Ryan's party at the airstrip near Jonestown last Saturday.

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Guyanese Comb Jungle Fruitlessly For Survivors of Sect's Suicide Rite

Doubt Growing That Hundreds Fled From Commune — American Helicopters Carry Out 177 Bodies

By JON NORDHEIMER

Special to The New York Times

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Nov. 23 — Guyanese Government patrols spent the day in a vain search for California cultists who might have survived the mass suicide and killings at their jungle commune by fleeing into the bush. The lack of success of their search increased their doubts that hundreds had survived.

As the patrols pressed the hunt, United States military helicopters shuttled between the commune, 140 miles northwest of here, and the Georgetown airport, carrying out the bodies of 177 of the 409 members of the People's Temple who died Saturday night. The dead were flown to Dover, Del., for identification and completion of post-mortems.

A high-ranking Guyanese official, speaking of the continuing jungle search, said: "The fact of the matter is that we do not possess a scrap of hard evidence that a lot of people fled into the jungle. Hard rains washed away any tracks that might have existed, but we simply do not know."

Only 600 Names on a List

Sherwin Harris, whose daughter and former wife died in the mass suicide and killings, recalled that no more than 600 names had appeared on a petition signed last week by members of the cult, protesting a visit by Representative Leo Ryan of California.

Mr. Ryan, who visited the commune to investigate charges that members were suffering abuse, was killed by cultists Saturday night as he was about to leave for the United States from a nearby dirt airstrip. Four other Americans were also killed, and the mass suicides and killings followed.

The Guyanese Government official, in expressing doubt that many cultists had fled into the jungle, said that if any remained there and were in good health, they could seek the help of the Amerindians. They are a nomadic group of about 50 families of aborigines who live in thatched-roof dwellings spread out over miles of jungle paths known to the cult.

No Talk of Mass Flight

These trails, leading from Jonestown, the cult's farm, have been searched by Government patrols because they might be the only routes over which a great number of people could have moved through the thick jungle without getting lost.

Several dozen stragglers have indeed re-emerged from the jungle, but none has talked of a mass flight from the village last Saturday night when the cult's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, reportedly gave an order that everyone drink a poisonous brew prepared by the cult's medical officer.

That — and the absence of clues along the jungle trails — have led to the trou-

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bling suspicion that there are many survivors, that the size of the community has been inflated and that, except for the survivors already rounded up and perhaps a few more roaming around in the bush, the People's Temple has been wiped out.

On the other hand, there is evidence that the density of the jungle has been overstated by reports from the isolated area, and that it was possible for a large group to cover a long distance quickly.

The jungle around Jonestown, while certainly inhospitable to human life in many ways, is not inpenetrable like the jungles of Burma, for instance, where one has to cut a path in order to move.

A Double Canopy of Trees

"Actually, you can travel through it fairly easily," said Adrian D. Thompson, a Guyanese horticulturist, who knows the area well. There are heavily wooded sections of trees that create a double canopy that permits little sunlight to filter down to the jungle floor, he explained, thereby inhibiting the growth of other vegetation.

"The density is overhead but not a barrier for movement on the forest floor," Mr. Thompson said, adding, "You have one problem: There isn't much you'll find to eat unless you really know your forest."

The Jonestown area bears little resemblance to Hollywood fantasies of a tropical jungle. He offered these examples:

¶The piranha, except for the smallest species that "can be troublesome," do not harm people.

¶There are some isolated cases of malaria, but has been no yellow fever for years.

¶A bushmaster snake can kill a person if it is big enough, but in most cases death is caused by an improperly applied tourniquet.

¶There are few animals of any size, and the jaguar, fearsome in jungle lore, runs away from people. In 30 years of experience in similar settings, Mr. Thompson has only seen two jaguars.

¶The local Indians, rather than being hostile, might actually feed and shelter their neighbors.

Amerindians Speak Good English

The Government official pointed out: "The Amerindians have done work for the people of Jonestown, such as helping harvesting crops, and they speak good English. If there are any survivors actually out there, I don't see them dying of starvation or exposure."

Chuck Farmer, a bush pilot who has spent more than 10 years prospecting for gold and diamonds in the area of the search, said that individuals could survive more than two weeks without supplies. "You can drink the water and you could eat roots," he said. "A lot of pork knockers — that's we call gold and diamond seekers — get lost and no one I've ever heard of has died."

However, he doubted that the cultists had actually entered the jungle and not come out by now. "When people run into the jungle, they don't go far because they want to make sure they can find their way out. It's been almost a week now. Where are they?"

Jones's Body Believed Brought Out

Meanwhile, a body identified as that of Jim Jones was among those airlifted to Dover Air Force Base. The 200-man United States assistance team sent here to recover the dead Americans worked through the night and day to ferry the bodies by helicopter to the airport outside Georgetown, where they were placed in aluminum coffins for the jet flight to the United States.

Before the American soldiers and airmen arrived two days ago, the Guyanese police had identified 184 of the victims.

Lieut. Col. Alfred Keyes, who is in charge of the Army Graves Registration unit, said he had decided against any further identification effort in Guyana because of the advanced state of decomposition of the bodies. His men — and half a dozen women — have been working with little rest, racing against the corrosive effects of the tropical heat. "The bodies have been out there too long," he said. "We can't afford to stop and rest."

He said that he hoped to have all the bodies on their way to the United States by Saturday or Sunday. At that time, a decision will presumably be made whether the unit with join the search for those believed missing.

If no great number of survivors emerged from the jungle, it could take weeks to identify all the bodies flown to Delaware. Then, by a process of elimination, the known members of the cult can be accounted for, or not, and only then can the mystery of the jungle possibly be explained.

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DEAD FLOWN TO U.S.

400 Cultists Still Missing In Guyana

Wires Press Dispatches

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — As the bodies of 408 suicide victims began arriving in the United States Thursday, a mystery remained unsolved in Guyana — what happened to the hundreds of Peoples Temple cult members who reportedly fled into the jungle rather than kill themselves?

Twenty-nine Jonestown cultists — terrified by the jungle nightmare they fled and by reprisals they think await them — went into hiding Thursday behind a U.S. protective shield. The Guyanese government prohibited all Jonestown survivors from leaving the country until it completes its investigation of the mass murder-suicide.

As patrols pressed the hunt for other survivors, United States military helicopters shuttled between the commune, 140 miles northwest of here, and the Georgetown airport, removing the bodies of the People's Temple members who died Saturday night. The dead were flown to Dover, Del., for identification and completion of post-mortems.

On orders from their leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, 405 persons drank a deadly cyanide potion at the cult's jungle camp last Saturday night. Three others died of gunshots. Hundreds of others reportedly refused the deadly mixture and fled into the jungle.

American lawyer Mark Lane, who escaped the ritual suicide, said more than 400 members of the commune fled. Guyanese police Thursday turned over to U.S. officials a total of 803 passports found at Jonestown, which would indicate up to 350 sect members were unaccounted for. U.S. Army personnel in Guyana expressed skepticism so many persons were missing.

A high-ranking Guyanese official, speaking of the continuing jungle search, said: "The fact of the matter is that we do not possess a scrap of hard evidence that a lot of people fled into the jungle. Hard rains washed away any tracks that might have existed, but we simply do not know."

The U.S. Embassy said 31 residents of the Jonestown commune have emerged from the rain forest in northwest Guyana since the mass suicide. Two of them are being held by the Guyanese as suspects in the bloody airfield ambush that same day of a group led by Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California, whose investigative visit to the camp triggered the weekend of violence.

The Guyanese earlier had arrested a third suspect in the ambush, which killed Ryan, three American newsmen and a disaffected cult member. Ryan's group was trying to escort would-be defectors from the camp.

The other 29 Jonestown residents who have come out of the jungle are "scared out of their wits," said U.S. consular official Doug Ellice.

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"They just fled from something so horrible it's beyond belief — I mean hundreds of people just dropping dead."

Among the aluminum caskets arriving in Delaware Thursday was one numbered 13-B and marked simply "Rev. Jimmie Jones." The coffin was unloaded along with 80 others from the giant C-141 cargo plane at Dover Air Force Base. FBI agents arrived at the base shortly afterwards to fingerprint the body to make sure it is Jones'.

Former cult members in San Francisco said they feared Jones directed the mass suicide and then fled with a "revenge squad" of armed zealots bent on killing the people who had brought on his downfall.

But FBI agents said a check of fingerprints led them to conclude that it was Jones' body in the casket.

Reports from the West Coast had cast doubts on the Guyanese identification of Jones, citing claims by former members of the Peoples Temple that Jones liked to have look-alikes around him and that some of the stand-ins occasionally substituted for Jones in various rituals.

Embassy spokesman James Ward said those who disobeyed Jones and fled the suicide scene at Jonestown fear there now may be reprisals against them by fanatical sect members. But cultists at the sect's San Francisco temple denied any retaliation was planned against defectors.

Ellice said the 29, being kept under U.S. protection at an undisclosed location here, "are free to move around but don't want to move around." He said they requested the protection.

He also said they would like to leave this South American land but the government has ordered all Peoples Temple members to remain in Guyana until the inquiry is complete. This apparently included 45 who were in this capital city, 140 miles southeast of the camp, at the time of the ambush and suicide.

Ellice said he did not know how long the investigation might last.

The Guyanese government, stung by foreign press criticism, once again sent helicopters equipped with loudspeakers over the rain forests Thursday to tell any survivors within earshot that they were safe.

Asked if the army's graves registration teams in the Jonestown commune had seen any fresh graves that might explain the disappearance of the missing people, a U.S. Army officer replied, "We haven't found any cemeteries or graves. God knows what they did with their dead."

Still another mystery was developing over the fact most of the suicide victims were young persons and children — although an 108-year-old man was among the victims. There were boxes of Social Security checks but no old people to go with them. James Ward of the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs said there was "no indication or trace" that some of them may have died — or been killed — before the suicides began.

An embassy official who asked not to be identified said neighboring Venezuela had been requested to join in the search for other survivors in the thick and inhospitable jungle. The Venezuelan border is about 20 miles from Jonestown, and Guyanese police think some may have fled there.

Ellice expressed fear for the cultists' ability to survive in the swampy jungle. "These are not skilled woodsmen," he said. "They came from cities in the U.S. to an established camp in Jonestown."

The FBI said in Washington Thursday it was questioning present and former members of the cult, including some who witnessed the mass suicide. A spokesman said nine agents hoped to fly to Guyana to help the lone FBI agent there with an investigation.

Three of the survivors were still in police custody. They were Larry Layton, 32, of San Francisco, Tim Carter, 28, of Boise, Idaho, and Michael Prokes, 32, of Modesto, Calif.

Layton has been charged with five counts of murder and three of attempted murder in the airstrip massacre Saturday that killed Ryan, three American journalists and a would-be sect defector and left nine other Americans wounded in violence that apparently triggered the suicides.

In Delaware, the first Air Force C-141 cargo jet arrived in a chilly and overcast dawn with 60 bodies, only one of which had been identified, according to officials. That identification was not released.

The second plane, bearing 81 more bodies, arrived here shortly before 8 p.m. Thursday.

Officials said four more such military airlifts would be necessary to remove all the bodies from Georgetown, Guyana. The third plane was due to arrive here late Thursday night and the fourth early Friday morning.

Volunteer airmen lifted the first bodies in aluminum transfer cases off the plane to vans carrying them one by one to a morgue staffed and equipped to handle mass casualties.

"It was a sour smell," said Sgt. Timothy Starr, detail leader, "like roast beef left out of the refrigerator for a couple of days."

The State Department said families will have to pay costs of transporting the bodies for burial in hometowns, most of them presumably in California.

For families who cannot afford the cost, "obviously they would be buried in the Dover area at government expense," said spokeswoman Mary Anne Bader.

She said bodies unidentified or unclaimed also will be buried at public expense.

A military official who asked not to be identified estimated the cost of taxpayers of the airlift alone could run as high as $8 million.

Shuler was asked why the military planes were bringing the bodies to Dover when most families presumably are in California.

"This is the only place in the country we have to handle mass casualties of this size," he said.

The Dover mortuary, which Shuler said is believed to be the largest in the United States, was used for Vietnam War dead.

It was also used for identifying the more than 300 victims of the collision between two jumbo jets in the Canary Islands March 27, 1977.

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Cult Head Leads 408 to Deaths in Suicide-Murders

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By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—With exhortations on the "beauty of dying," the Rev. Jim Jones led 408 of his followers in the Peoples Temple Church to a mass suicide-murder and was himself shot to death, according to reports yesterday from the scene of the massacre.

Guyanese authorities said most of the victims appear to have been killed with poison drawn from a vat set in a clearing in Jonestown, the agricultural settlement where Jones' cult was based. Only three of the bodies had gunshot wounds.

By late yesterday only a dozen of the several hundred residents of Jonestown who apparently fled into the surrounding forest had returned to the compound. Authorities said the returnees were helping to identify the dead.

A survivor of the mass murder-suicide told an investigating group that visited Jonestown yesterday that the poison consisted of cyanide mixed with Kool-aid in a vat. It was administered by Jonestown's staff doctor and nurses to men, women, children and babies. Those who tried to refuse the poison or escape were forced by armed guards to take it.

It was not known if Jones was shot by someone else or killed himself.

Authorities said Jones' wife and a son were also among the dead.

The authorities who searched Jonestown yesterday found, in addition to the bodies, more than a half million dollars in cash scattered about the compound, a sizable quantity" of gold bullion, wallets filled with U.S. Treasury checks, and more than 800 passports. There had been allegations in the U.S. press that Jones' followers had confiscated Social Security checks from Jonestown's older residents.

The macabre mass suicide and murder was directed by Jones Saturday evening after a handful of his most fanatic followers had attacked a congressional fact-finding group that had just left Jonestown.

Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.), three American newsmen and a Peoples Temple defector were shot and killed, and twelve others were wounded, when gunmen ambushed Ryan and

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About 30 newsmen, government aides, relatives of Peoples Temple members, and defectors from the sect at 4:20 p.m. Saturday. The group was waiting to board two charter planes on the Port Kaituma airstrip near Jonestown, and about 150 miles north of here.

Two other members of the fact finding group, civil liberties lawyers Mark Lane and Charles Garry, had stayed behind in Jonestown. They escaped into the surrounding tropical forest when Jones ordered that everyone in the compound must die and made their way to Georgetown where they gave a detailed account of the massacre at a press conference and in interviews yesterday.

Lane, 51, and Garry, 69, hid in the forest in a heavy rain Saturday night before finding their way to Port Kaituma on Sunday. They said here yesterday that Jones was unhappy that the two-day meeting with Ryan had ended with a number of Jones' followers asking to leave with Ryan and another attacking Ryan with a fishing knife. Lane said yesterday that Jones told them some of his men had gone to attack the congressman and his party at the airstrip as they were leaving.

Then Jones, who had threatened in the past to lead his followers in mass suicide because of attacks on him in the U.S. press and courts, gathered Jonestown's residents in a large open-air meeting place and used a loudspeaker to convince them of the "beauty of dying."

Lane and Garry, who had been sent under guard to another part of the compound where they saw men arming themselves with automatic rifles, escaped into the dense underbrush. While hiding, they heard more amplified exhortations from Jones, then silence, and then the sound of sustained gunfire.

They heard screaming people running through the underbrush around them and more scattered sounds of gunfire in the forest.

Officials of this nation and the small U.S. Embassy located here have been overwhelmed by the enormity of the mass killings of Americans by Americans at Jonestown and at the Port Kaituma airstrip.

The government of Guyana is supervising the efforts to determine just what happened at Jonestown and at the airstrip. They were also searching with a 100-man military force for the possibly hundreds of Jonestown residents still scattered in the surrounding jungle.

Guyanese officials on the scene in Jonestown said they also found 30 to 40 weapons and "hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition." Among the weapons were automatic rifles, revolvers and other types of guns.

Only one arrest has been made thus far, that of Peoples Temple member at Rep. Ryan's party on the Port Kaituma airstrip.

The Guyanese defense force also is set up a heavily armed guard of at least 20 troops around the Georgetown headquarters of the Peoples Temple on the edge of the city, holding the 30 remaining residents of the large home under virtual house arrest.

Four residents there, Sharon Amos and her three children, were found dead, with their throats cut, inside the house Saturday night at about the same time the violence was occurring in Jonestown and Port Kaituma. Guyanese authorities said the Amos deaths were being investigated as murder or murder-suicide.

The U.S. Embassy prepared yesterday to send home the bodies of the airstrip shooting victims — Rep. Ryan, NBC news correspondent Don Harris, San Francisco Examiner photographer Greg Robinson, NBC cameraman Robert Brown, and defecting Peoples Temple member Patricia Parks. Autopsies were performed by the Guyanese authorities.

The U.S. Embassy, augmented by State Department employes and military technicians, plus a dozen helicopters, being flown into this capital city, now faces the task of identifying the hundreds of victims in Jonestown and notifying their next of kin. Relatives of Peoples Temple members already have flooded the embassy here with telephone and telegraph inquiries.

Officials of both governments also have been besieged by a burgeoning international press contingent of about 100 reporters, photographers and television technicians, who have virtually taken over this city's two largest hotels.

Guyana's minister of information, Shirley Field-Ridley, said yesterday morning at a press conference, "I really can't find words to describe our reaction to this terrible thing that has happened in Guyana."

She said the Guyanese authorities first heard about the mass suicides in Jonestown Saturday night when a man who had escaped from the compound and walked 20 miles to the outpost of Matthews Ridge told police there that he had seen hundreds of people being administered poison in Jonestown.

The first Guyanese investigators reached Jonestown later Saturday night, and found everyone inside the compound dead. The Guyanese government did not make any announcement of that fact until early Monday morning a few hours before Field-Ridley's press conference.

Although Guyanese authorities also were aware of the shootings at the Port Kaituma airstrip eight miles from Jonestown on Saturday night the Guyanese military did not move in to secure the area and remove the wounded and survivors until Sunday morning. The State Department said in Washington the delay was due to the lack of lights at the Port Kaituma airstrip.

soon as the two [illegible] Georgetown carrying Ryan's party landed on the grass airstrip Friday.

L[illegible] recalled that Jones, who had asked Lane to come to protect him from harassment from Ryan and his group, at first was not going to let anyone into Jonestown.

Lane said Jones had "become "paranoid" about stories in the U.S. press that people had been impressed into the cult and were being held against their will under terrible conditions in Jonestown. He said Jones had threatened to have all the Jonestown residents commit suicide about a year ago, but that Jones was talked out of it by long distance pleas from Black Panther Huey Newton, Angela Davis and others.

Once Ryan's party had arrived in Georgetown last week, Lane, communicating with Jones by radio from the Georgetown headquarters of the Peoples Temple, thought he had talked Jones out of his objections to Ryan's visit.

But when the planes landed on the Port Kaituma airstrip Friday, Lane said, they were met by a "group of angry men and women" and a man with a gun.

"This had a chilling affect on the people in the plane," Lane said. More negotiations took place before everyone on the planes was allowed into Jonestown.

On Friday and Saturday morning, things went better at Jonestown, Lane said. Ryan and the others discovered the settlement's clean, modern buildings, good medical care, advanced farming methods and racial harmony.

Ryan drew sustained applause when he told a gathering of Jonestown residents Friday night that the trip had changed his mind about the community. Ryan later told Jones, Lane and Garry that his only concern was free exit for people who no longer wanted to stay in the commune.

Jones eventually became agitated, Lane said, by a number of snowballing incidents on Saturday. A reporter wandering the compound found that he was not allowed into one building where Lane later saw residents living as close together as "slaves on a slave ship." Jones became angry, Lane said, when he insisted Jones allow reporters to tour the building.

Later, NBC correspondent Harris "made a peripheral tour and people approached him about leaving Jonestown," Lane said. As Harris and then Ryan gathered their names, Lane and Garry said, Jones grew more distressed.

When a family of six announced early Saturday afternoon that they were going to leave with Ryan, Garry said Jones told him: "They never stop. This is the finish. It's finished."

Garry and Lane said yesterday they both tried to persuade Jones that even with the defections, he was "going to get a favorable report" from Ryan.

"But Jones was so paranoid," Lane said. "He saw it as a betrayal if anyone wanted to leave."

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Then, shortly after most of Ryan's party and those residents Jones allowed to leave had started down the dirt track from Jonestown to the airstrip in a falling rain, came the knife incident.

Lane gave the following account:

One of Jones' top lieutenants, Don Sly, suddenly grabbed Ryan around the neck with his left arm, placed a knife against Ryan's neck with his right hand, and shouted: "Congressman Ryan, you mother!—."

While Ryan struggled to push the man's hands away from his neck, Lane grabbed Sly's arms from the front and Garry, 69, grabbed Sly from behind.

Finally, "all kinds of people from the temple moved in," Garry said, and pulled Sly away from Ryan as the congressman fell to the floor. Sly's hand was cut in the struggle and blood from that cut was all over the congressman's clothes. Some Jonestown residents gave Ryan a clean set of clothes to change into later on the plane.

Jones calmly watched this incident from some distance, making no move. Lane and Ryan told Jones that police and a doctor must be called at once. Jones said they would be, but no one came.

Jones, visibly shaken, then sat down to talk to Ryan.

"Does this change things?" Jones asked Ryan, who told Jones that he still saw many positive things in Jonestown but that the knife incident did change his impression.

Ryan then asked Lane, "Are you mad at me?"

"No," Lane said. "I'm so grateful that you came here."

"I'll always be grateful that you saved my life," Ryan told Lane.

Lane said he responded by joking with the congressman: "Now no one can call this trip a junket."

After Ryan left to join the others at the airstrip, Jones took Lane aside and kept repeating, "This is terrible, this is terrible, this is terrible." Lane said he tried to calm Jones down.

Jones then told Lane, "There are things you don't know. Those men who left a little while ago to go into the city are not going there. They love me and they may do something that will reflect badly on me. They're going to shoot at the people and their plane. The way Larry [Layton] hugged me, a cold hug, told me."

Then a woman came over and whispered something to Jones, and Jones told Lane to take Garry and go to the East House on the far side of the compound.

Lane objected because he feared Jones was gathering residents of Jonestown for a mass suicide attempt, but Jones assigned a very tall, tough lieutenant to escort the lawyers away.

Lane and Garry saw eight or ten young men remove automatic rifles from storage near where they were taken. They also heard Jones speaking over a loudspeaker to the Jonestown residents about the "beauty of dying . . . it's an important part of what we've done . . . let's not fight among ourselves."

The guard watching Lane and Garry was then replaced by two young men with automatic weapons. Garry said yesterday that he recognized one of them as a man he had frequently helped when he was in trouble back in San Francisco.

"They kept saying," Lane said, "We're all going to die . . . There is great dignity in dying . . . It is a great way to end our struggle."

When he tried to argue them out of this, they merely smiled calmly and repeated, "We're all going to die."

Lane worried that he and Garry would be shot but Garry said he knew these particular men would never do that even if they had been sent there to do so.

Lane asked the two young men: "At least Charles and I will be here to tell the story of what happened, won't we?"

Lane said the men agreed to that, hugged him and Garry and turned to leave, either to join the death ritual or escape.

"Wait," Lane called out, "first how do we get out of here."

The men told them where to run over a hill and into the forest where Lane and Garry were to spend the next 12 hours in darkness, soaked and chilled by rain, cut by the rough underbrush and bitten by insects.

Lane said they could still hear Jones shouting over the loudspeaker and eventually repeating just one word over and over: "Mother, mother, mother. . ." Jones' mother died about a year ago and she was buried in Jonestown.

Finally there was a period of silence and then a large number of shots rang out. The lawyers moved deeper into the underbrush and heard screams and shots around them but saw no one except three Jonestown men rushing down a road out of the compound carrying a large trunk.

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ate of 700 Cultists Poses Mystery

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POLICE SPECULATE THE MISSING DIED BEFORE MASS SUICIDES

By Donald Neff
Time-Life News Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — The st inspection of the Peoples Tem- e commune that uncovered 409 dies hooped around an open altar sed a host of suspicions that the air may be even more bizarre an it now appears.

A Guyanan source who returned st night from a six-hour inspection f the jungle site 150 miles northwest here said an examination of the rea — and other related develop- ents — revealed more odd and dis- rbing facts.

• Though 1,100 to 1,200 persons were believed living in the agricultural commune, a close search found fewer than half that number of bodies.

• Two days after the suicides, only a handful of straggliers had emerged from the heavy bush. There was no indication that any sizable number of cultists were roaming lost, though it obviously was still too early to be sure.

• All but three of the followers had died of poisoning. One of the three was identified by Guayanan officials as the cult's charismatic leader, Jim Jones, 48, former housing authority chairman of San Francisco. He was found shot in the head.

• Large sums of money were found on three arrested cult members and in the commune.

• Most of the bodies were of persons believed to be under 40, though the cult had an unknown — but not negligible — number of older members.

THIS SET OF FACTS, said the source, who asked not to be identified, has led police to speculate about a grisly possibility: Perhaps, goes the reasoning, the older and less productive and less sexually attractive cultists were killed and their bodies secretly disposed of in the jungle over the past four years since the founding of Jonestown, the name of the commune.

Or maybe there never were 1,100 to 1,200 people living in the commune; no accurate statistics were kept by the Guyanan government or the U.S. Embassy. It is possible that the Peoples Temple spokesman and various visitors had exaggerated the number attracted to the cult, though authorities are especially suspicious at the lack of older people's bodies at the site.

The commune was widely known to be quite wealthy, partly because members when they joined had to sign over personal possessions, bequeath any future riches to the commune and work without wages. In this way, even dead older members could continue to be assets since the commune could fraudulently continue to collect such benefits as pension and Social Security checks.

Re-enforcing this line of conspiratorial speculation was the finding of large sums of money on three commune men who were arrested over the weekend.

LARRY LAYTON, 32, was taken prisoner shortly after he shot another commune member in a small plane Saturday during the ambush of Rep. Leo Ryan and a group of newsmen. It was at first thought that Layton's shots signaled the start of the ambush.

The plane's pilot, Tom Fernandes, 34, said in an interview, however, that the ambush was well under way before Layton fired a pistol into the back of a woman cult member, perhaps as a prelude to skyjacking the plane. But the pilot shut down the engines.

When Layton was arrested, it was discovered he had around $60,000 in cash and a Peoples Temple bank draft on a Panama Bank for $1 million, said the source.

Two other unidentified cult members were arrested Sunday making their way to the nearby Venezuelan border. Both had "enormous sums of money" in their pockets, said the source, adding that he did not know the exact amount.

These revelations have led police to add speculation to speculation and come up with what under almost any other circumstance would be considered a wild possibility — a small band within the commune had plotted to kill Jim Jones and abscond with the cult's treasury.

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News 91
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

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[illegible] they have been in collusion with a few others to divy up the riches after nearly all the members were dead, and then at the last moment was betrayed.

Moreover, $1 million worth of gold, jewelry and cash was found at the commune in addition to 800 U.S. passports, 43 automatic weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

WHATEVER THE details, police are investigating the possibility that at the final moment — when masses of the cultists lay dying of poison — that a small band decided to destroy ones too.

"Face it," said the source, "how would you profess mass poisoning and not use it on yourself. It makes more sense if someone else shot him."

Jones was found lying at the entrance of the commune's large assembly hall with a bullet in the head. Near him were his wife, who was cuddling one of their children in her arms, both dead of poisoning.

Also nearby lay a pistol that Jones could have used to kill himself. But, said the source, the weapon may have been planted there.

Police entertained that suspicion, said the source, because there seemed to be a certain amount of stage-setting with the bodies.

"If you die of cyanide, which seems to have been the poison, your body goes into spasms and contorts in death," said the source. "But at Jonestown, everyone looked relaxed."

There would have been time for anyone to stage-manage the scene, however gruesome that sounds, since the first troops and police to enter the commune did not do so until Sunday night, more than 24 hours after the suicides began.

Jones' attorneys, Charles Garry of San Francisco and Mark Lane, were at the commune when the death ritual began around 5:30 Saturday night.

ONLY AN HOUR earlier they had saved Rep. Ryan, they said, from a knife attack by cultist Don Sly, 50.

The attack came at the end of Ryan's overnight visit to the commune, while the congressman was chatting with Jones and the two attorneys in a room, said Garry.

"Sly ran in with a knife and screamed, 'I'm going to kill you, you ...' He grabbed Ryan around the neck and put a knife in front of his body. Mark and I wrestled him off and Ryan was not injured."

Because there was not room enough in the two small planes taking Ryan and his party back to Georgetown, Garry and Lane decided to stay overnight at the commune. Shortly after the attack — and about the time that Ryan, three newsmen and a member of the cult who had defected [illegible] ned down at the airport six miles [illegible] ay — Jones called a general meet[illegible] he commune members in the as[illegible] ly hall. Garry said Jones appeared very distressed that 14 of his followers had decided to quit the commune and the accompany Ryan out of the area.

Garry and Lane were not allowed to attend the general meeting, which was unusual and a bit frightening for both men.

After they heard snatches of speeches calling for mass suicide, the two attorneys said in interviews in Georgetown, eight men emerged, went to a room, and ran back to the hall with rifles, some of them carrying two and three weapons.

ABOUT THIS TIME, said Garry, two black youths with rifles "at semi-ready" came up to the attorneys "smiling, very happy and said, 'We are going to die in protest against fascism and racism. Revolutionary suicide is to die with honor and dignity.' "

Added Garry: "The way they were carrying those guns we thought they were sent to kill us."

With some fast thinking, Lane told the men that "we will be left to write your glorious history."

That seemed to satisfy the two young men and they told the attorneys how to escape, said Garry.

Dusk was falling as Garry and Lane set out through the marshes and thickets of the jungle. As they reached a nearby hill, both men said, they heard Jones screaming, "mother, mother, mother."

Then shots began ringing out, they said. It was nearly 24 hours later when they finally escaped the jungle, tired but uninjured, and made their way into Port Kaituma, where for the first time they learned of the deaths of Ryan and the others. They finally got to Georgetown late Sunday night.

0-19 (Rev. 4-29-77)

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Missing Cultists Arouse Suspicions

AUTHORITIES SPECULATE THEY WERE KILLED BEFORE SUICIDES

By Donald Neff
Time-Life News Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — The first inspection of the Peoples Temple commune that uncovered 405 bodies heaped around an open altar raised a host of suspicions that the affair may be even more bizarre than it now appears.

A Guyanan source who returned last night from a six-hour inspection of the jungle site 150 miles northwest of here said examination of the area — and other related developments — revealed more odd and disturbing facts:

• Though 1,100 to 1,200 persons were believed living in the agricultural commune, a close search found fewer than half that number of bodies.

• Two days after the suicides, only a handful of stragglers had emerged from the heavy bush. There was no indication that any sizable number of cultists was roaming lost, though it obviously was still too early to be sure.

• Large sums of money were found on three arrested cult members and in the commune.

• Three of the followers did not die by poisoning. One of the three was identified by Guayanan officials as the cult's charismatic leader, Jim Jones, 48, former housing authority chairman of San Francisco. He was found shot in the head.

• Most of the bodies were of persons believed to be under 40, though the cult had an unknown — but not negligible — number of older members.

THIS SET OF FACTS, said the source, who asked not to be identified, has led police to speculate about a grisly possibility: Perhaps the older and less productive and less sexually attractive cultists were killed and their bodies secretly dis-

See GUYANA, A-4

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News A-1
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date 11-21-78

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GUYANA

Continued From A-1

posed of in the jungle over the past four years since the founding of Jonestown, the name of the commune.

Or maybe there never were 1,100 to 1,200 people living in the commune; no accurate statistics were kept by the Guyanan government or the U.S. Embassy. It is possible that the Peoples Temple spokesman and various visitors had exaggerated the number attracted to the cult, though authorities are especially suspicious at the lack of older people's bodies at the site.

The commune was widely known to be quite wealthy, partly because members when they joined had to sign over personal possessions, bequeath any future riches to the commune and work without wages. In this way, even dead older members could continue to be assets since the commune could fraudulently continue to collect such benefits as pension and Social Security checks.

Reinforcing this line of conspiratorial speculation was the finding of large sums of money on three commune men who were arrested over the weekend.

(A SOCIAL SECURITY Administration spokesman said in Washington today that the agency had received no evidence suggesting fraudulent use of federal payments to some 200 People's Temple beneficiaries.

Sources admitted, however, that it was difficult for the government, without notification from the family, to know whether somebody has died and their check should be stopped.

The SSA indicated that in January representatives of the U.S. Embassy spoke with cult members — only 13 were apparently receiving federal payments at that time — who had complained that they were not getting their checks. In addition, they were queried about whether the checks were being signed over to the People's Temple, which would be a violation of the law.

"They said they were not signing their checks over and that they were using their paychecks for their own personal needs," according to the spokesman.

He said the U.S. Embassy has now been "instructed to verify the identity and addresses of beneficiaries who are still there so we do not send checks to people who are dead."

As of June, an Social Security spokesman said, 115 of 150 persons then getting payments were over 60 years of age.

LARRY LAYTON, 32, was taken prisoner shortly after he shot another commune member in a small plane Saturday during the ambush of Rep. Leo Ryan and a group of newsmen. It was at first thought that Layton's shots signaled the start of the ambush.

The plane's pilot, Tom Fernandes, 34, said in an interview, however, that the ambush was well under way before Layton fired a pistol into the back of a woman cult member, perhaps as a prelude to skyjacking the plane. But the pilot shut down the engines.

When Layton was arrested, it was discovered he had around $60,000 in cash and a Peoples Temple bank draft on a Panama Bank for $1 million, said the source.

Two other unidentified cult members were arrested Sunday making their way to the nearby Venezuelan border. Both had "enormous sums of money" in their pockets, said the source, adding that he did not know the exact amount.

These revelations have led police to add speculation to speculation and come up with what under almost any other circumstance would be considered a wild possibility a small band within the commune had plotted to kill Jim Jones and abscond with the cult's treasury.

Or, he added, Jones may have been in collusion with a few others to divvy up the riches after nearly all the members were dead, and then at the last moment was betrayed.

Moreover, $1 million worth of gold, jewelry and cash was found at the commune in addition to 800 U.S. passports.

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MANY OF DEAD LO D IN A CONTORTION O AREWELL

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — The first unit of the Guyana Defense Force came on the jungle clearing. There, sprawled before them in nearly military rows, were the bodies of more than 400 men, women and children.

Near an altar was the body of Jim Jones, leader of a fanatic religious cult who felt that the world was closing in on his agricultural commune. Jones was on his back, dressed in a dashiki shirt and black slacks, a bullet hole in his head.

His final act of paranoia was to minister a communion of Kool-aid laced with cyanide.

Many of the communicants were locked in a contortion of farewell. One young couple was face down side by side with a small baby lying dead between them. Bodies were bloated.

There was a large vat from which the victims, apparently of their own free will, knowingly, took the mixture of cyanide and Kool-aid and drank it. Doctors said they probably died within five minutes.

AUTHORITIES counted the bodies of 163 women, 138 men and 82 children. More were found later. A handful of cult members who managed to escape found their way to civilization by last night.

Officials in Georgetown, 150 miles from the cult's camp, said Jones was killed with a single pistol shot to the head. Two other bodies had gunshot wounds. All the others apparently died of poison. Mothers apparently gave potions to their children, then ritually ended their own lives by sipping out of small plastic cups.

A large hand-painted sign dominated one pile of bodies. It said, "Those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat it."

Although officials are not certain when the mass suicide took place, the condition of the corpses, in heaps and rows at the primitive colony of Jonestown, suggested that they died the same day as Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and his party at a nearby airstrip.

Jonestown got its name from the 48-year-old self-styled bishop who preached a strange religion of socialism, suicide pacts and racial integration. The father of one cult member said Jones used sex much in the manner of mass killer Charles Manson to control followers. Jones and Manson did their recruiting in California.

THERE WAS NO authoritative information available in Guyana early today about the fate of the other members of the Peoples Temple cult. Some authorities believe that the estimated several hundred followers of Jones whose bodies were not found at Jonestown may have fled into tropical rain forest.

The Guyanese troops captured two men identified as Mike Trobes and Tim Carter, who are alleged to have done most of the shooting Saturday that brought death to Ryan, three newsmen and a young woman who wanted to escape the colony.

Mark Lane, the attorney, author and lecturer who frequently takes controversial positions, may have been one of the last outsiders to see what occurred at Jonestown after the congressman and four others were killed and eight persons were wounded in Saturday evening's shooting outbreak.

Lane told reporters that he was allowed to flee into the jungle before the mass suicide. He reported hearing gunshots while in hiding and Jones' voice, amplified by loudspeaker, shouting, "mother, mother, mother." He said he heard more gunshots, then there was silence.

LANE, WHO accompanied Ryan to the South American country, said Jones had become paranoid as reports increased in the press about cult members being mistreated. Lane said Ryan's trip aggravated that paranoia and led the cult leader to tell his followers that the solution to their problems was suicide and that there was beauty in death.

Director's Sec'y ____

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News A1
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

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FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Last minutes in Jonestown

By Jim Willse
Examiner City Editor

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — "Mother, mother, mother!"

Screaming those words, the Rev. Jim Jones set in motion the wave of death that brought down the walls of Peoples Temple, two lawyers for the church said today.

"He was letting the people know he was about to join his mother," said Charles Garry.

"It was then that the automatic rifle fire started."

Garry, in an interview, and Mark Lane, at a press conference, described the ominous sequence of events that led to the deaths Saturday of temple members.

Lane suggested that not all the deaths may have been mass suicide by the temple's zealous followers.

"Judging by the automatic weapons, I think it may well have been the kind of suicide that occurred at My Lai," he said sarcastically.

Garry and Lane, who accompanied the delegation led by Rep. Leo Ryan to the temple's agricultural mission 150 miles northwest of here, escaped through the jungle when the carnage began.

After spending the night in the rain-soaked brush, they made their way to Port Kaituma six miles away.

The two returned to Georgetown early today, where they gave statements to police investigating the deaths.

The lawyers, who had been ardent supporters of Jones and his

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F.Examiner

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-20-78
Edition: Final

Title: RYMURS

Character: SF 89-250
or
Classification: 89
Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

works, described the pressure-filled hours that preceded the deaths of Ryan and four other persons, including Examiner photographer Greg Robinson.

They said that despite a positive reaction by Ryan to the rural enclave, Jones and his key aides became increasingly disturbed by the presence of the congressman, journalists and "concerned relatives" of temple members.

"They had paranoia," Garry said. "Jim Jones and the others were victims of the highest form of paranoia."

The men said the seeds for the violent confrontation at the airstrip were planted by an apparently staged attack on Ryan by a close confidante of Jones, whom Lane identified as Don Sly.

As the delegation was preparing to leave Jonestown for the airstrip and the flight to Georgetown, they said, Sly grabbed Ryan from behind and brandished a knife. He was wrestled away from the lawmaker while Jones watched calmly.

Lane said Jones ignored suggestions to summon police. "I have the feeling he had made a decision," the lawyer said.

Jones was disturbed that some 4 members of his flock had expressed a desire to leave the mission with the Ryan group.

As the group prepared to leave, Lane said Jones made a remark that apparently presaged the fatal shooting that was to follow. He said Jones stated not all the defectors really wanted to leave, but rather intended to take action against temple enemies.

"We know there are people who are leaving because they love the temple and that they are going to shoot on the street or on the plane," Lane quoted Jones as saying.

Guyana police have arrested one man in connection with the killings. He is identified as former Ukiah resident Larry John Layton, who the lawyers said had expresed a desire to leave the temple with the others.

Garry said after the Ryan group had left the mission, Jones said his congregation was intensely unhappy with the visit.

"He said feelings were running high because some of their friends were forced to leave and because of the conduct of some of the media," Garry said.

The lawyers said Jones then summoned the entire mission to a meeting and asked Garry and Lane to go to a far end of the compound.

Lane said Jones sent the man who had tried to knife Ryan along "to act as a guard on Garry and myself. I got the point quickly."

Lane said the knife-wielder later was replaced by two other armed men who told him, "We are all going to die now."

"And they were smiling," Lane said. "They were not sarcastic. They looked genuinely happy to me. They were very, very peaceful."

He said he told them someone should be spared to report the mass suicide to the outside world, so they allowed him and Garry to escape.

Lane said he had been told a tub of poison was carried to the meeting site before the mass suicide. The lawyers said they saw young men carrying automatic weapons and ammunition toward the meeting place and heard voices on loudspeakers talk of the dignity of death.

It was as the two men fled that the firing began. Lane said he counted 85 bursts of semiautomatic weapons fire, and as they went through the jungle they continued to hear the firing and the screams of adults and children.

Garry and Lane had been anxious for reporters to see the Guyana colony firsthand.

"Go there, talk to anyone you want," Lane had said at an Oct. 3 San Francisco news conference.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Georgetown trying to understand

Special to The Tribune

Georgetown, Guyana—People's Temple leader Jim Jones was Bishop Jones to the people here and a mysterious man who rarely visited this city of 700,000.

His voice, heard over a weekly radio broadcast, was better known.

But even so, there was nothing in what he said to prepare the people who called him Bishop Jones— or for that matter the rest of the world—for the scene of horror he left behind him yesterday.

"We are still trying to understand why it happened," said newspaper editor Monty Smith last night.

"It is shocking, shocking. We regard life very highly here."

In Jonestown, the agricultural commune Jones established in the bush 120 miles away, Dr. Leslie Mootoo, a Guyanese pathologist, was conducting a post-mortem on Jones' body, found in the small wooden building where he lived. The structure is not much bigger than the dorms where commune members slept, Smith said.

He was dead of a bullet wound to the right temple — one of the few to die of a gunshot wound, Smith said.

His wife's body lay beside his.

Apparently Jones shot himself after he led his followers through their ritual suicide, Smith said.

Outside, in front of the meeting hall, a galvanized tub still held the fruitade laced with cyanide that killed the cult followers.

The bodies of men, women and children lay so thickly throughout the clearing that the scene was bizarre, Smith said. It was at once reminiscent of what Allied troops found in Hitler's concentration camps at the end of World War II -- and strangely also looked as though someone had hastily flung pieces of clothing on the ground to dry under the hot sun.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3 The Tribune

Oakland,Ca.

Date: 11-21-78

Edition: Handicaps

Title: RYMURS

Character: SF 89-250

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Classification: 89

Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

Some bodies were in the brush surrounding the land the cult followers had worked so hard to clear and cultivate.

But two who remained in the compound during the mass suicide survived, Smith said.

An old man named Grover Davis ran and hid in the bush around the People's Temple compound.

An old woman, Hyacinth Prash, was ill in her home when the mass suicide was taking place, and stayed alive simply by staying still.

Seven others escaped by fleeing into the jungle around the compound. They were found by Guyana soldiers within two miles of Port Kaituma, near the airstrip where Congressman Leo Ryan and four others died Saturday. How many others escaped the same way is unknown, Smith said.

The bodies of those who didn't lay everywhere — black and white alike, young and old, sprawled carelessly where they had fallen. With the exception of those who fled, none seemed to have revolted in the face of the suicide ritual, Smith said. They had lined up, taken their drinks, and died, perhaps within five minutes.

Guyanese police recovered some $1 million in currency and checks in the compound, he said, and at least 14 automatic rifles.

The office that Jones maintained here in Georgetown was locked.

"But he was rarely there," Smith said. "He would almost always send in a chap below him to do his work in Georgetown."

During Jones' radio broadcasts he spoke about the work the commune was doing.

"He painted a very good picture," ~~said Smith~~.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

HOW THEY DIED

Corpses covered ground in Jonestown

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F.Examiner

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-21-78
Edition: Final

Title: RYMURS

Character:
or SF 89-250
Classification: 89
Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

By Jim Willse
Examiner City Editor

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Visions of hell:

• The babies were the first to die, the poison administered to tiny mouths through special bottles.

• In the green valley that was Peoples Temple, a carpet of corpses, still dressed in finery for the congressman's visit.

• Wives and husbands, parents and children, locked in final embrace, joined in the five minutes it took for the cyanide to take hold.

• The evil shepherd of this fanatic plot lies like a ghastly centerpiece — the Rev. Jim Jones, shot to death, perhaps by his own hand, perhaps not.

Detail work of this nightmare painting is quite simply beyond belief. It was described yesterday by Charles Krause, a Washington Post reporter who visited the remains of Jones' agricultural mission as a representative of journalists gathered here.

Authorities counted at least 405 bodies huddled closely together in a tiny, open-air pavilion that had served as the settlement's communal meeting ground.

"You could not see the ground," Krause said. "It was literally covered with bodies."

Lying on a stage before the dead, his head soaked with blood, was Jones himself, flanked by his wife, Marceline, and one of the couple's seven children. It appeared Jones had been addressing his faithful as they took their lives.

Apparently three, including Jones, died of bullet wounds. The rest followed their leader's final command "to meet at another place" by drinking Kool-Aid spiked with poison.

One of 12 known survivors of the death ritual said Jones led his following to suicide only after learning of the failure of an elaborate plot to kill every member of Rep. Leo Ryan's factfinding party.

Odell Rhodes, a 36-year-old teacher, said he slipped away after the killings began. Here is his description:

Jones called his congregation together and said a loyalist had been planted among a group of temple members who had decided to leave the mission with Ryan and his party of reporters and relatives.

Jones said the infiltrator would fly off in a large plane carrying Ryan, his staff and media representatives. Once airborne, the loyalist would produce a handgun and kill the plane's pilot.

The crash of the aircraft would wipe out all of the temple's freshly departed visitors.

As Jones spoke, word arrived from the airstrip at nearby Poin Kaituma that the scheme had gon awry. The loyalist had boarded th wrong plane, getting into a second, smaller craft, instead of the one reserved for Ryan's group.

He apparently realized his mistake and opened fire when both planes still were grounded, triggering more gunfire from other temple members, who had bidden at the end of the airstrip.

Ryan and four others were killed, but several persons escaped into the brush.

Hearing this, Jones announced to his following: "The time has come to meet in another place."

The poison was prepared.

The lethal purple liquid was brought out in a large iron vat. With the help of nurses, the Kool-Aid first was administered to babies.

Little squirt bottles were used to shoot the liquid into the infants' mouths. One mother protested when it was her child's turn, but was shouted down by other members.

"That's what father wants," they admonished, referring to Jones.

Adults rose from among their fellow believers when it was their time to be served, walked up to the vat, drank their dose, and then returned to their places on the hard ground.

It took five minutes for the potion to work. Convulsions would set in first, then the members' eyes would roll up.

Helping serve the liquid was a temple doctor, whom Rhodes identified as Lawrence Schact. Rhodes said Schact asked for a stethoscope as the suicides were going on, and Rhodes was dispatched to find one. He said he never turned back.

Said Krause: "Many of the bodies had blood from the nostrils and foam at the lips."

The dead members — still dressed for Ryan's visit in colorful shirts and dresses rather than their usual jean overalls — had not been moved when police investigated the scene yesterday, 48 hours after the suicides.

Rhodes said temple members in Guyana and San Francisco had been planning a ritualistic mass slaying for months. When the code words, "White Night," were broadcast from Jonestown, members in San Francisco were to begin the self-executions.

(In The City, cult members told reporters gathered outside the temple gate that radio contact with Jonestown had been lost Saturday the day of the massacre.)

Police found more than death in the isolated jungle settlement. They discovered an estimated half-million dollars in cash and bunches of envelopes filled with Social Security checks. The checks had been sent to temple members and then turned over to the temple.

Maria Katsaris, said to be Jones' mistress, was discovered dead on the bed in the leader's house with another woman. She, like Jones and another unidentified person, had been shot to death. A dozen other bodies also were in the house, the victims of poison.

The settlement's water supply had been poisoned with fertilizer. All the dogs, numbering in the hundreds, had been killed, along with a pet gorilla they called Mugsy.

Some 800 passports were confiscated at the camp, indicating hundreds more temple members have yet to be accounted for.

Police said today they had accounted for 36 survivors, counting those found in the surrounding jungle and those members in Georgetown.

One theory being circulated is that another larger group of bodies may be rotting somewhere in the jungle, a group that for some reason was herded away from the others to die.

Still unclear is whether Jones died by his own hand. C.A. Roberts, assistant commissioner with the criminal division of the Guyana National Police, said the leader was shot by a gun that apparently had been pressed against his nose.

In Georgetown, Jones' son, Steven, 19, said he hated his father. "He destroyed everything we lived and worked for. He has discredited socialism."

The younger Jones said the suicide victims may have been "tricked" into thinking the poison routine was a "drill."

Associated Press

TRUNK FULL OF PASSPORTS: MUTE TESTIMONY TO MASS DEATHS
Guyanese medic covers face before entering area of carnage

Associated Press

STEVEN JONES, 19
Father 'tricked' cult

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Special Report

An Eerie Visit to Jonestown

By Matthew Naythons
Special to The Chronicle
Copyright 1978, Chronicle Publishing Co.

Jonestown, Guyana

It seems impossible that the vast area of prone bodies could be anything but friends sleeping together under the stars.

Men and women lie together, arms linked, faces down. Obedient children lie next to their parents in seeming sleep, amid a scattering of toys.

Only when the wind shifts does the horror seep inside. It simply cannot be real, and one wonders when he stepped through the looking glass.

Everywhere is silence. Speaking above a whisper seems somehow gravely sacrilegious. Columns of troops — perhaps 150 in all — patrol the tents and buildings without a sound.

Death here is total. No dogs bark, all were killed, their bodies mingling with those of the humans. The pet ape, Mr. Muggs, lies shot to death in his seven-foot-high cage.

Most of the dead lie in a semicircle inside Jonestown's main meeting hall. Near the throne of their leader, the bodies lie piled so deep the ground cannot be seen.

On the walls are colorful maps of Guyana and its South American neighbors and painted signs of brotherly love.

"Love one another," reads one.

Twenty feet from the Rev. Jim Jones' chair at the front of the room, a table and a 15 gallon drum

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F.Chronicle

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-22-78
Edition: Home

Title: RYMURS

Character:
or SF 89-250
Classification: 89
Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

tell much of the story. Inside the drum is a purple fluid, scattered around its base are ten empty potassium cyanide bottles and scores of paper cups.

The table is filled with dozens of empty Demerol and Valium vials. Half-drawn syringes lie in heaps of dried alcohol swabs. Chloral hydrate and Thorazine fill out the tableside pharmacy.

It took about five minutes to die. Valium and Demerol were apparently injected first to sedate the faithful. A cup of cyanide would then steal the oxygen from the red blood cells and the taker would sleep forever.

As night falls, Jonestown takes on a heightened air of unreality. The jungle fills the void. Shrill animal shrieks and whistles drift in from the thick, black rainforest that borders the town.

The soldiers are on edge. The authorities, unnerved by the night, want no civilians in Jonestown. Least of all they want a reporter. At night, anyone could be an assassin moving back inside from the jungle.

The soldiers carry automatic rifles. The officers wear .45-caliber pistols on their hips.

After a brief look at the meeting hall, I am assigned an armed escort and walked off to a dormitory. Also assigned to the dormitory was a team of civilian pathologists newly arrived to conduct autopsies on Jones and his high associates.

The barracks previously housed about 100 women. Personal effects lie scattered across the neatly made bunks and on the floors.

The contents of a half-open purse lie spilled across a mattress. Photos of a smiling black child are scattered on the floor.

Whoever had left 36 hours earlier had obviously left in a great hurry.

How many had fled from Jones' cyanide vat was hard to tell. Survivors say Jones failed to notify U.S. officials after the deaths of his followers over the months — allowing him to continue to collect and deposit their social security and other government checks.

This may explain why many of the people unaccounted for have not been found.

But the soldiers also say that they could pass within 20 yards of any survivors in the jungle and never see them if they were too frightened to call out for help.

Monday night, no one was able to sleep. The soldiers lay bolt awake in their bunks, holding their weapons, staring at the walls. The unexpected arrival of an army helicopter signaled an early and welcome chance for me to depart before the night was over.

Upon landing, a squad of soldiers arrived at the barracks and drove me out of the compound to the small airstrip at Port Kaituma. On the way we passed four hungry kittens that had somehow survived the ritual of death.

At the airstrip, the family of Patty Parks was waiting for the next plane.

Dale Parks and his two daughters, Brenda, 18, and Tracy, 12, had been at the Port Kaituma airstrip on Saturday when Parks' wife Patty, 44, was shot and killed along with Congressman Leo Ryan, San Francisco Examiner photographer Greg Robinson and two NBC-TV journalists. After the shooting started, the surviving family members crawled off into the jungle and slept in a swamp until soldiers arrived to rescue them.

During Ryan's visit, the entire family pleaded to be allowed to leave with the congressional party. They said they had been lured to Jonestown by colorful brochures and pictures. Once there, they found it impossible to leave.

Despite the death of his wife, Parks said he was grateful for Ryan's efforts.

"It was the first time that someone showed they cared," Parks said.

Standing in the darkness, the family was still shocked and scared. The soldiers tried to console them, telling them there was nothing to worry about now.

"That's what the congressman said when we left Jonestown," Parks replied.

Also standing on the dirt airstrip was a Guyanese air force major who had met Jones over the past months.

"He always wore sunglasses," the major recalled. "I only saw his eyes once, when he took them off, and he looked like that man from California, what was his name . . . uh, Manson."

The plane arrived, we boarded and rose out of the jungle. We took a final look back.

From 1500 feet, Jonestown truly appeared the dark side of the moon.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Inside Jonestown

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 S.F.Examiner

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-21-78
Edition: Final

Title: RYMURS

Character:
or SF 89-250
Classification: 89
Submitting Office: SF

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Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones lies shot to death, heaped over another corpse — just part of the incredible carpet of bodies that covered Jonesto

At the Rev. Jim Jones' bidding, they sipped from a vat of cyanide-laced ade (above),

and died under a sign bearing a grim prophecy

and lay down

He sat on this throne and called himself the "prophet of God," and they believed him.

Bodies of the faithful, who took their poison and then sat in the Jonestown meeting hall until they toppled from their crude seats

the arms cache found, too late, by Guyanese troops

Associated Press photos

0-19 (Rev. 1-27-78)

A 10 THE WASHINGTON POST
Thursday, November 23, 1978

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Chicago Tribune Photo via Associated Press

Poison mixed with depressants killed many of these residents of Jonestown shown from an aerial view.

Suicide Brew Contained Mix of Drugs, Poison

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Nov. 22 (UPI)—Autopsies performed by Guyanese medical examiners today reveiled the mixture the Peoples Temple cultists willingly drank at the Rev. Jim Jones' order was laced with a variety of depressants, tranquilizers and deadly poison.

The autopsy showed the ingredients, blended in a huge caldron filled with grape-flavored Kool-Aid, included thorazine, a sedative; demerol, a painkiller; phaerengen, an anti-histamine that promotes absorbtion of substances into the blood system; thalium, a tranquilizer; halioparaeol, an antipsychotic sedative used to calm violent people; largatil, another sedative; and two poisons—potassium cyanide, which affects the respiratory system, and potassium chloride. The brew contained depressants to minimize the pain associated with cyanide poisoning, and may have been used to trick the faithful into believing they were only rehearsing their own deaths.

The Washington Post A 10
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
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BLANKETS CONCEALED LAYERS OF CORPSES

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Large numbers of bodies in the mass suicide-murder at the Jonestown cult colony originally were overlooked because they were under blankets separating layers of corpses.

"Near the center of the pile of bodies near the assembly hall, they were three-deep in some areas," Capt. John Moscatelli, an Air Force spokesman, said last night.

"They were in layers with blankets between them. There were bodies hidden under other bodies and the discrepancy was not readily apparent. We planned to handle 400 bodies and suddenly we were faced with double that number," he said.

"We started with the bodies in the perimeter around (the Rev. Jim) Jones' assembly hall, where the great majority of the bodies lay because the corpses were less dense at the outside.

"But as we worked toward the center, there seemed to be many more. At that point, Col. William I. Morgan,

See GUYANA, A-6

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News 4-1
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

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GUYANA

Continued From A-1

the task force commander, stopped all work and we did a recount. As we came toward the center of the cluster of bodies, we realized there were many more than we had been told."

THE NEW DEATH toll announced yesterday was 776 Americans and four adopted Guyanese children in the mass suicide-murder.

The much higher number was radioed to the U.S. Embassy here from troops of the U.S. graves registration detail working among the bloated cadavers at the isolated jungle colony where Jones' followers assembled en masse to drink cyanide poison.

Informed sources said that U.S. troops had found 370 more bodies at the agricultural colony. This raised the official death toll from 410 to 780.

U.S. military and diplomatic officials said last night at a press conference that when the joint task force arrived here Tuesday, the official count of dead had already been provided to American military units in the operation. They said that when U.S. troops first looked at the Jonestown bodies, there was no indication that there were more than 410, the number first given by Guyanese officials.

"So we have spent all day trying to find additional body bags and caskets to bring in here in a reasonable time."

STEPNEY KIBBLE, the embassy's press officer, said no Americans were involved in any of the early body counts. But he did acknowledge that consular officers had gone out to Jonestown to make a survey.

Officials said they had no idea how Guyanese officials made their first count, but they said the situation reflected the fact that the bodies of smaller people and children at the bottom of the piles of corpses were not visible until the U.S. graves registration team began unstacking them in order to obtain a more accurate count.

"The body count provided us by the Guyanese is no indication of bad faith or an attempt at cover-up," Muscatelli said.

"In addition, we have no reason to believe that any of the new bodies we have found were killed by gunshot wounds or foul play. The task is wearing and distasteful, but we will do the best we can," he said.

The original disclosure there were many more bodies came as U.S. officials had been reporting that the number of dead already moved from the commune in body bags and sent back to the United States in military transport planes had reached 279. Officials were then predicted that the task of shipping the bodies home would be finished by tomorrow.

BOTH U.S. AND Guyanese officials had said they were baffled by the existence of 803 U.S. passports found at Jonestown while only 410 bodies had been located in the six days authorities have been working among the piles and rows of dead at the colony started by Jones here four years ago.

Reporters who have been to Jonestown all through the week were frankly skeptical of the embassy's unexpected announcement that 370 more bodies had been found at the commune and of the circumstances surrounding the discovery.

Many newsmen have seen the bodies every day, in increasingly maloderous stages of discomposition, and some said frankly they did not understand from their own examination how an error of such magnitiude could have been made in an area not much larger than a football field.

All along, Georgetown has been rife with speculation there might be another mass grave in the jungle near the colony or that some useless or untrusted members of the Peoples Temple might have been eliminated by Jones over a period of time prior to the mass suicide-murder.

THE POISON DRINKING order was issued by the sect's leader shortly after some colony members murdered Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four others at the nearby Port Kaituma airstrip.

Hope had been fading in the past 48 hours that any of the estimated 400 commune members accounted for as either dead or having escaped the mass suicide, would be found alive in the dense forest surrounding the colony, located about 150 miles northwest of Guyana's capital.

However, Minister of Information Shirley Field-Ridley and Police Commissioner Lloyd Barker had indicated there was some reason to believe there were survivors who might have fled into the bush to take refuge with the Amerindian aborigines who live in the area.

The surprise revelation by the U.S. Embassy, authorized by Ambassador John Burke, caused Guayana's Deputy Prime Minister Ptolmey Reid to delay a statement yesterday to the National Assemby. When Reid made his short speech, he acknowledged that there had been further discoveries at Jonestown raising the total to 775 — five fewer than the Americans say have now been found.

REID'S STATEMENT was intended to rebut charges by political opposition parties here that the Guyanese government was culpable for permitting Jones to establish a state within a state, to bring in many firearms, and to operate one large ship and two smaller vessels apparently without government controls.

He appeared to suggest that a woman member of Jones group and her three children possibly were murdered here. The previously accepted version was that she had slain her children and then herself.

Turning to accusations of lax Guyanese security in the area, Reid said government records show that only four licenses for firearms were issued to Jones' commune. But he added that Guyana's present information is that there was a serious breach (because about 100 weapons were found). He said the persons involved in bringing in the guns may now be beyond the reach of Guyana's justice.

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Desolate Scene Discovered At Ruined Jonestown School

By CAREY WINFREY

Special to The New York Times

JONESTOWN, Guyana, Nov. 27 — It is a simple structure, little more than a tin roof supported by wooden posts, 12 by 40 feet in size. It stands just off Cussy Lane, across the way from Mary McCloud Bethune Terrace and down the street from Sojourner Truth Apartment.

Baby plantain trees are planted around it, though some are wilting and will no doubt die from having been uprooted. Even before you saw the blackboard with the stars drawn in chalk, or "The Human Body" textbook or the sign that reads, "Don't Be a Litterbug, Help Keep Our Classroom Clean," you'd know what the little structure is. Or was. It is not much of anything anymore.

How Long to Live?

Now, upturned chairs and papers and clothes are littered everywhere. On the mud-packed floor, color snapshots are scattered. There must be more than a hundred of them. The people in the snapshots are eating, posing, sitting and smiling. In one of them, a straight-backed woman hands a phonograph record to a man with a stiff smile. On the back of the snapshot, someone has written, "Gave him one of our records. Pastor Stevens. Baptist."

There are phonograph records, too, on a big table near the blackboard. Judging from the white paper bag on which her name is written, they belonged to Diane Wilkerson. One of the records, recorded in Barbados by Teddy Wondell, is titled "Time Will Tell On You." The title of the song on the other side is "How Long Will I Live?"

It may have been a happy classroom. On a card tacked to one of the posts are the words "Music and Dance" and a hand-sketched picture of a smiling woman. "La la la," she is saying.

Other pictures are displayed from a string. The pictures are drawn in pastels and crayon and are signed by the young artists. Nicky drew a fishtank. Sonya drew a small dog and called her picture "Puppy Love." Jennifer's picture is almost all in yellow; it depicts an enormous sun rising over a mountain.

Near the children's pictures is a sign written in a more mature hand: "Look, Listen, Learn." But around that admonition, in children's handwriting, are other phrases. "Jonestown is a place of peace." "Be good to those around you."

'New Mathematics' Taught

There are more than a dozen copies of "Success in Spelling" and more than a dozen more of "New Mathematics for the Caribbean" in a white box not quite as large as a footlocker. And there are many dozens of Guyana Exercise books in the white box. From these we learn that the teacher's name was Margarita. From the lesson books we also learn that in addition to spelling and mathematics, Margarita taught Russian language and history, handwriting, social studies and current events.

"Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko spoke of the problems of strengthening peace in the world over Soviet T.V.," someone had written in a small hand in one of the books. Another contained a list of current "Disco Hits."

Margarita, or someone in authority, liked slogans. On almost every post a card bears some message: "Your Attitude is So Loud I Can't Hear What You're Saying," and "Black is Beautiful" and "Forbes Burnham, P.N.C. — We Must Have Unity."

Assortment of Items

Beneath this slogan, a second table contains an assortment of items: a pair of red suspenders, three small, rusty "Marine Band" harmonicas and a ringed notebook on which "For Snoopy," the Charles Schultz cartoon beagle, sleeps smilingly on the roof of his doghouse.

There is a child's baseball bat on the table, too, with one end badly chewed, apparently by a dog. Next to it is a book one would not expect to find in a classroom. It is called "A Dictionary of Gambling."

Next to that is something else that does not belong in a classroom. A pair of oversized orange rubber gloves left behind by someone from the Graves Registration unit.

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times A-12
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

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Jonestown Now A Ghost Town For Scavengers

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — American soldiers completed the grisly task of removing bodies from Jonestown yesterday and unofficially determined that 910 persons, 500 more than originally estimated, died in the mass suicide-murder, U.S. officials said.

They said this was a preliminary final count but approximately correct.

The count leaped from 408 to at least 775 Friday when searchers first realized that many bodies had been stacked atop each other. Then yesterday, State Department officials in Washington and at Dover Air Force Base, Del., where the bodies are being sent, got word of the higher toll.

It was beginning to appear that few, if any, Jonestown residents remained unaccounted for.

THIRTY-TWO survivors had emerged from the jungle around the agricultural settlement after the bizarre death rite a week ago Saturday, and 46 more were at the Georgetown headquarters of the Peoples Temple sect at the time.

Searches have produced no indication that any others escaped and remain in the dense jungle around Jonestown, 150 miles northwest of Georgetown. State Department lawyer Michael White said in Dover that all the newly discovered victims were found in the camp clearing and not in the jungle. The last of the bodies was flown out of Jonestown yesterday afternoon.

Two of the survivors have been formally charged with murder, however, and will continue to be held in Georgetown.

At Jonestown, American troops in surgical masks and rubber gloves removed the last of the badly decayed bodies of the sect members, called to their deaths by the cult leader, the Rev. Jim Jones'. "The time has come for all of us to meet at another place."

The camp's medical team had doled out lethal doses of cyanide poison. It was administered to infants and force-fed to some adults who resisted, but most took it willingly, survivors said.

Journalists who visited the site yesterday said it had the appearance of a suddenly abandoned ghost town.

See GUYANA, A-8

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

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Continued From A-1

with laundry still on the lines and spades sticking out of freshly dug garden plots. Scavengers, mostly natives who live in the jungle around the settlement, were looting the cabins, taking bedding, pots and other items, they said.

AT THE DELAWARE air base, which houses the Air Force mortuary, specialists were trying to identify the bodies and prepare them for shipment and burial.

Eighteen FBI experts at Dover were checking fingeprints at the rate of about six bodies an hour. Army Maj. Brigham Shuler said it will take "much longer" than the two or three weeks originally estimated to finish the airlift, identification, preparation and shipment of the bodies.

The State Department said no further partial lists of victims will be released, but a full list will be provided when all of the victims who can be identified have been and next-of-kin are notified. A list of 170 tentatively identified victims was released last week.

A spokesman said the final lists will not be issued soon because of identification problems and expected trouble in locating survivors of some victims.

THE SECOND man formally charged in connection with the weekend of violence was arraigned yesterday.

Charles Edward Beikman, 43, of Indianapolis was charged with murdering four sect members at the cult's temple in Georgetown.

The victims, identified in court records as Sharon Amos, 42, and her three children, Martin Amos, 9, Christa Amos, 7, and Liane Harris, 21, were found with their throats cut the day of the suicides. Earlier it was reported that they, too, commited suicide.

Details of the alleged murders were not available.

Last Wednesday, Larry Layton, 32, of San Francisco was charged with the murders of Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., three newsmen and a defecting member of the cult.

They were gunned down on a jungle airstrip, apparently on Jones' orders, after visiting the settlement to investigate reports of abuse of settlers there, most of whom came from California. The suicides apparently took place about an hour later.

Two other sect members were taken into custody for questioning by Guyanese authorities last week, but no charges have been announced against them.

The next court appearance for the stocky, blond Beikman, a sect member for 20 years, will be Dec. 4 in Georgetown. Layton will appear again Jan. 15 at Mathews Ridge, the court nearest to the site of the airstrip ambush.

Conviction of first-degree murder in Guyana is punishable by hanging, although there have been no hangings since independence from Britain in 1966.

AIR FORCE Capt. John Moscatelli, the spokesman for the U.S. joint task force in Guyana, has explained that an initial body count of 408 was provided by the Guyanese government. He said American troops realized Friday, after finding some bodies three-deep, that the estimate was much too low. The count of 910 is unofficial but should be close to the final figure, he said.

Moscatelli said it was possible that someone had rearranged the bodies. There were blankets between some layers of bodies.

Odell Rhodes, 36, of Detroit, one of the survivors from the colony, said sect members were falling and dying in various positions when he fled.

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JONESTOWN FIRST HAND

Actuality of Death Gone but Feel Is Everywhere

BY JERRY BELCHER
Times Staff Writer

JONESTOWN, Guyana—Fifty-two of us flew into Jonestown Monday to see first hand what we had been reporting and writing about second hand for the last week—the death scene at the Peoples Temple settlement.

The actuality of death is gone now—the last of the 910 corpses removed some time last Saturday night—but the stench is everywhere.

And the presence, the feel of death is everywhere.

So are the artifacts of the political-religious cult created and then destroyed by the Rev. Jim Jones:

A New Testament in Spanish; a paperback book "Marxist Social Theory"; empty vials of drugs; a set of bright, expensive-looking drums; a clutter of deadly crossbows.

Then, scattered and jumbled in the middle of the compound, under the corrugated aluminum roof of the central pavilion where most of the dying was done, are the pathetic possessions left by Jones' disciples.

Over there, a stuffed Mickey Mouse doll, forlorn and stained. Here, a crushed baby bottle, the nipple askew. A couple of feet away, a small blue pillow, the indentation of the head of its tiny owner still evident.

The smell is stomach-wrenching by the pavilion, more concentrated than in the rest of the camp. But you can hold your breath, or breathe through your mouth, and live with it. So I stay and look.

The kids' stuff is the worst. The toys and small shoes of children who died here.

Maybe some of the adults, or even all of the adults, died here for what they believed in. But surely, not the kids. They didn't die with Jim Jones because he exhorted them to.

They died because someone—their parents, a doctor, a nurse—pumped poison into them with a needle.

The kids' stuff is worse, but it's all horrifying. The old people's stuff—an expensive chrome wheelchair over there, a blonde-wood cane here—that's devastating, too.

There's a notebook. My first impulse is to grab it and read it. But that seems ghoulish and I hesitate.

On the other hand, it may be an important document—it may contain the secret of Jim Jones, what made him what he was, what gave him the power of death.

I grab it and read.

It is only neat, precise lecture notes, apparently kept faithfully day by day: "Aug. 30. Chinese Chairman Wu (sic) is talking to the Shah of Iran while the capital is on strike."

"Sept. 5. Somoza's time is short-lived . . ."

"Sept. 16. The rise of fascism in Italy . . ."

It goes on and on like that.

I pick up a letter. It is written in a girlish hand on lined, three-hole binder paper.

"Hi, Sherry," it begins. "I was really glad and surprised to hear from you. I'm so glad that things have worked out for you."

I know I can't finish reading that one.

I'll try one more, a printed form, obviously distributed by the temple.

"My Message to the Pastor Jones," it is headed.

Then, on ruled lines of the pink sheet in childlike handwriting, without punctuation: "Dear Pastor Jones: I am thankful to God for all the love you send forth to ones throughout God's great world." At the bottom, beside the printed words, "My Offering" is this:

"Here is My Offering to help with your beautiful Agricultural Mission in Guyana."

After that the writer scribbled, "$27.77."

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times I & I

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The sender gives her addresss as Richmond, Calif.

I move on.

Just outside the pavilion are the crossbows, five or six of them. A stethoscope is tangled in with the weapons.

The single arrow, with a razor-sharp point, is fired into the bank of an overturned wooden bench.

Did one of Jones' lieutenants fire the arrow at someone who refused the cyanide drink? Or was it fired later by a Guyanese or an American soldier to see how the crossbow worked? Another of the Jonestown questions that never will be answered.

Groups of reporters are being shuttled from an airstrip at Matthew's Ridge, 25 miles away, and there is a schedule to keep if we are to get back before dark.

One of the two dozen or so Guyanese soldiers guarding the death camp urges me to see what must be seen, and get back to the helicopter. He emphasizes this point by shifting his grip on a submachine gun.

I get the point.

A laundry, a cook house. In the laundry, bags of unwashed clothes.

Staggering through ochre-colored mud toward what appears to be a warehouse, I find a survivor:

A tiny, scrawny kitten.

Two Japanese journalists discover the kitthen at almost the same time. One shoots 10 or 12 pictures of the kitten. The kitten looks hungry, mews pathetically.

The photographer grins. He's made some nice pictures. We move on.

On the back stoop, just beside the warehouse, about 30 yards from where the cyanide potion was distributed last Saturday, is a cardboard carton with a flap torn open.

The carton contains hundreds of packages—not of Kool-Aid, the drink that has been reported as used in the cyanide drink—but of something called "Fla-Vor-Aid."

Similar to Kool-Aid, but not Kool-Aid. I've come across a big scoop.

I pocket a single envelope of the stuff. I feel guilty because I've become a ghoul and a looter, and I put it back. Then, once again, I pick up the envelope put it in my pocket.

Why, I have no idea.

Later, I discover there is other life in Jonestown beside the kitten and the soldier and the newsmen.

In a garden beside a wood-frame house—a barracks, or an apartment—a small, healthy-looking pig is rooting contentedly. Not far away is a black duck.

Why should anyone take note of a kitten, a pig, a duck, in a place like this? It is because they're alive—and that somehow seems important.

The barracks or apartments are named after famous black people, one of them fictional: "Gene Pitman Gardens."

The others named after historical figures are "Mary McLeod Bethune Terrace," "Harriet Tubman Place," and "Soujourner Truth Apartment." They are all neatly built structures, but evidently not the principal housing accommodations.

Several hundred yards away are about 50 smaller cottages, each about 12 by 20 feet, all also neatly built. They are freshly painted in pastel colors—green, blue, pink and beige. Another reporter gets a peak inside one, and says there are a dozen bunks in the place.

The cottage said to have belonged to Jones is about 100 yards away from the central pavilion. It is perhaps twice as large as the small cottages, but certainly not a palace.

Like nearly all the others, it has been sealed by Guyanese soldiers or police. But on the small veranda, stuff and junk is littered about.

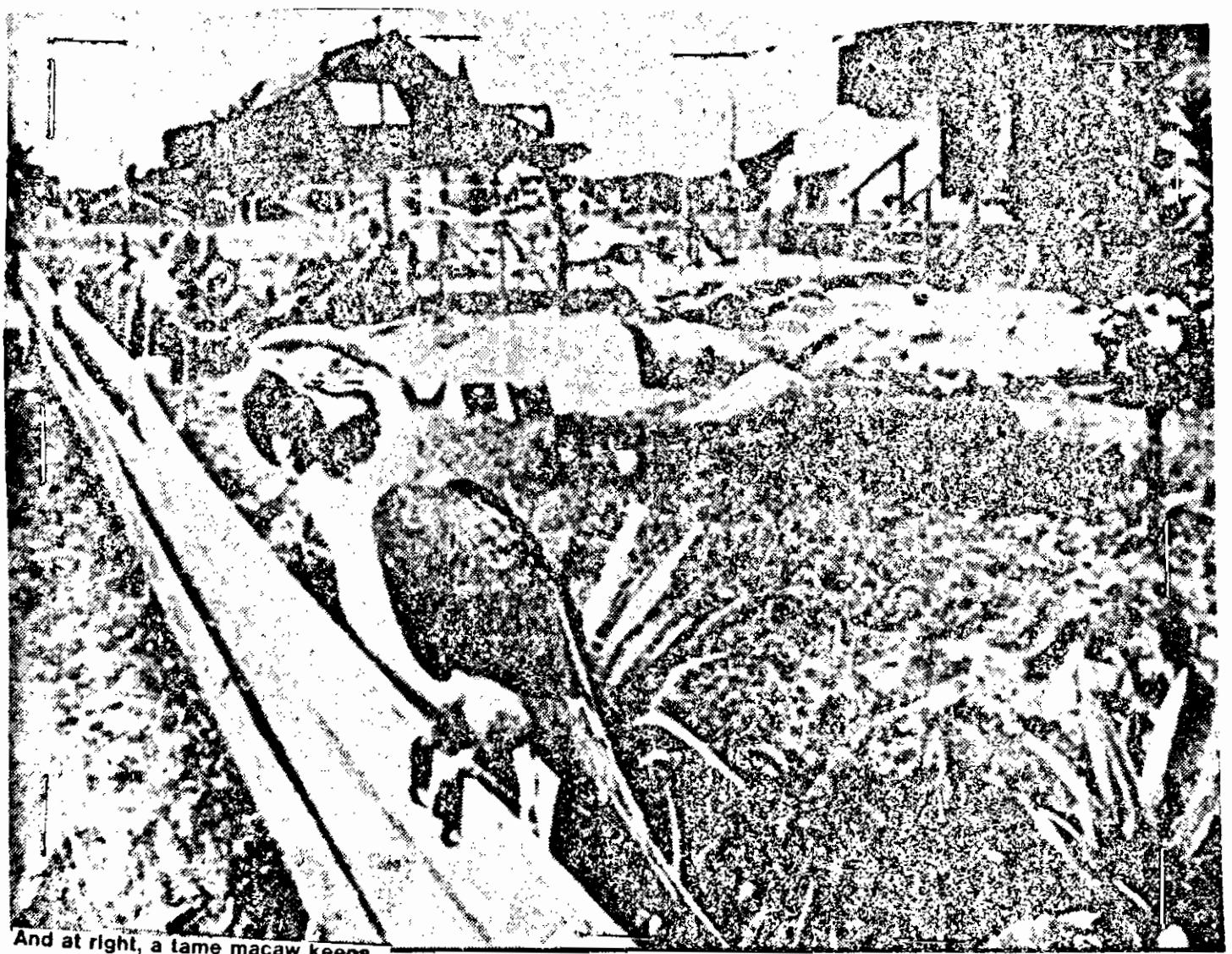
Feeling no guilt at all, now, I kneel and go through it. I find several plastic syringes and a number of bottles of drugs —Pentedine, Pentothal No. 1 (aren't these truth syrums?) Thorazine, Valium (tranquilizers) and morphine sulfate.

There also are lot of books and tablets and newspapers, most of them radical or Marxist.

Now, one of the soldiers is moving us along toward the heliport. In 10 minutes, we are airborn again.

From the air, the jungle clearing in which Jonestown is built seems to be about the size of a small-town municipal golf course. From the air, it looks peaceful and almost pretty.

And in the air, moving away from Jonestown at 150 m.p.h. the stink of death is suddenly gone.



And at right, a tame macaw keeps vigil over the area.

Examiner Eric Meskauskas, ©1978, San Francisco Examiner

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Grim evidence of the slaughter in Guyana

United Press International

The instruments of death: Adults used the syringes to spray cyanide mix down the throats of children and animals, then swallowed their own fatal doses from paper cups.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 S.F.Examiner

San Francisco,Ca.

Date: 11-22-78
Edition: Final

Title: RYMURS

Character:
or SF 89-250
Classification: 89
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FBI/DOJ

Examiner Eric Meskauskas

At one of the one-room houses where Jonestown's people lived, some muddy shoes of children had been lined up on the porch to dry

Examiner Eric Moskowitz

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

At Jonestown: drugged to die

Narcotics paved way for the suicides

By Jim Willse
Examiner City Editor
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JONESTOWN, Guyana — Massive amounts of narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs may have helped the residents of this People's Temple agricultural mission prepare themselves for a ritual of mass suicide Saturday night.

Crates of empty bottles of drugs — including Thorazine, sodium pentothal, Valium and halothane, a narcotic inhalant — as well as empty, used syringes, were found around the pavilion and house where the temple leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, and more than 400 of his followers died.

Eight-ounce bottles of Thorazine, a strong tranquilizer, and larger bottles of Thorazine concentrate had been poured into the vats containing cyanide-laced Kool-Aid.

The narcotics were probably used to ease the excruciating pain of a cyanide death, officials speculated.

Near one of the decaying bodies, all of which lay this morning in the positions in which they

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Classification: 89
Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

dropped Saturday, I saw a syringe with its needle bent — as if it had been jammed forcibly into the person's arm.

Adjoining the open-air pavilion where most of the suicides occurred, there was a classroom that had been converted into a drug emporium, with a picnic table covered with bottles of various sizes, their labels announcing Thorazine, sodium pentothal, Valium and halothane. Most of the bottles, which had come from Europe, were empty.

Thorazine, a commonly used tranquilizer, also has a sedative effect and is used to treat pain and nausea as well as severe psychiatric disorders.

Sodium pentothal, a short-acting barbiturate, is given by injection and renders the patient unconscious in seconds. It is often given to people prior to surgery.

Halothane is an anesthetic gas that is used for many operations because it is potent and has few side effects.

Dr. Lynn Crook, a pathologist from Medical University of South Carolina who was at Jonestown to aid the Guyanese in inspecting the remains, said it is possible large amounts of the drugs were used to pave the road for the mass suicide.

Many of those who walked to the vats to partake of the cyanide communion in the presence of Jones, the man they called "father," may have been under the influence of narcotics at the time, Crook said.

"They had plenty of cyanide, and any kind of narcotics you can think of," Crook said. "They had stores of narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs. It was a total and complete pharmacy — much more than was needed to supply a community that size, or even the city of Georgetown (population 66,000)."

Dr. Crook did not name any of the hallucinogens found at Jonestown.

Former temple members have said that Jones was a heavy user of drugs. There were reports, as well, that he was seriously ill and was using massive amounts of morphine.

Jones' body, the head soaked with blood from a bullet wound, still lay on the stage in front of those who accepted his invitation "to meet in another place."

Crook said that, when it is removed, an autopsy will be performed, during which it could be learned whether Jones was critically ill and under the influence of narcotics at the time of his death.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

On the scene at Jonestown: a nightmare

Examiner City Editor Jim Willse is the second newspaper reporter to reach Jonestown. The first, Charles Krause, was a pool representative for other media. Willse's report is exclusive to The Examiner.

By Jim Willse
Examiner City Editor
© 1978, San Francisco Examiner

JONESTOWN, Guyana — Mercifully, at 4 o'clock, it rained. The brief shower blotted the sun and cleansed the air, but only for moments. There was then, again, the stench of death. From the air, the bodies surround the Peoples Temple meeting hall like some crazy quilt at a county fair. The clothes are bright colors, the dead in attitudes of repose, as if they suddenly would arise and admit to some cruel joke.

But on the ground of Jonestown, the illusion is over. Three days after Jim Jones led his flock to slaughter, the dead of Peoples Temple offer a scene almost beyond comprehension. "I've seen a lot of dead people, in Vietnam and other places, but I've never seen anything like this," said Sgt. Wayne Dalton, one of three U.S. Air Force personnel helping the contingent of 50 Guyanese soldiers who by now are doing little more than standing watch over the carnage.

The rain over, the nightmare regains full strength.

★ ★ ★

The effects of the cyanide and the weather have rendered the corpses grotesque parodies of human beings. The bodies are bloated, bursting through their clothes, the skin blistered. Most lie face down but others fully face the sun. Arms are ~~raised,~~ frozen by rigor mortis.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 S.F.Examiner

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Faces are horribly disfigured, ghastly masks with swollen tongues and protruding eyes. The discoloration is so great that it is nearly impossible to distinguish black from white. Many of the bodies are covered by bright sheets or blankets as if the victims sought to ward off a chill while waiting for the end.

To the right of the meeting hall is another corpse. Although its features have been barely ruined, it is more horrible than the rest. It is the body of a small child, dressed in a green T-shirt and plaid short pants. The ravages of the poison were unable to remove the innocence of the little girl's face.

At the near end of the hall is a fatal table: On it is a blue plastic tub that still contains portions of the lethal Kool-Aid. And next to it are empty brown plastic gallon bottles of cyanide.

"M&B Laboratory Chemicals — potassium cyanide," the label says matter-of-factly.

The floor is covered with corpses. Yet the hall still contains signs of happier days in what visitors had called an earthly paradise. On a stage there are speakers for electric instruments and TV and a sign that advises: "Where the spirit of God is, there is liberty."

Behind the bandstand, on his back on the wooden boardwalk is the corpse of the mad preacher. The torso of Jim Jones is so swollen it has burst through his red shirt. Its once-handsome features are barely recognizable.

The corpse of Jim Jones lay apart from the others, in an attitude like none of his followers: His arms extend like some obscene Christ.

★ ★ ★

A half-mile away from the meeting hall stand the one-room houses where the residents of Jonestown lived. There is a sense of unreal quiet among the paste-colored homes. Doors open, laundry is still on the line. It seems that the residents have stepped out, that they will return in a few moments. This was the Jonestown that so impressed its visitors. Homey touches like bright curtains and painted shingles make one forget the true fate of the inhabitants.

On one porch, there are muddy shoes, small and large, placed there to dry. The sounds of a soldier's radio is jarring. Sunflowers and marigolds, small banana trees and avocado plants have been carefully planted next to some houses. And in the center of a path sits a solitary dog.

★ ★ ★

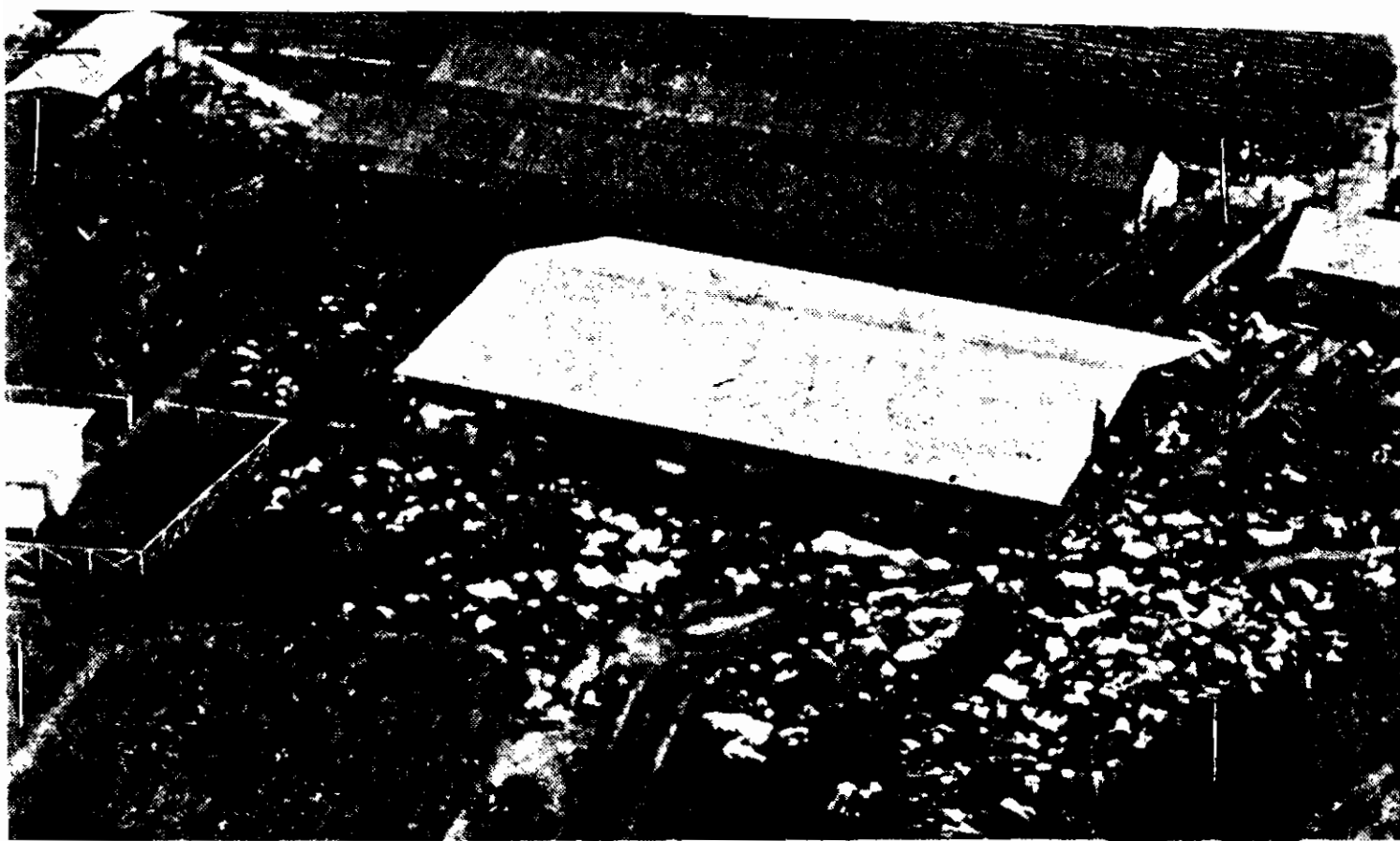
The scene around Jonestown is like a small Vietnam. At the airstrip six miles from the world Jones created and destroyed, government soldiers in fatigues man shortwave radios and nervously glance into the perimeter, as if expecting attack from some vestige of the slaughter inside the mission.

Suddenly, a message comes from the mission: A soldier has been shot. By whom?

There is a rush to the single government helicopter. Three soldiers, heavily armed, are dispatched, one holding a greasegun in his hand and steadying a pot of rice in the other — protection and food for the people inside.

Minutes later, the yellow chopper lands on a field adjoining the Jones compound. The wounded soldier is carried by stretcher, a medic administering to his wounded leg.

There has been no attack, however. A colleague shot the unfortunate recruit by mistake.



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Bodies covered the ground around Jonestown's community meeting hall, where death was doled out in small c

0-19 (Rev. 1-27-78)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____

Guyana Files 5 Murder Counts

Cult Member Is Charged

Rec. Mgnt. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

Macabre Scene At Camp Shows Suicide Details

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Circling repeatedly over the tragic village of Jonestown in a light plane, the overwhelming impression one gets is of a county fair with hundreds of people waiting to get in to one of the exhibits.

But then the reality comes through, a fact the mind almost refuses to believe, that none of the 405 people are moving and all of them have lain there dead for the past five days.

The members of the Peoples Temple cult look almost colorful from the air in the varied red, blue and yellow shirts they were wearing. The contrast of color is especially marked because the agricultural-religious community where all of them died from drinking a cyanide and Kool-Aid punch is surrounded in every direction by unrelenting green rainforest.

Dropping lower over the scene, the real horror of what took place last Saturday in the mass suicide ordered by the Rev. Jim Jones almost boggles comprehension.

SOME OF THE dead lay in piles, almost all of them on their faces, heads toward the throne-like chair where Jones apparently shot himself, his wife and his mistress through the head with a pistol.

Others had linked hands when they took the poison that was dictated by Jones in a ritual that had often been rehearsed. There were several of these macabre circles. Some appeared to have passed away while giving one another a final embrace.

It seems as if several acore of the cultists had started to run when the effects of the poison seized them and were lying on pathways, between rows of the vegetables they grew and elsewhere in the colony.

Strange to say, there were no carrion birds attempting to feed on the bodies of the dead, and officials who

See CAMP, A-4

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News A-1
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date 23

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FBI-DC

Continued From A-1

have been working amid the almost overpowering s h have said the jungle animals also have given the Jonestown village of the dead a wide berth.

Even the flies that are normally drawn to such mass catastrophes seemed to be avoiding this four-year old community so suddenly overtaken by the dark will of their fanatic leader.

THERE WERE SOME curious and inexplicable things to see at Jonestown, which is still almost exactly as it was when Jones issued the call for the "White Knight" mass suicide rite.

Apparently some of the settlers, almost all of whom were from California, had poisoned their dogs. Someone also had fired a fatal shot into the head of the colony pet, a chimpanzee named Mr. Muggs. Searchers found the ape dead in his 20-foot-high wooden cage.

But three brightly colored macaws, brilliant in blue, yellow and red plumage perched on clotheslines and fencing as if nothing had occurred. In nearby fields, cattle and pigs continued to root and graze, unconcerned by the presence of the monumental panoply of death.

From the twin-engine Islander plane, one could see the community's loudspeaker on the roof of the assembly building from which Jones issued his last orders to his fanatic followers. The pilot refused to land because he feared disease.

Most of the dead had flocked to the eating hall, with walls of wood and a bright silvery tin roof, to obediently swallow the lethal concoction. Some of the dead had used hypodermic needles instead of drinking the cyanide-punch and one man had the needle still embedded in his arm when the first outsiders reached the scene.

CLEARLY VISIBLE is the sawed-off oil drum in which the dark mixture had been prepared for the last gesture ordered by their leader. Scattered beside the vat were containers for the fruit powder and bottles containing the deadly cyanide poison. Many of the dead had cups from which they had drunk the brew lying beside them.

Authorities believe that the Peoples Temple victims of their own beliefs probably were heavily sedated either before drinking or that the tranquilizers were mixed into the poison. Officials have found more than 4,000 bottles of tranquilizing drugs such as Valium, Thorazine and Darvon.

No one knows with precision whether the drugs were part of the daily lives of the Jonestown colony or whether Jones dispensed them as part of the mass suicide he had frequently required his followers to practice.

To this n five days after Jones made his l decision, it still is not known whether the colonists thought they were going through another rehearsal or whether they knew from Jones' own lips that their lives were about the end by their own hands.

SO FAR AS is known, Guyanese police and soldiers have not yet found anything resembling a final written declaration by the man who dominated the lives and the deaths of more than half of those who believed in him. No one knows yet whether a more detailed search of the death camp will turn up a last will and testament from the charismatic leader whose own son, Stevan, has testified was growing increasingly paranoid about the outside world.

Circling ever lower, the full horror of the tragedy became obvious because the poison victims had swelled to nearly twice their normal size under the unrelenting tropical sun of Guyana, only six degrees north of the equator.

Men assigned to retrieve the bodies reportedly were being forced to puncture the corpses with knives to release gases so the cadavers would fit in body bags.

In an airplane, one is spared the awful odor of decomposing human flesh. It had become impossible with the naked eye to detect men from women or black from white in the racially mixed farm colony because of the distortion and discoloration that comes with death.

THE UNREAL IMPRES[illegible] of a tidy and well operated farm [illegible]age was enhanced by Jonestown's dominant structure: an artistic, paneled tower standing three stories high and topped by the square, whirling blades of what might have been a windmill but actually was the work of one of the colony's artists.

Whether it was ritual murder of voluntary mass suicide, the orderly rows and circles of the dead were mute testimony to the control that the self-styled "Bishop" Jones exercised over most of his people.

But all of them did not respond to Jones' final call on the loudspeaker.

Two elderly persons, Hyacinth Thrush, 76, and Grover Davis, 79, both of California, did not respond to Jones' announcement that "White Knight" was about to begin. The woman was ill in bed and Davis hid himself rather than drink the mixture. Both are now in Guyana General Hospital here in a state of shock.

An unknown number of others who were working on the outskirts of the community apparently fled into the nearby jungle, either frightened by the 75 or more gunshots that were fired in the last moments of the community's life or because they may have seen their companions dropping to the ground after drinking the poisonous mixture.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Victims Ordered to Drink Cyanide With Kool-Aid

PORT KAITUMA, Guyana—When the Rev. Jim Jones learned Saturday that Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) had been killed but that some members of the congressman's party had survived, Jones called his followers together and told them that the time had come to commit the mass suicide they had rehearsed several times before.

"They started with the babies," administering a potion of Kool-aid mixed with cyanide, Odell Rhodes recalled Monday when I revisited Jonestown to view the horrifying sight of 405 bodies—men, women and children, most of them grouped around the altar where Jones himself lay dead. (Later reports put the known death toll at 409.)

Rhodes is the only known survivor of Jonestown who witnessed a part of the suicide rite before escaping. He was helping Guyanese authorities identify the dead.

Most of those who drank the deadly potion served to them by a Jonestown doctor, Lawrence Schact, and by nurses, did so willingly, Rhodes said. Mothers often would give the cyanide to their own children before taking it themselves, he said.

But others who tried to escape were turned back by armed guards who ringed the central pavilion where the rite was carried out, Rhodes said. They were then forced to drink the poisoned Kool-aid, and shortly after that the mass killings

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES LOS ANGELES, CA

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Character: or RYMUR

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

FBI/DOJ

began, Rhodes said.

"It just got all out of order. Babies were screaming, children were screaming and there was mass confusion," he said.

It took about five minutes for the liquid to take its final effect. Young and old, black and white grouped themselves, usually near other family members, often with their arms around one another, waiting for the poison to kill them.

They would go into convulsions, their eyes would roll upward, they would gasp for breath and then fall dead, Rhodes said.

All the while, Jones was talking to them urging them on, explaining that they would "meet in another place." Near the end, Rhodes said, Jones began chanting, "mother, mother, mother"—an apparent reference to his wife who lay dead not far from the altar.

Of the community members who died, Jones and two others were shot rather than poisoned, according to C. A. Robert, the chief Guyanese police official at Jonestown Monday.

Another who was shot was Maria Katsaris, whose brother, Anthony, had come with Ryan Friday to try to persuade his sister to leave Jonestown. Anthony Katsaris was one of those badly wounded during the Saturday airport massacre that left five dead and 10 wounded.

Rhodes said he fled when the doctor said he needed a stethoscope. Rhodes volunteered to go with a nurse to the infirmary, about 300 feet from the open-air pavilion where the suicides were being carried out.

Rhodes said the armed guards let him through with the nurse and he hid under a building when she went into the doctor's office for the stethoscope.

At 7 p.m., when it seemed that the mass suicide had ended, he left his hiding place and walked through the jungle to Port Kaituma, a few miles away.

It was Rhodes, according to Roberts, who gave the first hint to Guyanese authorities that hundreds had died in the mass suicide. Rhodes said he had hoped to reach Guyanese officials in time to stop more persons from being killed.

Rhodes also recalled Monday that shortly after Ryan and his party left Jonestown, Jones told his followers that Ryan's plane was going to "fall out of the sky."

The plan, according to Rhodes and other information made available late Monday, was that one of the defectors, who really was a plant on Jones' orders, would shoot the pilot of Ryan's plane after it left the Port Kaituma airstrip.

The person apparently chosen for the task, however, boarded the wrong plane and started shooting before it was off the ground. Two passengers in that plane were badly wounded.

According to Dale Parks, a bona fide defector from Jonestown who was aboard that plane, the man who did the shooting was Larry Layton, a U.S. citizen who so far is the only person under arrest here in connection with any of the violence.

In addition to the man sent to infiltrate the defectors and shoot the pilot, Jones took the extra precaution of ordering a group of his followers to go to the airstrip in a tractor and trailer loaded with guns, to shoot whoever was not aboard the congressman's plane. The clear intent was that everyone who had gone to Jonestown with Ryan was to be killed.

The assailants returned to Jonestown and reported, out of the hearing of lawyers Mark Lane and Charles Garry, who had stayed behind, that the congressman was dead but others had lived. It was then that Jones announced that all of his followers must come immediately to Jonestown's open-air pavilion. There he told them Ryan had been killed and that there would be "trouble."

"We've all got to kill ourselves," Jones told the crowd, according to Rhodes. One woman, Christine Miller, protested, Rhodes said, "but the crowd shouted her down."

Monday, a stilled Jonestown looked much as it must have moments after the mass suicide ended two days earlier. The bodies were where they had fallen, the half-empty vat of cyanide-laced Kool-aid was still on a table near the altar in the pavilion. The faces of the dead bore the anguished expressions of their terrible deaths.

More than 390 of the bodies were grouped around the altar. They were so thickly bunched together that it was impossible to see the ground beneath them.

Even the dogs that lived in Jonestown had been poisoned and now lay dead on sidewalks near the pavilion. The Peoples Temples pet chimpanzee, Mr. Muggs, had been shot dead.

In Jones' house, approximately 10 others lay dead. C.A. Roberts, the Guyanese police commissioner in charge of investigating the killings, said his men were "finding new bodies in isolated places" throughout the Jonestown compound.

The scene was guesome. The bodies, which had been on the ground for almost three days in the muggy climate here, were beginning to bloat. A Guyanese doctor was sent in Monday to puncture them because it was feared many would burst open before today, when U.S. army medical teams were scheduled to arrive to begin identifying and shipping the bodies back to the United States.

Roberts said that, so far, the only non-Americans found among the more than 409 known dead were seven Guyanese children adopted by the Jonestown community.

As Guyanese police officials continued their search of Jonestown Monday, they discovered more than 800 American passports, cash, checks and valuable jewelry and metal, including gold.

The most perplexing question left to be answered was the whereabouts of the approximately 400 Jonestown residents who have not been found, either dead or alive.

There was speculation that hundreds fled to the jungle and simply had not found their way out. There also was another theory: that some of the Jonestown security men took hundreds of the commune's residents to a remote area, possibly to be shot.

Lending some support to that theory was the fact that the body of Tom Kice, one of those believed to have been among the gunmen who attacked Ryan's party, has not been found.

Also, lawyers Lane and Garry, who escaped into the jungle when the killing began, reported Monday that they heard scattered screaming and shooting.

According to several of the Jonestown residents who left with Ryan on Saturday and survived the attack at the airstrip, residents of Jonestown had gone through several rehearsals for a mass suicide.

The procedure even had a name. When Jones decided that his church was finished, he had told followers here he would send a coded message to his church's other headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana, and San Francisco that they should join the Jonestown faithful in taking their lives.

They were to wait for the words "white knight."

VAT OF DEATH—A tub that contained Kool-Aid mixed with cynanide rests on wooden sidewalk at Jonestown near the bodies of victims.

MASS DEATH—Bodies are everywhere in this air view of the Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple encampment in the Guyana jungle.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Temple's Rehearsals for Mass Suicide

By Ron Javers
Chronicle Correspondent

Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

When we were waiting in hopes of being rescued from Port Kaituma Saturday after the death of Congressman Leo J. Ryan and four others in our group, we were told that a mass suicide was about to occur at Jonestown.

And we were also told it was to be only the first chapter in a terrible reign of carnage.

The members of the People's Temple cult who survived the attack at the air strip with us described how they had once gone through a week-long "rehearsal" of their mass suicide.

And they were informed, they said, that not everyone would die.

Jim Jones, they said, was supposed to stay alive, and so were his security troops.

This chosen group of survivors was then to escape from Guyana and smuggle themselves back into the United States.

And then they would seek out their enemies one by one — and kill them.

But Jones' planned role in this horrible scenario ended, of course, with his death.

And now the authorities face the difficult task of screening the survivors — seeing which ones are genuine fugitives from Jonestown and which are bent on perpetuating the killing.

The identities of at least four members of the elite guard are

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 S.F.Chronicle

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Submitting Office: SF

FBI/DOJ

known to authorities. They are the three gunmen who staged Saturday's attack at the Port Kaituma air strip, and also the driver of the tractor and flatbed trailer that served as the base of the assault.

All four are Americans, whose names are known by the FBI, and also by several other federal agencies that have been investigating the Jonestown situation.

While we were waiting out that Saturday night in the jungle, fearful of a renewed attack, the remaining fugitives from People's Temple told how members of the cult had been put through suicide "tests" in the past.

They would be given small cups of liquid that they were told was poison, they said. And they would be instructed to drink up.

Then they would learn it was "only a test."

The recent week-long suicide rehearsal described to us as we waited was even more bizarre.

We learned that Jones had told his followers that "people were coming in to kill us."

All the adults in the colony were stationed along the eastern perimeter of the colony — along the road to Port Kaituma — armed with machetes they used for cutting jungle growth.

The children were placed in wooden dormitories, with acetylene tanks at the entrance.

It would only take a moment for a guard to turn the valve, light the gas and burn the buildings and the children inside them.

"Kill as many invaders as you can," the fugitives quoted Jones as saying.

"And then slit your own throats with your machetes."

Guards were stationed at close intervals to kill anyone who failed to kill himself, we were told.

The story of the rehearsal continued:

The episodes went on for six nights and seven days. Each time the settlers would be pulled away from their posts, ordered back to the central meeting hall for a long harangue from Jones and then, abruptly, he ordered back.

"We were all prepared," we were told. "Some of us believed Jonestown was going to be attacked, and the rest were too scared to question the orders."

The paranoid fear of the remaining refugees waiting with us for rescue grew during the night, and even the presence of Guyanese troops and rescue planes was not enough to reassure them.

Only the most severely wounded, like Vernon Gosney, who had left his five-year-old son behind in Jonestown when he asked Congressman Leo Ryan to help him escape, were carried off to safety.

The others were too frightened by the previous day's attack to dare attempt the flight.

They told us that Jones had warned he would have sharpshooters at Temehri International Airport outside Georgetown to shoot them down and kill them.

We had no idea what happened to them until yesterday.

In fact, we lost sight of some of them immediately after the attack.

Tommy Bogue, 17, who was wearing only red basketball shirt and trunks, sweat socks and sneakers when he climbed on the truck that took Ryan and the rest of us to the air strip, vanished into the jungle as soon as the shots were fired.

We were relieved to learn that Bogue and the rest were found near the air strip by Guyanese troops who led them to the safety they had been looking for.

By Tim Rademann, copyright, 1978, San Francisco

The dead on Port Kaituma runway: from left: Congressman Leo Ryan, Don Harris, Greg Robinson, Patricia Parks and (rear
Brown. Chronicle reporter Ron Javers was standing between Harris and Brown when the shooting started

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Dep. AD Adm. ____
AD Inv. ____
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Jonestown Became Like A Prison

The Washington Post

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — As the mental health of Peoples Temple church leader Jim Jones deteriorated rapidly over the past year, his Jonestown agricultural commune in Guyana became a nightmarish concentration camp.

Its 800 to 1,000 residents were kept prisoners of Jonestown by heavily armed guards, threats of death, and, for those caught attempting to escape, solitary confinement in a three-foot-high "punishment box," forced work on a chain gang in the tropical sun, and heavy sedation in a special drug unit.

By day Jim Jones tried to keep up the appearance of utopia, calling his shotgun-carrying security force the "learning crew" and, later, the "public service unit." He called the medical facility where troublemakers were sedated the "extra care unit."

By night he forced Jonestown's residents gathered in mass meetings to endure hours-long harangues about distant enemies, invasion threats, retaliatory assassinations and mass suicide. Once or twice a month, suicide drills were held in which everyone, surrounded by armed guards, had to drink from cups of fake poison.

This was the picture of Jonestown's final months drawn Wednesday by one of its survivors, 17-year-old Tom Bogue, who succeeded in leaving Jonestown with the fact-finding mission of Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., last Saturday only to be ambushed with the congressman and 20 others at a nearby landing strip.

Bogue was shot in the leg as he tried to hide in one of the two planes the group was about to board. He then led his sister and three other young Jonestown defectors into hiding in the dense rain forest, where they wandered for three days without food, drinking swamp water, until they reached safety back near the Port Kaituma landing strip.

Bogue said that when he first came to Jonestown fromm California with other members of his family two-and-a-half years ago, it was a pleasant place where "everyone had lots of freedom." But then, just about a year ago, Bogue said, Jim Jones began "acting crazy."

"Everybody had to be in bed by 11 o'clock and then everybody had to be up by 7 in the morning," he said. "We had to go to meetings every night," and two or three times each week those meetings dragged on late into the night as a raving Rev. Jones held forth over the loud speaker in the commune's open air pavilion.

As things grew worse, Bogue said, he asked rain forest Indians, who traded in Jonestown, to teach him ways to live in the forest. The Jonestown escapee said he learned from them how to eat and drink in the forest, how to hide from pursuers, and how to keep from getting lost.

Finally, months ago, Boque slipped off into the forest but made the mistake of returning to the public road on the way to the Guyana military outpost at Matthews Ridge, 20 miles from Jonestown. There he was caught by Jonestown security guards who were searching for him on tractors. He was returned to Jonestown with the barrel of a shotgun held against his back during the entire journey, he said.

As punishment, Bogue and a friend who also was caught escaping were shackled in chains for three weeks and forced to work in the shackles 18 hours each day chopping wood in the tropical heat.

Others who tried to escape, Bogue said, were placed in solitary confinement in a box six feet long, three feet wide and only three feet high. Each person was usually confined in the dark, hot box for a week at a time and was fed and checked by the Jonestown medical team once a day, according to Bogue.

He said one "punishment box" was in a big storage trench and the other was in a storage tent on a hill at the edge of the settlement.

Still other troublemakers were forced to dig deep storage pits and 200-foot-long ditches. "Those who didn't work," Bogue said, "didn't eat."

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Jonestown Story Grew Uglier With Each Chapter

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Nov. 25—Now, finally, the enormity of the American tragedy that one week ago shattered the tropical isolation of this tiny nation on the edge of South America is known.

More than 900 bodies, a much larger number than anyone here had feared, have been removed from Jonestown, the agricultural colony of Jim Jones' Peoples Temple cult that for nearly five years had been a little-known outpost, reachable from here only by water or air, in the dense rain forest of northwestern Guyana.

The story of these macabre deaths began with the ambush murder of a U.S. congressmen and four of those accompanying him in the jungle. It grew in increasingly ugly chapters throughout the week until the final revelation of the almost unbelievable number of bodies lying in layers throughout the colony that was to have been utopia for Jones' followers.

The bodies had bloated and rotted in the humid heat as the week dragged on. There had been diplomatic confusion over whether to bury them there or return them to the United States. There had been logistical problems for the U.S. military task force finally ordered to airlift them out of the jungle. And, just Friday, there had been the stunning shock of discovering more than twice as many dead as the estimate of 400 that everyone had lived with for almost a week.

The bodies had been bunched so tightly together that the ground could not be seen—bodies of men, women and children, bodies of blacks and whites, bodies of several hundred elderly residents of Jonestown, and bodies of small babies, many born there.

The dead had fallen roughly within a circle into which they had been crowded by armed Jonestown guards around the altar of an open-air central pavilion. It was there on so many other nights that Jones had held forth for hours—never preaching about God, but exhorting his followers to greater productivity in the fields, warning of conspiracies by enemies plotting to invade and destroy them, and then preparing them for the "white night" when they would all gather around him to meet death.

There had been many rehearsals, say the few survivors. At least once a week, sirens would awaken Jonestown late at night and the commune's 50 or so heavily armed guards would move from building to building, rounding up everyone for another meeting at the pavilion. There, Jones would tell them they were about to be attacked from the jungle and should be prepared to die.

On more than one occasion, it was a dress rehearsal in which everyone was ordered to drink a small glass of red liquid they were told contained poison. When they did not die, Jones praised their loyalty but told them the day would come when the poison would be real.

The "white night" rituals, as well as everyday life in Jonestown, were examples of group psychology run wild. Some Jonestown residents did not have the same blind faith in the increasingly paranoid Jones as his most fanatical followers, or as the many elderly whom Jones called "my seniors" and warehoused in tightly packed barracks that one of last weekend's visitors, lawyer Mark Lane, compared to "a slave ship."

Some of the doubters tried to escape. But they were tracked down by security guards and punished by forced labor on chain gangs, confinement in a three-foot-high punishment box or drugging with the sedative Thorazine, according to some of the Jonestown survivors. The drugs reportedly were administered by an idealistic young doctor from San Francisco, Lawrence Schacht, who was attracted to Jones and his work with the underprivileged in California.

Ultimately, survivors said, Schacht was to brew the mixture of Kool-Aid, cyanide, other poisons and tranquilizers administered under emotional duress and at gunpoint to the more than 900 residents of Jonestown last Saturday.

This deed, which followed the killing of Rep. Leo J. Ryan and four others, has shockedd the world. But actuers, has shocked the world. But actu- of a surprise. Those few Peoples Temple members who had managed to leave and many relatives of those who were still in the fold bad long been campaigning to have the cult exposed in the American press and Jonestown closed down by the American government.

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Tales of repression in the cult had been aired by the media in California, where Jones recruited and trained most of his followers. He leaves a larger installation in San Francisco. The State Department in Washington and the small U.S. Embassy here also had been inundated with complaints and questions from parents, siblings and children and even grown grandchildren of Jonestown residents.

But it all was to no avail. Whatever else he was, Jones was a smart, charismatic man who had a genius for group psychology, propaganda, politics and diplomacy.

When a U.S. consular officer made visits to Jonestown this year to interview residents whose relatives had expressed concern about them, none of 40 to 50 he interviewed would admit to being mistreated or confined there or expressed a desire to leave.

The officer concluded from the inspection, according to the State Department, that "the colony had made a lot of progress, that they had built buildings, they had expanded, they seemed to be going ahead. There seemed to be a lot of spirit in the colony."

Jones also retained civil liberties lawyer Charles Garry to defend him and the cult and asked the even better known Mark Lane to represent his interests when Ryan, a California Democrat, announced earlier this year he would make a fact finding trip to Jonestown.

Lane informed Ryan before the trip that "various agencies of the U. S. government have somewhat consistently oppressed the Peoples Temple," apparently referring to U.S. customs searches of some goods bound for Jonestown and recent insistence by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare that U. S. officials here deliver Social Security checks personally to retirees living in Jonestown.

"Some of the members of the Peoples Temple have had to flee from the U.S.," Lane told Ryan, "in order to experience a fuller opportunity to enjoy rights which were not available to them within the U.S."

This apparently also was the attitude of the government of Guyana toward the Americans who had settled here and turned from jungle to a thriving agricultural community nearly 4,000 acres leased for a nominal fee from the government, which had been encouraging development and cultivation of its vast unpopulated rain forest.

Only today, as the Jonestown death toll climbed over 900 and the last bodies were brought out in plastic bags for shipment in aluminum coffins to the United States, the official newspaper of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham's People's National Congress Party said in an editorial:

"That so many people should want to leave the 'comfort' of the United States to come and settle in Guyana's hinterland reflected adversely on the American' way of life. That they could have done so successfully would have caused great anger and dissatisfaction in many quarters. . ."

Burnham, who has been prime minister since before independence from Great Britain in 1966, only recently won a referendum to postpone new parliamentary elections. Peoples Temple leaders, government officials acknowledge, campaigned actively on Burnham's behalf.

Jones also helped himself here by befriending Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid, who was chosen by the Burnham government to deliver its statement to parliament Friday on the events at Jonestown and the government's response. Since founding Jonestown in early 1974, Jones had met frequently with Reid, who flew to the Jonestown site by helicopter with Burnham's wife the day after the bodies were discovered there.

There have been reports in the opposition Marxist press and accusations by opposition leaders that Burnham's government knowingly allowed Jones to evade customs on goods moving in and out of Jonestown by sea and to bring into Jonestown without permits perhaps 100 firearms, many of them automatic rifles, and large quantities of ammunition.

"With regard to the possession of guns and ammunition by persons at Jonestown," Reid said in his statestatement to parliament. "Our records show that four licenses were granted after applications had been made . . .

Even Rep. Ryan and his party of aides, lawyers, newsmen and relatives of Jonestown residents initially were impressed with what they saw when they were allowed to enter Jonestown Nov. 17 after days of tense negotiations here between Ryan and Jones conducted largely by Lane.

The buildings were numerous and substantial, the farm fields productive, the evidence of modern technology visible everywhere in the middle of a tropical jungle. And, true to Blakey's June 15 affidavit, the food was good and plentiful while the visitors were there.

But while music blared, NBC news correspondent Don Harris, a tall anchorman from San Francisco who was wandering around the periphery of the commune, was approached by individual residents who begged help to leave.

While most of his party slept Friday night on the floor of a bar six miles away in Port Kaituma, Ryan and aides, along with lawyers Lane and Garry, stayed in Jonestown interviewing those who wanted to leave.

On Saturday, after he discovered that people were asking to leave, Jones grew increasingly agitated. His responses to questions from reporters were alternately combative, conciliatory and morose. He rambled on about betrayal and death.

Then, when an entire family of six said early Saturday afternoon they wanted to leave, Jones told Garry: "They never stop. This is the finish. It's finished."

Lane, who had heard about drugs and guns at Jonestown and rumors of plans for mass suicide, said later he was worried at that point. But he thought the solution was to persuade Jones that Ryan's visit had actually gone well and would help rather than hurt Jonestown.

Saturday afternoon, when most of Ryan's party went to board the two dump trucks that would take them down the rough dirt track to the Port Kaituma airstrip, Ryan stayed back to confer with Jones, Garry and Lane. It was then that one of Jones' lieutenants, Don Sly, grabbed Ryan from behind and held a fishing knife to his neck. Lane, the 69-year-old Garry and Peoples Temple members helped wrestle Sly away, cutting his hand and splattering blood on the congressman's clothes.

"Does this change things?" asked Jones, who had watched the incident without moving.

Ryan answered that he had still seen many positive things in Jonestown but that his impression had been changed somewhat by the attack. Ryan was then given a clean suit by Peoples Temple members and he left with the others while Garry and Lane stayed with Jones.

When the group, including 14 defectors from Jonestown, reached the landing strip, Jonestown resident Larry Layton, who had pretended to be one of the defectors, boarded one of the two chartered planes apparently with the assignment to wait until Ryan's plane took off and then shoot the pilot, knocking the plane out of the sky. But Layton began shooting too soon, wounding some of the Jonestown defectors aboard the plane before being disarmed by another of them, Dale Parks.

Layton ran off the plane as four to six other Jonestown gunmen approached in a tractor-pulled trailer. They shot and killed Ryan, Harris, NBC news technician Robert Brown, San Francisco photographer Greg Robinson and Jonestown defector Patricia Parks, Dale Parks' mother. Twelve others were wounded.

When the gunmen returned to Jonestown, Jones ordered Lane and Garry put under guard.

Meanwhile, Jones apparently met with the assassins and learned that there were many survivors of the airstrip attack. The order went out to the guards to assemble everyone in Jonestown around the end of an open air pavilion where an altar was. Poison was brought out in a large soup kettle and put on the ground outside the pavilion near the altar.

"We've all got to kill ourselves," Jones told everyone, according to Odell Rhodes, one of the few Jonestown residents who witnessed the beginning of the mass suicide and escaped. One woman, Christine Miller, protested, Rhodes said, "but the crowd shouted her down."

The poison was given to the babies first, Rhodes said, which would explain why they were found Friday and today at the bottom of the piles of bodies. The armed guards, many of whom apparently also perished, prevented the reluctant from escaping. A few did escape, however, by hiding during the roundup before the suicide began. Rhodes pretended to help one of the commune's nurses look for a stethascope back at the medical building, then ran into the forest.

Lane and Garry slipped off into the forest, from which they emerged safely the next day. As they hid in the underbrush, they heard Jones shouting over the loudspeaker about the "beauty of dying . . . It's an important part of what we've done . . . Let's not fight among ourselves.' Jones finished, Lane said, by wailing, "Mother . . . mother . . . mother. . . ."

Then there was silence, Lane said, followed by a series of gunshots. Jones himself and at least two others were later found to have been shot to death, although it is not known exactly how or why.

News of the airstrip attack and the subsequent deaths in Jonestown seeped out slowly.

After Rhodes reached the outpost of Matthews Ridge, about 20 miles distant, to report the horror he had escaped at Jonestown, Guyana defense force troops moved in by foot and train.

catastrophes came, painfully, slowly,

Nothing was officially reported about the hundreds dead in Jonestown until around midnight Sunday, when an announcement was made by the Guyana Ministry of Information. By that time, this capital already was being inundated by American correspondents coming to report the ambush at the Port Kaituma airstrip.

On Monday morning, Minister of Information Shirley Field-Ridley met with the assembled reporters in what was to be the beginning of a process in which information about the twin one little piece at a time, but always with great courtesy and cordiality.

The most important piece of information disseminated that day turned out to be the most cruelly misleading —the estimates of just over 400 dead in Jonestown based on a count by Guyana defense force officers who dared not touch the bodies.

That count, compared to the estimates of 800 to 1,000 people living in Jonestown that nearly everyone present there last week agreed on, left a disturbing mystery about where hundreds more could be. Their relatives still had hopes that they might have escaped into the surrounding forest.

Only 32, including the Jonestown defectors who survived the airstrip attack turned up the first few days, no one else emerged from the forest after that, although a few more Jonestown residents have since been found on two of the commune's boats, one upriver from Port Kaitume and the other in Trinidad. A third boat is missing.

Speculation spread through this city about mass executions in the rain forest or, more hopefully, mass escapes, planned in advance, to encampments of the indigenous Amer-indians who had been befriended by some Jonestown residents.

The recovery of the dead in Jonestown meanwhile was slowed considerably by the necessity to fly them out of the Jonestown area, where landing strips could not accommodate U.S. military cargo planes. At one point, the U.S. government authorized the Guyanese government to simply bury the bodies here, but was told that Guyana wanted them out, probably so that the cumbersome process of identification and claims by relatives could take place in the United States.

The airlift finally began Tuesday, utilizing huge "Super Jolly Green Giants" helicopters of the kind that had been used to recover soldiers in Vietnam. U.S. military personnel discovered early Friday that although they had put nearly 400 bodies into plastic body bags for transport by helicopter and then cargo plane to the United States, there were still hundreds more bodies to go.

There also was a local police investigation under way. Larry Layton had been taken into custody at the Port Kaituma airstrip where survivors of the massacre handed him over to police. Two other of Jones' lieutenants, Mike Prokes and Tim Carter, were arrested by police in Port Kaituma when they were reportedly found carrying large sums of money. They were released from custody tonight.

There also were 46 other Peoples Temple members in the cult's Georgetown headquarter including a large number described as Jonestown security guards and trusted Jones aides.

It will apparently be left up to the American government ultimately to decide how to deal with the 76 Peoples Temple members still here, as well as the handful found on the two boats who are still being questioned by police, to determine which, if any, pose a danger to others among the two groups of survivors here or Peoples Temple members and their critics back in the United States.

0-19 (Rev. 1-27-78)

Peoples Temple Death Count Mounts To 775

From Press Dispatches

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Unsuspecting American soldiers clearing away Jonestown's field of death uncovered "more and more and more" bodies Friday, and the grim arithmetic showed that at least 775 men, women and children—twice as many as first thought—died in the mass suicide-murder, U.S. officials reported.

Many of the newly discovered bodies were those of children hidden beneath the corpses of their parents, U.S. Embassy officials said. They said the toll might continue to rise as new victims are found.

The discovery was the tragic solution to a puzzle that had baffled investigators since the ritualistic deaths first came to light last Sunday, when about 400 bodies were reported found. It was thought then that hundreds of residents of the Peoples Temple camp must have fled into the surrounding jungle rather than take poison with the rest of the Rev. Jim Jones' fanatical followers.

A Guyanese government leader said Friday that, based on the death toll of 775, about 100 sect members remain unaccounted for.

A U.S. Embassy source explained that it was not until Friday morning, after three days of working at the camp, that military search teams realized bodies in one area were stacked in "several layers."

The soldiers began clearing out what they thought would be the final group of bodies, said Air Force Capt. John Moscatelli. "We got into an area on a different side of the temple and found more and more bodies . . . and we found more and more and more." The "temple" apparently refers to the camp's central pavilion.

"We understand . . . there were a lot of children," said Embassy spokeswoman Patricia Moser. "Many children were found under the bodies of their parents and were not counted originally."

Moscatelli said smaller adults also lay under the bodies of larger adults, and he said as far as can be determined, the newly found victims, like those counted earlier, died by swallowing poison doled out by Jones' medical team.

How could some 360 bodies have been overlooked?

"When we were out there originally, there were bodies under bodies as we were working, but we were working on a total estimated count," Moscatelli said. "That count had been approximately 410 and we figured there may be a few more hidden under other bodies."

The embassy source, who asked not to be identified, said the original count was made by Guyanese authorities and that the American troops did not make their own estimate once they arrived.

The source said no bodies were found outside the camp's main clearing. Moscatelli said there were "no indications" of any additional survivors in the nearby jungle. About 30 cultists who fled during the communal self-destruction ceremony have since emerged from the wilderness.

But Guyanese Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid said official records indicate that 103 sect members remain unaccounted for in Guyana. He told Parliament a "diligent search," with U.S. help, was being conducted, and that some of these missing may have been traveling inside the country at the time of the murder-suicide.

Moscatelli said that as of 1 p.m. local time Friday, 485 bodies had been flown by helicopter the 150 miles from Jonestown southeast to the Georgetown airport, 20 were in body bags at Jonestown, 270 others were counted at the camp and "more may be expected to be found."

The bodies were being loaded onto Air Force transports and flown to Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Jones called his bizarre congregation to its final gathering last Saturday after members of the sect ambushed and killed Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four members of his group, which had come here to investigate allegations of abuse of sect members. The Ryan party was trying to escort some disenchanted Jonestown residents from the area.

Three suspects are being held in connection with that attack.

At the camp meeting, Jones told residents the time had come for them to die, said sect member Odell Rhodes, an eyewitness to the suicide ritual.

Rhodes said the infants and children were the first to die.

They were led—many crying—to a table at the steamy assembly hall, where the commune nurse squirted cyanide

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down their throats with a syringe and then gave them a grape Kool-Aid mixture for a chaser.

"The first adult to die was a young woman who went up with a baby in her arms about 18 months old and had the poison shot down her throat, walked into a field and sat down and died," Rhodes said.

Many of the deaths were agonizing, Rhodes said, with victims going into foaming convulsions.

He said after the children were given the lethal potion, the adults marched past the nurse for their fatal dose.

They stood around talking in clusters and family groups while waiting for the poison to act, Rhodes said. Armed security guards ringed the open-air assembly hall.

As the assembly began to get panicky, Jones, seated in an armchair, shouted through a loudspeaker: "You must die with dignity." The cult leader was "calm, not excited," he said.

Rhodes said it took "4 to 5 minutes" for the poison to kill.

He said some resisted but were forced to swallow the poison.

The 36-year-old Detroit native, who taught crafts at the camp, said one woman named Christine Miller balked at taking the poison and Jones' followers shouted abuse at her, calling her a "traitor."

"She was still alive when I left, and I think she probably would have resisted," he said.

Rhodes said most members took the cyanide voluntarily. He said earlier this week, however, that Jones posted a cordon of armed men around the pavilion where the suicide meeting was held.

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Death Toll in Jonestown Climbs to 775

'Smaller Bodies Found Under Larger . . .'

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Nov. 24— U.S. military personnel, finding "smaller bodies under larger bodies and children under those," discovered today that as many as 775 Americans died in Jonestown last Saturday when cult leader Jim Jones led them to commit suicide.

A week-old estimate of just over 400 bodies, apparently based only on a rough count made by the Guyanese authorities, who were the first to reach the death scene last weekend and did not move the bodies, was "found to be seriously in error" today, according to a U.S. spokesman. When U.S. military personnel packing the dead in plastic bags neared 400, they realized there were many more to go.

"The way all this happened was that nobody [in the U.S. military task force] stopped to count" when they reached Jonestown early this week, said another U.S. official. "But as they bagged the bodies, they noticed the pile wasn't going down."

"We simply began to discover more and more and more bodies," said Air Force Capt. John J. Moscatelli, spokesman for the U.S. military task force here.

"Under adults we found smaller adults and children, and more small babies than anticipated."

Most of the previously overlooked bodies were found at the bottom of what turned out to be a three- and four-deep pile off to the side of the open-air pavilion. There Jones supervised the distribution of the poisoned Kool-Aid to followers herded around him, encircled by armed guards. Jones himself was later found shot to death at the front of the pavilion.

Today's unexpected discovery was a swift, shocking blow to both U.S. authorities and relatives of Peoples Temple church members that both doubled the death toll at Jonestown and snuffed out hope that many more survivors might be found.

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JONESTOWN, From A1

Just yesterday, U.S. officials here raised doubts whether there really were 300 to 400 more Jonestown residents who had fled into the surrounding forest.

"You don't know whether to be relived or horrified," said U.S. Consul Douglas Ellis, who has been the liaison between the embassy here and the 32 known survivors of Jonestown as well as relatives of Jonestown residents seeking to discover whether their loved ones are dead or alive.

"It appears that there may not be anybody to search for and rescue."

All week long, officials had agonized over the mystery of what had happened to several hundred Jonestown residents apparently not counted in the original estimate of about 400 dead. U.S. military helicopters were scheduled to begin flying over the dense rain forest surrounding Jonestown broadcasting loudspeaker appeals to any survivors who might have fled there.

Now, however, the numbers that had been in contention here all week appeared to be adding up.

The Guyanese government said today that its records showed 950 Peoples Temple church members had entered Guyana since the Jonestown agricultural commune was founded five years ago.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy today examined and photocopied 868 U.S. passports the Guyanese authorities had recovered in Jonestown. The copies will be sent to Washington for a determination of how many persons they cover. That number could be more than 868 because some children may have traveled on parents' passports, and others have been born in Jonestown. Markers in a small cemetery found in Jonestown indicate that only about 10 residents died there before last weekend.

Against that evidence are these numbers:

- As many as 775 bodies were counted in Jonestown by this afternoon.
- Four other Peoples Temple church members were killed inside the Georgetown headquarters Saturday night, and one defector from the commune was shot to death along with Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and three newsmen after they left Jonestown earlier Saturday.
- Thirty-two other Jonestown residents who escaped Saturday's violence. Some of them left with Ryan's group and survived the ambush at the Port Kaituma landing strip near Jonestown, and others slipped out of Jonestown before and during the forced mass suicide.
- Forty-six other Peoples Temple members stil under armed guard and house arrest inside the Georgetown headquarters house. They include Jim Jones' son and top lieutenant, Steve Jones, and other members of the Jonestown basketball team, which was in Georgetown playing the Guyanese national team last weekend.

According to Guyanese police sources, some cult members now in that house are being investigated for the murder of Peoples Temple member and house resident Sharon Amos Harris and her three children, who were found in the Georgetown house Saturday night with their throats slashed. Survivors from Jonestown have told authorities that members of the basketball team were trained sharp-shooting security guards who practiced with firearms in the forest around Jonestown.

- Four other Jonestown residents found aboard the cult's coastal freighter, the Albatross, when it landed in Trinidad this week after leaving Guyana well before last weekend's violence. Those four are being temporarily held by Trinidad authorities, who are in communication with Guyana.
- Two or three more Jonestown residents reportedly found by a Guyana Defense Force patrol boat aboard the cult's fishing boat, the Cudjoe, three days ago just 20 miles north of its Port Kaituma dock. They are being questioned by police here. A third boat used by the Jonestown commune, named the Marcellene after Jim Jones' wife, is still missing.

These numbers make a total of between 850 and 900 Peoples Temple members now accounted for in Guyana.

The only remaining lead on more possible survivors from Jonestown is a report from a Venezuelan law enforcement officer here that the pilot of a Venezuelan military plane patrolling its disputed border with Guyana saw what appeared to be 30 or 40 people heading west toward the border from the rain forest around Jonestown and Port Kaituma. Guyanese government spokesmen denied knowledge of such a report.

Meanwhile the grim airlift of bodies from Jonestown continued at a brisk pace. By midday 485 bodies had been taken in plastic body bags by helicopter from Jonestown to Timehri International Airport, where they were transferred to aluminum coffins and put onto military cargo planes bound for the U.S. Air Force base in Dover, Del.

Capt. Moscatelli, the American military task force spokesman, pointed out tonight that the already unpleasant task of removing bodies that have been rotting under the tropical sun for almost a week now has been doubled by today's discovery.

"Our job there [in Jonestown] is very basic," Moscatelli said. "We have body bags. We separate the bodies from the stacks. We put them in body bags and put the body bags on a helicopter out." He said more body bags are being brought in from the United States.

No American official was involved in the original body count, Moscatelli said, and the Guyana Defense Force officers who made the first estimate were apparently unable to see, without touching the bodies, the many bodies beneath the top layer in the area on the side of the Pavillion where so many more bodies have been found.

"We estimate that there will be

about 750 to 780 bodies that we will remove from Jonestown," he said. "That is not a hard and fast figure yet, but from the recount today we do not think there will be any dramatic change like the one from the original estimate."

Moscatelli added that there were "no indications" that there were anymore gunshot victims among the newly discovered bodies, leaving just three people, Jim Jones and two others known to have been shot to death during the forced mass suicide ritual.

Guyanese law normally requires an autopsy be performed on anyone who dies here before their body leaves the country, but the government has waived the requirement in this case to speed the removal of these bodies from the country.

It is known that there were several Guyanese children who had been adopted by Peoples Temple members who were living in Jonestown. They apparently have not yet been identified among the dead. Moscatelli said tonight that it was likely that all the bodies would be moved to the United States before the identifications of the Guyanese children could be made. He said final disposition of the remains of any Guyanese citizens who died at Jonestown would be decided by the government of Guyana.

This afternoon, the government of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham made its first public report to the Guyanese people about the Jonestown affair. Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid delivered the report in a 15-minute statement to Parliament that was broadcast across the country by the Guyanese Broadcasting Service.

Reid's address, in the crowded chamber of the 150-year-old pink and white neoclassical parliament building was essentially a chronological listing of the steps the government took after the Jonestown violence occurred. Nothing new was revealed.

Reid, a large black man with a full grey beard, who, like the 53 members of the National Assembly wore an open-necked shirt and no coat in the tropical heat, also stated his nation's "deep regret and sympathy" to the American people for the tragedy that occurred at Jonestown.

He pointedly indicated throughout his statement that he believed his government had acted as quickly as possible at every stage of the emergency.

For example, he said that after the ambush of Ryan's party at the Port Kaituma airstrip, "one of the more seriously injured persons was conveyed that very evening to the hospital in Georgetown where a medical team was on standby and the injured person received immediate attention. Others were flown out the following day."

Later, he pointed out that, after the first report was received of a possible mass murder or suicide at Jonestown, the Guyanese Defense Force mobilized troops as quickly as possible at Matthews Ridge, 20 miles away, and "moved by foot and train to Port Kaituma and then to Jonestown Sunday on foot.

"It should be noted that all this was done under very adverse conditions," Reid said, explaining that the terrain was very rough and rain was falling heavily.

Reid ended his address by saying that he wished to "reiterate our deepest sympathy to all who are grieving. We mourn with all of them."

After finishing, Reid strode hurriedly off the floor, pushing his way through reporters and bystanders. He was followed by catcalls from members of the opposition Peoples Progressive Party, whose acting leader tried to insist that Reid answer questions.

When the speaker of the house ruled that, for technical reasons, the Jonestown matter could not be discussed on the floor, cries of "Shame, shame," and "cover up" rang out.

Some members of the opposition party and its newspaper here have raised questions about the apparently close relationship between Ptolemy Reid in particular and the Burnham government generally with Jim Jones. Jones and Reid met on several occasions and the Burnham government has been accused here of looking the other way when the Jonestown commune, using its three boats, allegedly shipped out produce and brought in supplies without going through customs.

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250 children among 900 Jonestown victims

Compiled from UPI dispatches

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — They killed the babies first.

Mothers brought their infants to the altar of death, cradled in their arms. Children were led by the hand. Nurses moved from one trusting child to another, squirting cyanide down their throats with syringes while their parents looked on.

Near the altar the Rev. Jim Jones, 46, sat on a throne - like chair on a platform, presiding calmly over this bizarre ceremony of doom.

Within moments convulsions began to wrack the tiny bodies of the children, white foam frothing from their lips.

The children began to cry, small voices wailing in a wilderness of murderous suicidal mania. They trembled, fear in their eyes. For one brief moment, panic swept the disciples of the People's Temple.

Jim Jones sensed it. He leaped to his feet, exhorting, shouting. "We must die with dignity."

As if by Godlike command, all doubt vanished and as the last rays of sun filtered through the Guyanese jungles, hundreds of followers of Jim Jones drank poison and died in satanic ritual.

Most were black.

Most were Californians.

They numbered about 915 — including an estimate of about 260 children.

"The first adult to die was a young woman who went up with a baby in her arms, had the poison shot down her throat, walked into a field and sat down and died," said Odell Rhodes, the first known living witness of the mass suicide.

That last hour is almost impossible to visualize. Rhodes, 36, a recovered drug addict with a long arrest record in Detroit, provided a rambling account:

"They (the medical teams) took equipment into a tent, used as a library and school, large syringes minus the needles, plastic containers with the poison."

The poison was cyanide and contained tranquilizers and painkillers to ease the agony of the deadly poison. It was washed down with grape Kool - Aid.

"They would draw an amount in the syringes and administer it by simply squirting it in people's mouths.

"Then they would give them a small drink of punch to wash it down.

"Many of the children volunteered to take the poison. I can't say why most people were found face down. They were falling different ways."

"Then the children started to cry."

Rhodes said he escaped when he went with a nurse to find a stethoscope.

"I went out the back door and crawled under a building," he said.

Most of the disciples went into the main auditorium to die. At the back of the hall, mounted on a stage, was a plaque in black. It read: "Love One Another."

Another survivor of the killings, Stanley Clayton, 25, said helpless cult members were surrounded by armed guards and forced to take poison.

While some took the poison voluntarily, Clayton said, hundreds had to be forced. Sometimes the poison

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was administered intravenously by the "nurses" and a communal "doctor."

Throughout the ordeal, Clayton said, Jones urged followers to hurry up, referring to the poison potion as "the last and only drink."

As his followers died at his feet, Clayton quoted Jones as saying:

"I'll see you in the next life. I'm finally going to my rest. We'll finally be at peace."

Clayton said Jones first called his followers together and told them Rep. Ryan, D. - Calif., and members of his party had been killed.

He then said, "Who is against taking their own life?"

Clayton said one woman identified as Christine Miller told Jones, "I have a right to do with my life what I want and you have no right to take my life away from me."

"I can't leave you behind," Jones told the woman. "The GDF (Guyanese Defense Force) will torture you. They will castrate you. They will shoot you after they question you. I can't leave any member of my family behind."

Clayton said the entire group was then surrounded by dozens of guards armed with pistols, rifles and crossbows.

As hundreds of persons balked at the "final drink," Clayton said, Jones left his chair accompanied by guards to personally pull people toward the poison pots.

When only about 100 commune members were left alive, Clayton — a member of the religious sect for the last seven years — decided to escape.

"I figured if I was going to die, I would die with a bullet in the back of my head. I was not going to commit suicide."

Clayton said he began poking bodies to convince guards he was seeking survivors. He said he worked his way to a large tent in front of the podium and told a guard, "Well, I'm getting ready to go (die)."

The guard embraced him, Clayton said, and turned away. Clayton said he then dived under the tent, crawled through to the other side and ran into the jungle.

Several hours later, he said, he heard shots coming from the camp and guessed the guards were killing those who survived the poison.

Not since the Nazi death camps of World War II has a scene so stunned the world.

Fields covered with the dead, many lying in embrace, surrounded the People's Temple, a ramshackle wooden structure in the center of the commune — victims of one of the most awesome mass suicides in history.

Within the space of a few minutes at dusk on Saturday, Nov. 18, the lexicon of history's horrors had to be expanded to include: Jonestown.

For 14 months Jones and his cult lived in the beautiful jungle wilderness that is Guyana, his Temple "dedicated against the evils of racism, hunger and injustice."

Then came danger.

Rep. Leo Ryan, D - Calif., announced he would go to see the People's Temple first hand to investigate charges by voters that Jones was holding members against their will.

Ryan and his party spent a day at the commune. He found disciples who wanted to leave.

"They will never make it to the United States," Jones said. Then came the death knell. "We will all commit suicide."

Jones had ordered the "hit squad" to attack Ryan and his party of defectors at the Port Kaituma air strip. The gunmen attacked the plane with precision and returned to headquarters.

Among those who told Ryan he wanted to leave was Gerald Parks, 46. He wanted to take his family. Another was Larry Layton.

As they prepared to leave the commune with the defectors, Ryan and his party ran into trouble. One of the disciples grapped the California Congressman and held a knife to his throat.

Lawyer Mark Lane, who with attorney Charles Garry represented the People's Temple, intervened and Jones finally ordered Ryan released.

But at the airstrip, death waited.

As the party was about to board one of two light planes to take them back to Georgetown, Layton pulled a pistol and opened fire. From the side of the runway a tractor - trailer moved into gear and a group of six armed men opened fire on the whole group

Ryan, 53, NBC television reporter Don Harris, 42; NBC cameraman Robert Brown, 36, both from Los Angeles; Gregory Robinson, a photographer for the San Francisco Examiner, and Park's wife, 45, a cult member who was trying to escape, all were killed.

But the horror of the ambush was only a prelude of what was to come.

Jones called his council together and made the announcement that the entire commune was to commit suicide. One young woman protested.

"Traitor! Traitor! the others shouted.

For some months Jones had put his disciples through a mass suicide drill.

Now was the time for the real thing.

Jones called the commune physician, Dr. Larry Schacht of Houston, Tex., and told him to prepare the cyanide poison.

Schacht emptied his medicine chest into a huge tub which he then filled with grape - flavored Kool Aid. He gave what was left of the cyanide to the nurses to administer to the children.

One after another, the disciples of Jim Jones drank the poison.

Within four or five minutes after drinking the devil's brew, each died. Most lay face down. Men and women were found in final embraces, Friends had their arms around one another's backs. One couple had placed their small boy between them and the three died together, their arms entwined.

Bodies were piled on bodies. Here and there arms and legs protruded upward in grotesque positions.

One 76 - year - old woman, Hyacinth Thrush, slept through it all and survived.

When the first Guyanan troops entered Jonestown, they counted 409 corpses lying around the commune. But they didn't disturb the bodies and look underneath.

The shock and horror struck again five days later when U.S. officials announced the number of dead would be more than double that figure.

The question was why.

"He thought that if the Parks (family of defectors) were allowed to leave and got away with it, others would come from the United States and take away their family members," Rhodes said.

"Jones couldn't see his organization break up. He had a tremendous ego."

But for those who had escaped from Jones' power before the Jonestown horror, fear still remained.

Grace Stoen, a former member whose child was among the dead, and others swear that Jones had formed an assassination squad charged with murdering anyone who left the commune.

San Francisco Police Chief Charles Gain conceded, "We have a knowledge of a purported hit squad and a hit list."

Neva Sly, another ex-men... whose husband had put the knife to Ryan's throat in Jo...stown, said she is certain he is now one of Jones' "angels," as the hit team is called.

"My main plea is to the assassination squad," she said. "Please stop! People have a right to their beliefs."

For others, Jones' death was the final undoing of evil incarnate.

Marjorie Terry said her daughter-in-law and four grandchildren were at Jones' Temple at the time of the Jonestown suicides.

"He was a prophet of the devil," she said.

"He was the anti-Christ," her husband added.

0-19 (Rev. 1-27-78)

Toll Reaches 910 As U.S. Clears Jonestown Camp

By Fred Barbash
Washington Post Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Nov. 25—U.S. servicemen completed the grisly task of removing bodies from Jonestown today, discovering that at least 910 persons died last Saturday when cult leader Jim Jones led them in a mass suicide ritual.

The higher death toll was described as a tentative final count.

"It should be pretty close," Capt. John J. Moscatelli, the U.S. military spokesman, said as the final corpse-laden helicopter flew out of here this afternoon.

Parts of the campsite were in near ruin. Cabins that housed some of the victims appeared to have been looted. The green throne-like chair that Peoples Temple leader Jones once occupied was toppled. His cottage was ransacked with papers strewn throughout.

Pathetic remnants of life remained: an infant's doll lying in the dirt, a set of children's swings, empty shoes on the stairs leading to cottages, tee shirts, blue jeans and lingerie hung out for drying, and a lone dog wandering the scene forlornly.

The pool of reporters who visited also found a letter addressed to the sister of one of the residents but never mailed.

"I do miss the laughing times we had," it said. But "I have never been happier in my whole life. We are so very blessed."

With the Jonestown campsite cleared of all bodies, authorities here said that there was no evidence of any massive escape into the surrounding forest, a possibility that had remained a dim hope among survivors and relatives. There was no evidence that force was used on the newly discovered victims, according to spokesmen.

Exhausted U.S. soldiers, after five days of work among bloated bodies and vermin that began to infest the campsite, were preparing this afternoon to conclude their mission to Guyana.

Maj. Tim Hickman, a U.S. Army official on the scene, described what he saw during the cleanup operation.

"From what I observed, the people when they committed suicide would line up in nice neat little circles, children in front of them, and as they died, they folded into the interior of the circle.

"There were mounds of people and

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as we pulled out the circle's cover more and more people under the mound."

"It was a disgusting operation," Hickman said.

Officials on the scene said they believed that looting had indeed occurred. They blamed it on Guyanese citizens living in the vicinity. But while clothing was apparently taken, the looters left untouched tape recorders, typewriters and other valuable items owned by the Americans.

The bodies blanketed the campsite in layers three deep in some places, Moscatelli said. The soldiers, protected by surgical masks and rubber gloves, would remove one body only to discover another under that and still another under that. That is why the count kept changing, he said.

Moscatelli said he hoped the figure of 910—130 higher than yesterday's count—would be final.

The total more than accounts for the 915 Peoples Temple cultists Guyanese officials believed were living in their country, though no one seemed certain of the true number.

By current estimates, no more than 32 of the men, women, children and babies living at Jonestown escaped last week's violence.

Most are thought to have perished in the mass ritual suicide that followed a cult ambush on an inspection party led by Rep. Leo Ryan (D-Calif.) as it was preparing to leave from a nearby airstrip. Most took poison; at least three, including the cult leader Jones, reportedly died of gunshot wounds.

In addition, there have been persistent but unconfirmed stories that still others who may have resisted suicide were shot by cult loyalists.

At the cult's Gebrgetown headquarters, four bodies with their throats slit were found on the same night in an apparently related act of violence timed with the Jonestown events. Authorities initially thought these four had committed suicide.

But today, a 43-year-old resident of the headquarters house, who was described by acquaintances as a "simple and uneducated man who would do anything he was told," was charged with murder in connection with the four deaths.

Charles Edward Beikman, originally of Indianapolis, Ind., was arraigned in court on charges stemming from the death of Sharon Amos Harris, 42, and her three children aged 21, 9 and 11. He was also charged with the attempted murder of another resident of the house, Stephanie Jones, believed to be about 11 years old and in relation to Jim Jones.

Beikman, a blond stocky man about five-feet-five inches tall and unshaven, stood silently as he heard the charges which could result in his hanging.

About 46 cult members were in the small, two story stucco house in Georgetown at the time of the tragedy, local authorities say.

According to surviving cultists, the residents housed there were those most trusted by "Bishop" Jones, as he was known to the Guyanese. Only they could be counted on not to flee the cult and report to the outside world survivors said.

Residents of Jonestown, most of whom came to Guyana believing the camp to be a "tropical paradise," were often greeted at the gates by armed guards when they arrived and kept there through a variety of coercive measures, according to survivors.

All of the headquarters residents including Jones' son, Steven, 19, have been unde rheavy armed guard since the deaths last week and barred from leaving the house by Guyanese officials. During the arraignment today, their lawyer here complained that they felt they were "under siege."

Many of those inside are considered material witnesses to the four murders and are also believed to have knowledge of events that occurred 120 miles away at Jonestown. In addition, many of the survivors here and in the United States say they are living in fear of retribution from these residents if and when they are released.

Some of the Jonestown refugees here have been literally hiding in their own guarded hotel rooms in fear of the remaining Jones adherents.

The survivors have been awaiting word from the Guyanese government that they are no longer needed as witnesses and may return to the United States to begin new lives.

Meanwhile, military helicopters continued to search the sparsely inhabited territory around Jonestown with loud speakers calling forlornly into the rain forest for any other survivors of the suicide ritual.

Ground searches of the area have failed to discover survivors or bodies outside the campsite Moscatelli reported.

Because the original number of dead, 400, was so distant from the estimated number of Jonestown residents, authorities thought many might have fled into the forest.

"There's no indication now that there were any massive number of survivors," the captain said. "There's no indication that there was a mass escape or egress. And there's no evidence that anything but poison killed" most of the Jonestown residents.

Suspect for murder for 4 members & attempted murder

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Guyana death toll now at 900

Georgetown, Guyana (Combined Dispatches)—The death toll in the mass suicide-murder of cultists at Jonestown rose to 900 yesterday as American GIs in surgical masks and rubber gloves continued the grisly task of recovering decayed bodies.

The U.S. Embassy here said "the current estimate of the total number (of dead) is approximately 900. This is not a final figure."

The count leaped from 408 to at least 775 of riday, when searchers first realized that many bodies had been stacked on top of each other.

Then, yesterday, the State Department team of Jonestown, headquarters of the Peoples Temple cult, reported that about 9000 bodies had been counted. Jonestown is 150 miles northwest of Georgetown, the Guyanes capital.

Corpses lying three deep

Officials explained that soldiers were still finding corpses of children and small adults lying three deep under other victims.

Air Force Capt. John oscatelli, spokesman for the U.S. joint task force in Guyana, has explained that an initial body count of 408 was provided by the Guyanese government. He said that once American soldiers began to carry out the dead they realized that the estimate was far too low.

Moscatelli said it was possible that someone had rearranged the bodies. There were blankets between some layers of bodies. But he declined to elaborate.

Thirty-two survivors have emerged from the jungle around the agricultural settlement after the bizarre death rite on Nov. 18. More than 45 others were at the temple's Georgetown headquarters at the time.

Searches have produced no indication that others escaped into the dense jungle surrounding Jonestown. A U.S. helicopter flew along a trail as far as the Venezuela border yesterday in case some had made it that far. The helicopter landed but residents told crewmen that no Americans had been seen.

The U.S. taks force in Jonestown had to call for more shipments of plastic body bags and aluminum coffins to deal with the piles of corpses around the commune's open-air pavilion. The stench was overpowering.

It was at the pavilion that the ritual suicide began after Jones ordered the death of Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and others accompanying him on an investigative mission. Ryan four newsmen and a defecting member of the cult were shot to death.

Yesterday, stereo equipment and musical instruments were still strewn about the platform where Jones had stood.

Also on the platform was the microphone Jones had used in the past to amplify the cries of those cultists being beaten unmercifully for some wrong they had committed.

Leaders of the Army teams said it appeared that almost all of the victims had died from cyanide poison. The exceptions were Jones, his mistress and one other person, all of whom were killed by gunshot wounds and several persons with throats slashed.

Seven newsmen flew to Port Kaltuma and walked along a muddy road into the Jonestown death camp Friday. Including UPI correspondent Nigel Cumberbatch, who reported that carcasses of numerous doos were among the human remains still sprawled in the commune.

Like a ghost town.

"It looked lide a ghost town," Cumberbatch said. "The only things living were the flowers in the outdoor pavilion and the U.S. soldiers doing their job—that of packing up the remains.

Cumberbatch also reported incidents of looting by Guyanese living in the area of the commune.

"On the way in," he said, "several people, both those of African origin and some American Indians, were coming out with bottles and other materials Some of these people had stolen the stuff from the commune," Cumberbatch said.

The bodies were spread over an area approximately 80 by 110 yards, and to get near then "we had to use masks. It was a sad scene, certainly a sad scene."

Cumberbatch and others wxplored the area, which had been off limits to most newsmen since the mass suicide-murder of one week ago.

"These people were quite self-sufficient," Cumberbatch said, adding they had built their own soap factory and even had closed circuit television.

Television is something that the rest of Guyana does not yet have.

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Only The Horror Lives On In Jim Jones' Village

By Jon Nordheimer
The New York Times

JONESTOWN, Guyana — The name is as plain as hometown America. Yet it will forever evoke the dread of a place of horror.

For seven days, as the world watched, it was a village of the dead. For following generations it will remain a haunting memory of a field of pain, of a people gone mad, of dreams gone wrong.

The village died with its inhabitants as surely as if it had been poisoned, too. But Monday some things blindly continued to run, powered by the commune's generator. A communications dish rotated on a short tower on one edge of the commune, sending impulses no one heard into electronic gear no one attended.

In the open-air pavilion where the poison was passed out, fluorescent lights burned in the daytime, erasing shadows from the hard-caked mud floor where the bodies had dropped. A hanging plant drooped with thirst.

In an outdoor playground, a swing was rocked gently by a breeze, not by the children of Jonestown. They are dead.

Across the compound at the medical center, which listed the office of "Laurence Schacht M.D.—By Appointment," sandwiches dried and curled on a large tray, beside a much larger drum cut in half to serve as a pot, like the one the doctor used to serve the poison to the men, women and children of the commune.

The 909 bodies have been removed for days now, but the horror of Jonestown remains. And the dead still talk to the world in letters of self-criticism addressed to Jim Jones.

Pain and death are the themes of these letters, scattered by the wind that blows off the jungle treetops and soothes the open wound of the village. Other papers and books, mostly socialist tracts, lie in the open, the pages riffled by the breeze and already starting to turn brown. The words of self-criticism are like marks of flagellation filled with salt.

"It is true one such deserved to die — and I could not contend against it," one member of the commune named Jim had written. "Death would be a mighty flimsy penalty to impose on such a person."

Outside the pavilion, along a brown ditch filled with milky water, a baby doll in soiled yellow diapers pantomimes the scene that shocked the world. The doll rests on its side, its head turned grotesquely upward, staring with blank eyes at the sky.

The ground is heavy with mud and gouged by bladed tractor tires. A ditch angles off to one side, cratered with water and slime. One turns away from the offense. It was here they say they found the children, clutched in the arms of parents who gave life and took it.

At the house where Jim Jones lived, the looters and the police have torn the place apart, dumping his papers and books onto the screened porch. Inside the house is a small refrigerator, about three feet high. The door rack inside is so filled with drugs that not another single pill container could be jammed into it. An oxygen bottle is by the bed.

The guards at Jonestown will remain on duty for awhile, perhaps weeks, as the investigation into the madness of Nov. 18 continues. But soon Jonestown will be left alone to die.

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The Wall Street Journal ____
The Atlanta Constitution 12A
The Los Angeles Times ____

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Grim harvest of cult rite--910

By MARTIN P. HOUSEMAN
United Press International

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (UPI) — U.S. Army burial teams Saturday put the last of at least 910 bodies from the Peoples Temple in Jonestown on a helicopter and broke into a clapping, hand-slapping celebration of the end of their grim task almost one week to the hour from one of history's most bizarre suicide rites.

"The last of the bodies has been removed," the U.S. Embassy announced at 5:45 p.m. EST.

Soldiers at Port Kaituma put the final body on a Jolly Green Giant helicopter and, still wearing their combat helmets and surgical masks, began shaking and slapping one another's hands and clapping in a frenzy of relief that their search for corpses was over.

A U.S. source in Georgetown put the number for those who died in the mass suicide at 910 and said it could go even highter. A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Georgetown said earlier the death count had reached about 900 but "this is not the final figure."

The U.S. Embassy said all U.S. military men would evacuate the jungle commune Saturday night and Guyanese police move in and take up posts to guard the buildings.

One embassy official, asked if more helicopter searches for possible survivors would be made over the dense rain forest surrounding the colony, said only: "I suppose we will have to review that now."

The remark appeared to indicate U.S. authorities now believe most if not all inhabitants have been accounted for, dead or alive.

The recovery operation took about three days, exceeding early expectations as the initial body count more than doubled by the time the graves registration teams finished their task at the Rev. Jim Jones' jungle commune.

There were still discrepancies in the figures. Guyanese officials had turned over 803 American passports to the U.S. Embassy and re-

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San Juan Star

San Juan,

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ported that 915 members of the California sect had registered with Guyanese immigration. Officials said 39 of the cult members survived the mass suicide.

An Embassy spokeswoman said, "the current estimate of the total number is approximately 900. This is not a final figure."

The findings dispelled rumors that hundreds of the members of the fanatical sect had fled into the jungle to escape death. A U.S. helicopter flew along a trail as far as the Venezuela border Saturday in the faint hope some may have gone there. The helicopter landed and crewmen were told no Americans had been seen.

The U.S. task force had to call for more shipments of plastic body bags and aluminum coffins to deal with the piles of corpses, some of them stacked three deep around the commune's open-air pavilion, 150 miles northwest of Georgetown.

By noon Saturday, 532 bodies had been bagged and flown back to the United States.

Seven newsmen flew to Port Kaituma and walked along a muddy road into the Jonestown death camp Friday, including UPI correspondent Nigel Cumberbach and UPI photographer Les Sintay.

Cumberbatch reported that bodies of numerous dogs were strewn among the human remains still sprawled in the commune where army trucks were hauling in bodies to be flown by helicopter to Georgetown and then to Dover Air Force Base, Del.

The stench was almost unbearable and Army military men wore green gauze masks as they went about the grim business of putting the bodies into green plastic body bags.

"I spent 34 months in Vietnam," one American officer said, "and this is the worst I've ever seen."

The ritual suicide began at sundown a week ago Saturday at the commune's open air auditorium fashioned from tree trunks with a crude tin roof over a stage holding the throne-like chair from which the Rev. Jim Jones exhorted his followers to "die with dignity."

Near the chair was a red lettered slogan "Love One Another."

Still strewn about the stage were stereo equipment and musical instruments including electric guitars which had once throbbed with music to fill Jones' followers with religious fervor.

Also on the platform was the microphone Jones had used in the past to amplify the cries of those cultists being beaten unmercifully for some wrong they had committed, the same microphone he used to encourage his flock to kill themselves with a mixture of Kool-Aid and cyanide.

Army men said almost all of the victims found were dead from poison drunk from the temple vat or squirted down their throats. The few exceptions were Jones, his mistress, one other person who were killed by gunshot wounds.

Jones had believed in a new world of his own making, and somehow it fell apart. This was reflected in the message on a large sign over the stage of the commune's open air auditorium: "Those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it."

A member of the sect, Charles Edward Beikman, 43, of Indianapolis, Ind., was charged Saturday in Georgetown's magistrate court with four counts of murder in the throat-cut slayings of another cult member and her three children.

The victims were Mrs. Sharon Amos and her three children who had been living at the People's Temple headquarters in Georgetown. Previously Guyanese authorities said they thought she had cut the throats of her three children and then her own.

Beikman was one of 46 sect members who have been held at the Temple headquarters under house arrest since the suicides and murders.

Five survivors of the death communion rite were being held at Criminal Investigation Department headquarters in Georgetown and one of them, Larry Layton, 33, of San Francisco, has been charged with murder in the firearms slaying of Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four other Americans in a massacre at Port Kaituma airport that preceded the suicide ritual.

"It looked like a ghost town," Cumberbatch said."The only things living were the flowers in the outdoor pavilion and the U.S. soldiers doing their job — that of packing up the remains.

Cumberbatch also reported incidents of looting by Guyanaese living in the area of the commune.

"On our way in," he said, "several people, both those of African origin and some Amerindians, were coming out with bottles and other materials. Some of these people had stolen the stuff from the commune," Cumberbatch said.

The bodies were spread over an area approximalty 80 by 110 yards, and to get near them "we had to use masks. It was a sad scene, certainly a sad scene."

Cumberbatch and Sintay explored the area, which had been off limits to most newsmen since the mass suicide of one week ago.

"These people were quite self-sufficient," Cumberbatch said, adding they had built their own soap factory and even had closed-circuit television.

Television is something that the rest of Guyana does not yet have.

The arduous task of removing more than 900 bodies from the Guyana jungle took its toll on a member of the U.S. military body recovery team Saturday. This soldier feels the strain as a helicopter loaded with bodies prepares to leave Jonestown. (UPI photo)

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Reprise of the Jones-cult tragedy

The bizarre end of the Guyana commune

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 2 & #

Outlook Secti

San Juan Star

San Juan,

Puerto Rico

Date: 11/26/78

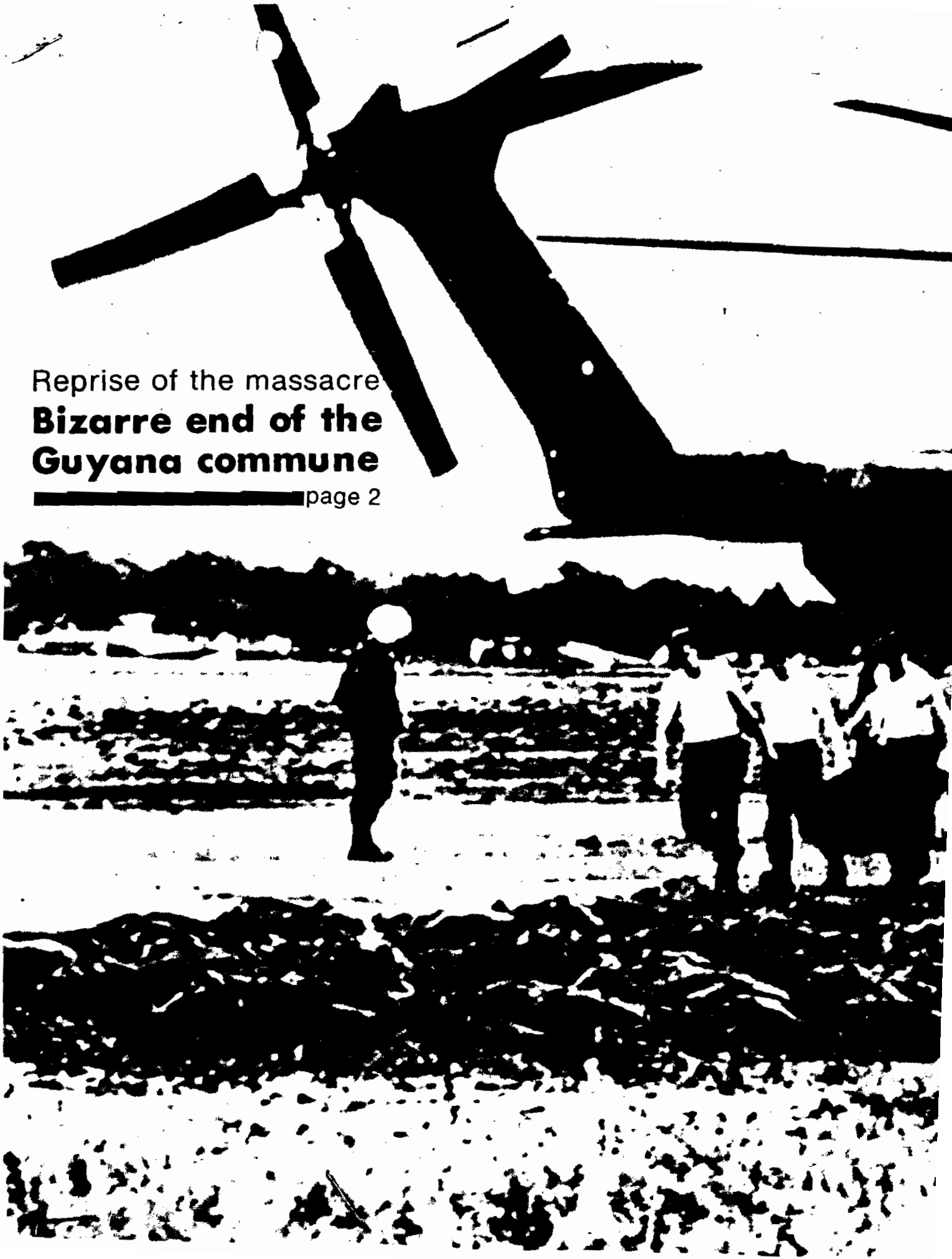
Edition: AM

Title: The Bizarre End of the Guyana Commune

Character:
or
Classification: 89-123

Submitting Office: San Juan

FBI/DOJ



Reprise of the massacre

Bizarre end of the Guyana commune

page 2

The San Juan Star
Sunday, Nov. 26, 1978

outlook

Bodies of some of the victims of Jonestown's mass suicide are laid out Friday at the Georgetown, Guyana, international airport for later shipment to the U.S.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Why they went to their deaths like sheep

The etiology of the Guyanese massacre

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4
Page 5

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The Pied Piper's fetching tune

by Patricia McCormack
United Press International

The Pied Piper played a fetching tune and all the children in Hamelin left their beds, their cereal bowls, their parents and followed him out of town. Never, according to Robert Browning's poem, to be heard from again.

They couldn't help themselves. They lost power over their will.

The hundreds of persons led by the charismatic charm of the Rev. Jim Jones to Jonestown in Guyana probably were as helpless as the children of Hamelin when performing the alleged suicide drill that led to death.

That point was made by psychiatrists and behavior experts who were asked by UPI to explain how people can be brainwashed into mass suicide, and how people can make sure they and their children never fall into such a trap.

The brainwashing, said the experts, was just as subtle as the charismatic tune played by the Pied Piper. Brainwashing, they point out, doesn't require a dungeon, bright lights, or physical torture.

The Guyana victims, they said, probably lost their will and substituted blind obedience months and years before they even went to the "Peoples Temple" complex in Guyana, long before their suicides —or, as one psychiatrist put it, "perhaps, alleged murders."

The people first became addicted to Jones' orders and preachings perhaps at the second meeting with him or the third. They kept coming back to his meetings to hear words that filled their fragmented and hopeless lives: promises about a new lifestyle that would lead to freedom from stress and problems.

Ultimately they had to turn possessions over to the Temple, follow orders without question as they fell in line behind the charismatic leader Jones.

By that stage, like the children of Hamelin, they were powerless.

And at that stage the alleged mass suicide that horrified the world was just obeying one more order.

The experts stressed: the people had to lose their will befo[illegible] could lose their lives.

Questions asked Dr. Robert Jay Lifton, authority on brainwashing and professor of psychiatry at Yale:

Q. What kind of persons are likely to be influenced like this? A. "Generally the more unstable people are, particularly, if they are young, the more they are likely to be influenced."

Q. Does a leader consciously train his followers to blind obedience?

A. "Yes, this is often the case. Many leaders have a messianic view of themselves. They have a paranoid attitude to the world and combine this with manipulative talents for bringing people under their control. This is hypnotic-like but not hypnosis."

Q. Does history contain similar instances of mass suicide?

A. "I'd rather not make direct comparisons. But I think that incidents like this have occurred before, often at times of great change and confusion. This is particularly true of the 20th century which is reflected by the widespread imagery of annihilation that we see in the contemporary world."

Q. Can people protect themselves from being influenced like this?

A. "Yes. They can help themselves by becoming aware of the process that cults in general often employ. This frequently involves what appears an innocuous series of invitations, beginning with, say a dinner invitation, then invitations to a country house. It is a gradual system of isolating the individual from the world. It is therefore enormously helpful for that individual to recognize that what appears to be an innocuous dinner invitation is the start of a deliberate process."

Q. Weren't some religious leaders actually cultists who hypnotized people with charisma into leaving all and following them?

A. "All religions have been a totalistic process at one time or another. But cults like the one in Guyana are a corrupt claim to religion, a caricature. What is significant about many cults is that the people at the top tend to be acquisitive with a tendency to combine the secular and the material. In Guyana the leader was clearly losing his power. Members were leaving. The cult was under investigation. That is why the incident contained both murder and suicide. The cult was being threatened."

In Bethesda, Md., Dr. Calvin Frederick, chief of Emergency Mental Health and Disaster Assistance at the National Institute of Mental Health, commented on how to avoid brainwashing:

"Unless you are aware ahead of time of some of the dangers you cannot help yourself. For psychological 'immunization' to work it must take place prior to exposure.

"If you are not aware of what is being done, it can be a serious thing."

Frederick recalled a movie, "The Manchurian Candidate." In which a brainwashed person was told to shoot a U.S. Senator. "He was programmmed," Frederick said, "and it is not all that far-fetched. We have seen examples recently."

Frederick noted there fears other members of the Jones cult who were not in Guyana might be under mental orders to kill cult defectors and other persons. He said if the cult could program some members to commit suicide, "Others, just as easily, might have been programmed to kill."

"Strong charismatic leaders do exert monumental influence on people," Frederick reminded. "Take Adolf Hitler."

Frederick also insisted, however, there is a major difference between Hitler or Jones and truly religious leaders like Francis of Asissi.

To protect yourself against the lure of cults, Frederick says, it is important to have a good sense of worth.

"Ask yourself," he said. "Who am I? And think about that."

Why do young people seem especially vulnerable?

"They may feel rootless and aimless," Frederick said. "They ask themselves: I am going to school, for what? Will I get a job? If I get one, will I hold it? There is a great deal of undertainty.

"You can help your kids by alerting them to the fact that they should never lose their strong feelings of self worth. Reassure them that they are unique in their own right and that there will never be a person like them...

"Reassure them that they have good brains, good heads, can lead a rich life and do anything within reason — if motivated.

"Let them know, too, that at times, it is natural to feel powerless or helpless or lonely. It is natural and normal and everyone gets those feelings.

"It is when they lose hope that they are in trouble. Tell them to never lose hope. Hopelessness is the final straw.

"Anyone who offers a life of milk and honey and freedom from troubles is a Pied Piper. There is no panacea. The children who followed the Pied Piper were following music of one sort. The people in the 'suicide drill' were marching to music, too.

"It can happen to anyone who loses hope. To the poor kids in the ghetto, and to rich ones who suffer from emotional poverty."

Dr. Shevert Frazier, professor of psychiatry at Harvard University Medical School and psychiatrist-in-chief at McLean Hospital, talked about charismatic leaders.

"Most people respond to charismatic leaders," he said. "I liked Jack Kennedy. Charisma has something to do with expectations of human beings."

He noted, however, that a person who is alienated and goalless —and there are such persons in all age groups — can be manipulated by exploitative charismatics.

"Often the leader in such a group offers the notion of reform and addresses the aggrieved concern of an individual. Nearly always the person looking to such a leader (as in some cults) is suffering from a fragmented social existence in an overly complex society. He is offered something that seems to fill all his needs."

A person who is vulnerable to such leaders, Frazier said, sees only the good in belonging to a group. He doesn't look deeply into motives.

"Very often the leaders insist on separation from familiar and early family surroundings," Frazier said. "They also insist on repetitious indoctrination, usually under duress. They require sacrifices, usually of time, lifestyle, money and the old familiar rules."

Plus threats, not always explicit. There is the warning that survival is threatened in some way, if the new rules aren't followed, that someone is watching every action, reporting to the leader.

"I am in no position to answer if this (Guyana) was a mass suicide or how much of it was mass murder, how much individual suicide or individual hopelessness," Frazier stressed. "That would be judging without data. I never saw the leader or met anyone in the cult. Nor can I or anyone say what we think — without interviewing and getting data that is valid.

"The difference...is in what you ask people to do, the motives. Seeking power for the sake of power and making money by exploiting people is one thing. But a Francis of Asissi or Jesus Christ were altruistic."

There are certain times in a person's life when he or she is particularly vulnerable to a leader who offers a panacea for all life's problems, Frederick said.

"I think it is important for all people, whatever their age, to recognize that at particular times in their life, life is unfulfilled and there may be a greater than usual need to find acceptance and meaning."

An occasional feeling of being powerless, or a need to be accepted by others are natural feelings and can actually be great strengths if handled in a positive manner, according to Frederick.

"There is nothing wrong in wanting to belong to a group, to do good through that group, to get swept up by the activity — but without losing control over your will. The Lions and Rotary and Kiwanis and the women's groups are what that's all about. You do their thing but you still do your own thing. You are still the master."

The difference is that the dangerous groups reduce participants to dependent, childlike states as part of the brainwashing, Frederick says.

"New members are told . . . 'You do not need to think. I will do the thinking for you.' A lot of worries are taken away. The group promises to take care of you forever and remove all stress."

The next step is blind obedience in which people m follow an order to jump off a cliff.

Frederick recalled a mother in Salt Lake City who ordered two of her children to jump from a tall building to their deaths. And the children did so, allegedly without hesitation. Then the mother jumped with another child.

They had seemed to overcome the fear of death — or were not aware of it. To them it was just a step to a better life. In suicide, according to some authorities, the victim feels death is not the greatest evil nor living the highest good.

Frederick doubts the persons in Jones' "suicide drill" even thought of death. The person who brainwashed them probably never talked of death directly.

"Rather there would be talk about other good things that are going to happen — the promise of a future life in a future time and so forth," he said. "Well, that day, the people perhaps were told, well, the time has come. A dry run. They went through it. They had been conditioned."

"There are so many cults . variations and those of us who have seen members from many know there are many themes."

What has gone wrong to produce these phenomena?

"We have substituted the freedom of all ideas for young people," he said. "Before, they had an opportunity to concretize an ideological system. An ideation system is needed. It is formed, to begin with, by a mother and a father and role modeling."

But broken homes in modern day society destroy this early modeling, Frazier said.

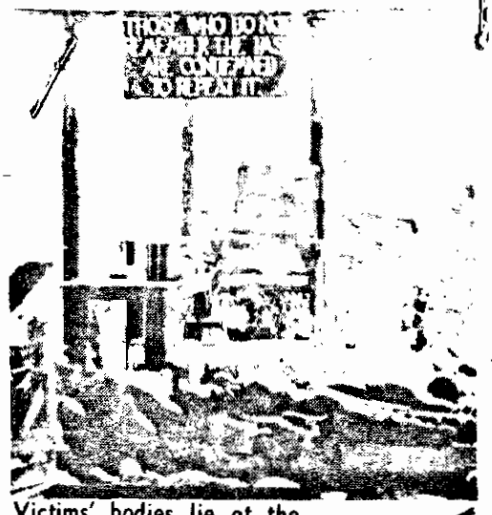
"The trouble is there are too many illegitimate babies, too many unwanted babies, too many absentee fathers and too many absentee mothers. Boys need fathers to become men. And it is interesting that many of the aggrieved in these cults are males.

"We are also into a social breakdown in many homes. Divorces destroy role models; social mores and customs are breaking down."

All is not lost, Frazier reminded.

"In the interior of America and in the South there is still a lot solid. The very disturbed tend to migrate to the anonymity of the big cities on both coasts.

"I guess it has always been true that we have people wandering around, feeling helpless. . ."



Victims' bodies lie at the foot of jim Jones' "throne."

'Where did it all go wrong?'

by James Feron
New York Times News Service

NYACK, N.Y.— As a young churchman in Indianapolis the Rev. Jim Jones was "an obviously intelligent, eager, concerned person of great initiative" who lived simply, organized soup kitchens and nursing homes, and helped minorities, a former church leader recalled last week.

"That was in the 1950s, when Jim Jones first came to public attention," said Barton Hunter, executive director of the 16,000-member Fellowship of Reconciliation, a 65-year-old pacifist organization,

A decade later, however, Jones was the leader of a new People's Temple and was "healing" the ill instead of simply caring for them, recruiting minority members to his church rather than just welcoming them, and reaching beyond local concerns to grapple with larger issues.

The charismatic leader had taken on a messianic role and, with 70 families who gave up their jobs and homes, he left for California because of what he felt was harassment in Indiana. In another decade he would move with an even larger group to Guyana, feeling that his group was harassed in California.

Jones had "come to see himself in cosmic proportions" even in Indianapolis, Hunter said. Last weekend the cult leader led hundreds of members of his cult into suicide after the slaying of Rep. Leo J. Ryan and four other Americans at the jungle site of the People's Temple.

"You ask yourself, 'What happened? Where did it all go wrong?'" Hunter said in an interview at the converted Hudson River mansion that serves as headquarters of his fellowship. His wife, Dorothy, sat at his side, and Hunter recalled their first meeting with Jones:

"I was executive secretary of the Church in Society of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and a social worker who was a member of our congregation said, 'I'd like you to meet a young man; he has similar interests.'

"He was a minister, a Methodist pastor, with a congregation that included a small ecstatic group of people. He was involved in peace and social justice and he was in touch with depressed people. He lived with them," Hunter said.

Eventually, Hunter said, Jones withdrew from the Methodist fold and set up his own temple in a former synagogue on North Delaware Street in Indianapolis. His congregation, consisting of more black than white members, began to appeal also to fringe groups.

Jones purchased the building from a congregation headed by Rabbi Maurice Davis, now of White Plains, N.Y., for $50,000 "which he paid back over the course of several years."

The rabbi, ironically, has since become prominent in organizing families to fight religious cults. "Jones's name kept cropping up in the work I do in deprogramming," Rabbi Davis said, "but there was no indication of his organizing such a cult in Indianapolis."

Jones, in his People's Temple, found transients and set up a soup kitchen. He visited a congregant in a badly run nursing home, "carried her out in a blanket," according to Hunter, and started his own nursing homes.

"They were crowded, but clean and humane, and for a while they were among the best in the city," the executive director said. "Soon he began to demand sacrifices — members of his church gave more liberally of their time and money than those of other churches.

Jones had what Hunter calls a "very positive personality" and seemed to be able to raise money easily. "He once said, 'Everything I touch turns to money. I'd have been a millionaire if I had not been called this way,'" Hunter said.

Jones, Hunter recalled, was seen by many as a person much more heavily committed to social concerns than the average, but a person with driving desire.

Rabbi Davis recalls Jones as being primarily involved in interracial matters. "He had an interracial family," he said. "He was part Indian, his wife was white, they adopted children of different races" — one was black and one was Korean — "and finally, in about 1964, he left Indiana, saying it was too racist for him."

Hunter recalled that, too, and more: "Jim had also become interested in the atomic bomb, Vietnam, and other matters. He had left for a while to teach at the University of Hawaii and he spent two years in Brazil organizing orphanages and a mission.

The Indianapolis church was disbanded after Jones and his followers left for California. "We visited them there once," Hunter said. "He had built a church and included a swimming pool in the sanctuary. It was supposed to be for baptisms but he told the kids to use it after school."

Hunter, whose Fellowship of Reconciliation organized some of the first freedom rides in the South and spawned both the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, said that Jones demanded much from his members in the fields of social and racial justice.

"He once told me he demanded that each member of the congregation write a letter about some social issue," Hunter recalled. The pastor had set up shelters for brutalized animals, initiated a job rehabilitation program and sent young people to college.

Hunter shook his head. "Jim had ambitions and he was autocratic. The idea of that community in Guyana was not evil, hacking out a community of love. But bodyguards to enforce love?"

Rabbi Davis said, "I keep thinking what happens when the power of love is twisted into the love of power."

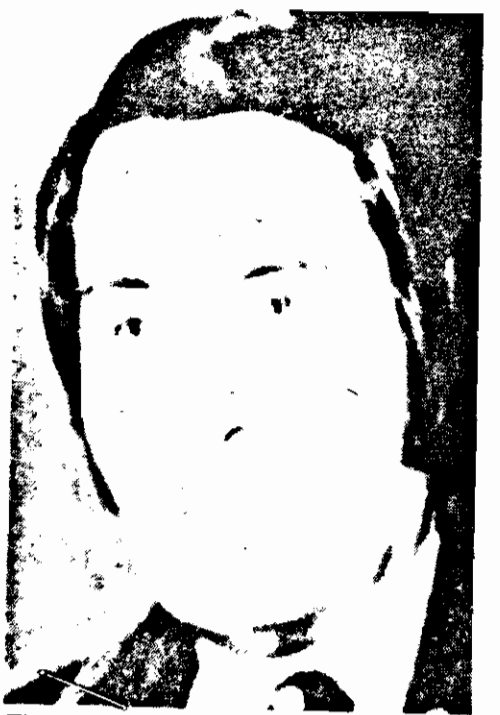
Then he recalled an incident in Indianapolis: "When he bought our temple we had an eternal light going. Jim asked us to leave it. He wanted to keep it burning as a sign of our friendship and what we stood for. All last night I kept wondering, where did it go out?"

NBC reporter Don Harris interviews Jim Jones a few hours before Harris was killed by a Jones death squad on airfield near the temple.

Harris and Rep. Lea Ryan talk at airfield minutes before they were gunned down. NBC-TV film photos taken from television screen and sent via UPI

Jim Jones, leader of the People's Temple cult lies shot to death in his jungle retreat The lone survivor said Jones put a bullet through his head as 900 followers died.

The killer-brew equipment, gathered after the massacre by Guyanese officials.



The Rev. Jim Jones, People's Temple founder, in 1976 photo.

Dr. Larry Schocht, who mixed the brew, in yearbook photo.

Rep. Leo Ryan relaxes in Guyana hotel with unidentified aide, a few days before his murder.

by Alvin B. Webb
United Press International

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — They killed the babies first.

Mothers brought their infants to the altar of death, cradled in their arms. Children were led by the hand. Nurses moved from one trusting child to another, squirting cyanide down their throats with syringes while their parents looked on.

Near the altar the Rev. Jim Jones, 46, sat on a throne-like chair on a platform, presiding calmly over this great extravaganza of death.

Within moments convulsions began to wrack the tiny bodies of the children, white foam frothing from their lips.

The children began to cry, small voices wailing in a wilderness of murderous suicidal mania. They trembled, fear in their eyes. For one brief moment, panic swept the disciples of the Peoples Temple.

Jim Jones sensed it. He leaped to his feet, exhorting, shouting. "We must die with dignity."

As if by godlike command, all doubt vanished and as the last rays of sun filtered through the Guyanese jungles, 900 of the followers of Jim Jones drank poison and died in satanic ritual. Most were Californians. Most were black.

"The first adult to die was a young woman who went up with a baby in her arms, had the poison shot down her throat, walked into a field and sat down and died," said Odell Rhodes, the only known living witness of the mass suicide.

That last hour is almost impossible to visualize. Rhodes, 36, a recovered drug addict with a long arrest record in Detroit, provided a rambling account:

"They (the medical teams) took equipment into a tent, used as a library and school, large syringes minus the needles, plastic containers with the poison."

The poison was cyanide and contained tranquilizers and painkillers to ease the agony of the deadly poison. It was washed down with grape KoolAid.

"They would draw an amount out in the syringes and administer it by simply squirting it in people's mouths.

"Then they would give them a small drink of punch to wash it down.

"Many of the children volunteered to take the poison. I can't say why most people were found face down. They were falling different ways."

"Then the children started to cry."

Rhodes said he escaped when he went with a nurse to find a stethoscope.

"I went out the back door and crawled under a building," he said.

Most of the disciples went into the main auditorium to die. At the back of the hall, mounted on a stage, was a placque in black. It read: "Love one Another."

Not since the Nazi death camps of World War II has a scene so stunned the world.

Fields covered with the dead, many lying in embrace, surrounded the People's Temple, a ramshackle wooden structure in the center of the commune — victims of one of the most awesome mass suicides in history.

Within the space of a few minutes at dusk on Saturday, Nov. 18, the lexicon of history's horrors had to be expanded to include: Jonestown.

Jones Warren Jones was born in 1932 in Lynn, Ind., the son of a poor family which lived mainly off an army pension the father received for being gassed in World War I.

A childhood friend, Thelma Manning of Fort Myers, Fla., remembered that Jones' mother was a "strong, independent, intense" person who worked at different jobs to help support the family.

"Old Jim (the father) didn't do much," Mrs. Manning said. "Just went uptown to play cards with the boys."

Jones loved animals as a child and Barbara Shaffer, a first cousin who still lives in Lynn, recalled, "sometimes he'd have six or seven cats or dogs following him around."

"I also remember we always had funerals for our pets," Mrs. Shaffer said. "Another thing I remember is he was always interested in being a minister."

"He was always interested in the church," Mrs. Vera Price, another childhood playmate from Lynn recalled. "We used to play pretend church and he'd be the preacher, standing up and making sermons."

Jones used to "baptize" the other children in a creek that ran through the town.

"He never drowned anybody I know of," Mrs. Price said.

Alvin B. Webb, former UPI Europe and Asia news editor and chief reporter in Vietnam, is head of a special UPI newsphoto team from north and South America in Guyana to gather facts on the mass suicide that the State Department reports took the lives of 900 members of the Rev. Jim Jones Peoples Temple deep in the Guyana jungle. In addition, UPI bureaus in San Francisco, Washington, Houston, Indianapolis, and many other points have contributed additional information on Jones and his sect for this story.

"I had a hunch something bad was going to happen to him," said a former acquaintance who did not want to use his name. "He was smart as a whip but had some strange ideas. He never fit in with the town. He was different."

If the town of Lynn did not like Jones, Jones detested Lynn. He attended high school in nearby Richmond where he was known as something of a loner. The only mention of him in the graduating class yearbook said inexplicably, "Jim's six-syllable medical vocabulary astounds us all."

Later on, when he had built his fanatical following, Jones tried to go home again. In June, 1976, he detoured 11 busloads of disciples to his hometown. But even then, Lynn, Ind., was not impressed with its native son.

"I didn't agree with some of the things he was supposed to have done," Mrs. Myrtle Kennedy recalled of the 1976 visit. "Like healing people. I believe that's God's work."

Jones left Lynn upon graduation to pursue his climb toward self-deification.

"Jones started out in the Methodist church but got disenchanted," said Thomas Dickson of Tampa, Fla., a former associate minister of Jones' Peoples Temple.

"He told me there was no love in the (Methodist) Church and he said that's what made him decide to start his own church," Dickson said.

Jones enrolled in Indiana University and his freshman roommate, Kenneth E. Lemons, recalled "Jones believed himself then to be a Messiah."

Jones spent a summer at Purdue and then enrolled in Butler University in Indianapolis in 1951. He spent the next 10 years as a part-time student earning a degree in secondary education.

By this time Jones had married a nurse at Reid Memorial Hospital whom he had met while working as an orderly — one of many jobs he held while putting himself through school.

In 1956 Jones opened his first People's Temple and adopted his first cause — the plight of blacks in a city with its share of racial unrest.

He had worked in several small churches in the city and at the last, the Laurel Street Tabernacle, he was expelled for advocating the admittance of blacks to the congregation.

Jones and his wife adopted eight children — some of them black —and kept his fledgling church going by opening a soup kitchen and by giving away old clothes they collected.

Jones, who would later confided in a friend that his father had been "a Ku Klux Klan type" and that he had "never seen a Negro until I was 12," moved his church into a black neighborhood.

For his pains he earned the wrath of many whites and his church was the target of macabre menaces — dead cats were thrown into the congregation and crosses burned on the lawn.

But he also was named executive director of Indianapolis' Human Rights Commission where former Mayor Churches H. Boswell remembered him as a "very quiet, non-aggressive person, who, in 1964, was ordained a minister in the Christian Church.

One year later he gave up the fight and, denouncing Indiana as a "racist" state, led 140 of his faithful to Ukiah, Calif.

It was the first step on the journey to death.

In Ukiah, Jones horizons began to expand.

Jones began to draw disciples from the lonely, the elderly, the desperate — hopeless people who would give all they had for the promise of eternity.

Many of the elderly new converts turned over their Social Security checks to Jones. He promised to take care of them for the rest of their lives and gave them a $2-a-week allowance.

"He made them cash in their insurance," former member Birdie Marable said. Jones told them they did not need insurance, promising they would never die.

Jones began to buy property from the donations. At the time of his move to Guyana, Jones had sold nearly all of his property in Redwood Valley. The county assessor had put the value at $1 million but Jones sold it for much more.

More and more converts donated land to Jones' church. Jones promptly sold it. In 1976, records show Jones sold 11 pieces of property worth $217,000. Six of those were sold by Jones on the same day the owner gave them to the church.

Jones also learned the boundless capability of human belief.

At church services Jones would sell pictures of himself and his disciples. Each picture was designed to protect the holder from fire, assault, even cancer.

But each picture would work for only one catastrophe, so church members had to buy a full set to get total protection. Al Mills, the church photographer, said the picture concession alone netted up to $3,000 each weekend.

By the early 1970s, weekend church services in San Francisco and Los Angeles were bringing in between $25,000 and $35,000.

But other, more sinister changes were taking place in the heart and mind of Jim Jones. He began to believe in his own messianic mission and he learned the power of fear.

"He would threaten people, tell them something tragic would happen if they left," Dickson recalled. "No one else was supposed to have anything but he had three Cadillacs and plenty of money. He was making slaves out of the people.

"I told him the day I left, 'Jim, you're a devil. Something serious is going to happen to you,'" Dickson said. "And he said, 'It won't happen to me. You're speaking against the annointed Prophet of God.'"

Another member who left the cult, Deanna Mertie of San Francisco, said he forced members to stand on street corners with donation boxes and beg.

"They made us go," she said. "If we said 'no,' you'd have to answer to Jim and the Council. Jim would decree a punishment."

The punishments began to turn more and more toward the physical —boxing matches, flagellation and, of course, sex.

"I am God! I am God!" Jones would shout at his congregation. "He pointed toward a 70-year-old woman," ex-cult member Grace Stoen recalled. "You don't worship me enough. Strip naked!' She refused and the entire congregation — about 2,000 people — moved in around her to make her do it."

"Then he pointed to another woman and said, 'You strip,'" Mrs. Stoen said. "She started to unbutton her blouse and he said, "Because you believe, you don't have to.' But that old woman had to. Right in front of everybody."

Steve Katsaris, a pyschologist from Potter Valley, Calif., who failed to pry his 25-year-old daughter from the cult, said Jones' policy was "not to allow husbands and wives have sex together."

"He (Jones) reserves the right to have sexual relations with both men and women because he is the only one capable of giving true love," Katsaris said.

Katsaris said that if a man and woman wanted to have sexual relations, they had to apply to the "relations committee" and wait three months for a decision.

"One young couple couldn't wait three months and was found to have had intercourse before the three month waiting period was over," Katsaris said. "As punishment they had to have sex in front of the whole group — 1,200 people."

Sophia Smith of East Oakland said that members had to go through regular confessionals — "catharsis" sessions, the church called them — in which they had to write down and give to Jones an account of all their sexual experiences.

"This was a sign of loyalty demanded by Jones. To have to make up your own confessions — and it was always about adultery, child molesting, homosexual activity, exposing oneself in the park."

Two California newspapers, the San Jose Mercury and the Los Angeles Times, carried reports which said Jones forced both male and female members of the People's Temple to have sex with him.

Jones had a secretary who would call up both male and female members and say, "Father hates to do this but he has this tremendous urge and could you please..." the Times quoted Mills as saying.

After the "catharsis" sessions, Jones would prescribe punishment. Usually they were beatings.

"It started with light spankings," Gary Lambrev said. "Then small sticks, then the oak board, then boxing matches."

Miss Mertle estimated she saw up to 300 beatings of people, some as young as four, others up to their late 50s.

"The blows were usually administered by a 200-pound woman," she said. "If the victim struggled, he was spreadeagled by other members. A microphone was placed near his mouth to amplify the screams."

Jones would stand by impassively while the beatings were going on, Miss Mertle said. "Occasionally he would say 'hit him harder' and sometimes he would laugh."

The spankings led to boxing matches in which strong members would keep whoever was being punished in the ring until he was completely whipped.

"Some of them couldn't even get up off the floor," she said. "Even children weren't exempt from the boxing bouts."

Through terror and brainwashing, Jones began to marshall a small army. He turned it toward political battles.

Jones became popular with several California politicians and Willie Brown Jr., a state legislator, explained: "Numbers of people gave him clout. He is virtually able to produce physically more people (at a rally) than anyone I know."

Jones presented himself as a champion of liberal causes. Jones political work gained him chairmanship of the San Francisco Housing Authority, a post he resigned by telegram after he reached Guyana.

Visitors to his temple included Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., San Francisco Mayor

George Moscone and Los Angeles Mayor To. Bradley. Letters praising his work came from First Lady Rosalynn Carter and late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey.

Shortly before he left for Guyana, Jones was accused of stuffing ballot boxes. District attorney Joseph Freitas appointed Timothy Stoen, assistant DA and a member of the People's Temple, to investigate. Stoen cleared Jones of the charges.

However, it was because of the Stoens that Jones decided to flee the United States — a flight that would lead him and hundreds of his followers to perhaps the most bizarre deaths in modern times.

Grace Stoen joined the People's Temple in November, 1969. Her husband was already a member. They had a child, John Victor.

Jones claimed the child as his own. A heated custody battle ensued. Grace Stoen insisted she had never had sexual relations with Jones. Others said she did.

Grace Stoen and her husband became estranged. Jones had decided to move his church to a foreign country. The California Supreme Court awarded custody of the boy to the Stoens. But Jones took the boy with him to the jungles of Guyana.

The child died with Jones in the ritual suicides.

"When I was in the church I truly believed that nobody could ever leave," Grace said. "Then a group of eight left. This was when the suicides first began to be brought up."

Suicide became more and more of a fixation for Jones.

For 14 months Jones and his cult lived in the beautiful jungle wilderness that is Guyana, his temple "dedicated against the evils of racism, hunger and injustice."

Then came danger.

Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., announced he would go to see the People's Temple first hand to investigate charges by voters that Jones was holding members against their will.

Ryan and his party spent a day at the commune. He found disciples who wanted to leave.

"They will never make it to the United States," Jones said. Then came the death knell. "We will all commit suicide."

Jones had ordered the "hit squad" to attack Ryan and his party of defectors at the Port Kaituma air strip. The gunmen attacked the plane with precision and returned to headquarters.

Among those who told Ryan he wanted to leave was Gerald Parks, 46. He wanted to take his family. Another was Larry Layton.

As they prepared to leave the commune with the defectors, Ryan and his party ran into trouble. One of the disciples grabbed the California congressman and held a knife to his throat.

Lawyer Mark Lane, who with attorney Charles Garry represented the People's Temple, intervened and Jones finally ordered Ryan released.

But at the airstrip, death waited.

As the party was about to board one of two light planes to take them back to Georgetown, Layton pulled a pistol and opened fire. From the side of the runway a tractor-trailer moved into a gear and a group of six armed men opened fire on the whol group.

Ryan, 53, NBC television reporter Don Har ris, 42; NBC cameraman Robert Brown, 36 both from Los Angeles; Gregory Robinson, photographer for The San Francisco Ex aminer, and Parks wife, Patricia, 45, a cul member who was trying to escape, all wer killed.

But the horror of the ambush was only prelude of what was to come.

Jones called his council together and mad the announcement that the entire commun was to commit suicide. One young woma protested.

"Traitor! Traitor! the others shouted.

For some months Jones had put his disci ples through a mass suicide drill. Now wa the time for the real thing. Jones called th commune physician, Dr. Larry Schacht o Houston, Tex., and told him to prepare th cyanide poison.

Schacht emptied his medicine chest into huge tub which he then filled with grape flavored Kool Aid. He gave what was left o the cyanide to the nurses to administer the children.

One after another, the disciples of Ji Jones drank the poison.

Within four or five minutes after drinki the devil's brew, each died. Most lay fa down. Men and women were found in fin embraces. Friends had their arms arou one another's backs. One couple had plac their small boy between them and the thr died together, their arms entwined.

Bodies were piled on bodies. Here a there arms and legs protruded upward grotesque positions.

One 76-year-old woman, Hyacinth Thrus slept through it all and survived.

When the first Guyanan troops enter Jonestown, they counted 409 corpses lyi around the commune. But they didn't distu the bodies and look underneath.

The shock and horror struck again fi days later when U.S. officials announced t number of dead would be more than dout that figure.

The question was why.

"He thought that if the Parks (family defectors) were allowed to leave and g away with it, others would come from t United States and take away their fam members," Rhodes said.

"Jones couldn't see his organization bre up. He had a tremendous ego."

But for those who had escaped from Jor power before the Jonestown horror, fear s remained.

Grace Stoen and others swear that Jor had formed an assassination squad charg with murdering anyone who left the co mune.

San Francisco police chief Charles G conceded, "We have a knowledge of a p ported 'hit squad' and a 'hit list.'"

Neva Sly, another ex-member whose h band had put the knife to Ryan's throat Jonestown, said she is certain he is now of Jones' "Angels," as the hit team is call

"My main plea is to the assassinti squad," she said. "Please stop! People h a right to their beliefs."

For others, Jones' death was the final doing of evil incarnate.

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bodies, 'one under other,' raise Guyana toll to 775

JONESTOWN, Guyana (UPI) — Exhausted U.S. soldiers Friday kept finding "bodies, one under the other" at the Jonestown mass suicide scene and officials said as many as 800 men, women and children had died in the jungle commune suicide ritual.

"I spent 34 months in Vietnam, and this is the worst I've ever seen," one officer said.

The death toll in the mass suicide reached 775 by late Friday. Previously the death toll bad been put at 408.

"We keep finding bodies, one under the other," Col. William I. Gordon, director of the U.S. task force at the Peoples Temple commune where the Rev. Jim Jones' fanatical followers drank cyanide with grape Kool-Aid Saturday night.

Many of the newly found bodies were children under 15 who lay under the corpses of adults. There were at least 180 victims under 15 among the dead.

In the auditorium where most of the people died was mounted a small plaque in black that read, "Love one another."

On the stage was Jim Jones's throne-like chair from which the leader of the cult exhorted his followers at the bizarre communion of death at sundown Saturday, "You must die with dignity."

U.S. military officials said they were no longer looking for survivors, apparently because of the task of recovery of new bodies they unexpectedly found. Thirty-nine survivors had been found by Friday.

The odor from the swollen, decomposed bodies was overwhelming. As the troops moved one body, frequently they would find another below it — sometimes a child, sometimes an adult.

"Bodies were just piled up," one source said. "It seems the Guyanese (troops) were not going through them very thoroughly."

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy, which was providing the official body count, said the death toll probably would rise to about 800.

Gordon said, "I cannot confirm or deny that, but we recovered between 620 and 700 bodies. We expect to finish the job early Sunday or as late as Monday morning."

In the capital city of Georgetown, sources close to police said Edward Bikman, 43, hometown unknown, will be charged today with four counts of murder in the throat-slashing slaying in Peoples Temple sect member Sharon Amos and her three young children in Georgetown last Saturday and with one count of attempted murder against Stephany Jones, another cultist.

In Jonestown, the exhausted U.S. soldiers

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Pages 1 & 16

San Juan Star

San Juan,

Puerto Rico

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or 89-123

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FBI/DOJ

and airmen working day and night were anxious to get out. One of the factors that could affect the recovery operations was the changeable tropical weather.

Lt. Col. Howard Paris said some of the buildings in the commune had been ransacked but said he had no idea by whom.

"We went into the buildings, we found some ransacked, but we don't know if this was the work of vandals," he said.

About 100 bodies were still lying about the open-air assembly hall Friday afternoon along with the bodies of many dogs. All the corpses found so far have been in or near the auditorium.

No bodies have been found in the nearby jungle, where authorities at first theorized that hundreds of sect members had fled for their lives.

Strewn about the stage were musical instruments, including electric guitars, as well as the microphones and stereo equipment that Jones used to broadcast his death appeal.

Also on the stage was a large sign proclaiming: "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Other details of the suicide horror were given Friday in Georgetown by a witness, Odell Rhodes, 33, of Detroit, a onetime drug addict, who said Jones supervised the ritual while seated in his raised chair, then took his own life with a bullet in the brain.

Rhodes said after Congressman Leo Ryan, D-Calif., and his investigating mission left Saturday for a nearby airstrip, Jones called a mass meeting and declared, "They will never reach the United States and we will all commit suicide."

Commune members murdered Ryan and four other Americans as they boarded planes to return to Georgetown. A few hours later just after sunset the 46-year-old Jones called the members of the cult to a mass meeting at the temple's auditorium where a caldron of cyanide and soft drink, tranquilizers and pain killers awaited them.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Fred Shaver said, "It appears the original count is seriously in error. At this time 485 bodies have been removed. Twenty more bodies are at the Jonestown site, and the head count has reached 270," a total of 775. "There are more expected as the head count continues."

Five other cult members died away from the commune — one killed in the airstrip massacre and a mother and her three children found with their throats cut in Georgetown — for a total to date of 780.

U.S. Army Capt. Tom Moskatelli said the new bodies were discovered when the American troops moved into a new area on the other side of the temple from where the first mass of bodies were piled up.

"They found smaller adults and children under larger adults' bodies.

"We began discovering bodies and we kept discovering more and more and more ... And we figure there may be a few more."

Moskatelli said that "as far as can be determined," all died of poisoning.

In Washington, the State Department said, "Current total estimates are that there could be up to 800 bodies in Jonestown. What is happening is that they are finding bodies under bodies."

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Bushnell said the new count had only just emerged because priority was given to identifying known bodies and searching for survivors.

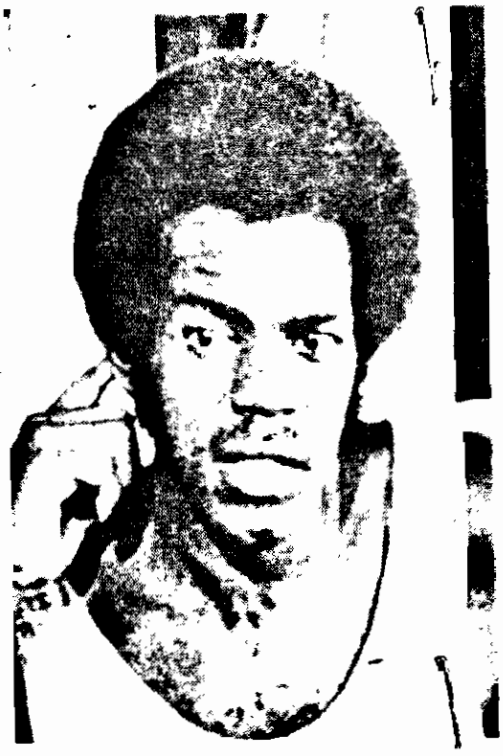
Shaver said the newly discovered corpses were "at the site" but whether in the temple or in the jungle "I'm not sure precisely."

But only 39 survivors have turned up and the new death toll could account for most of the missing people.

Guyanese Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid told parliament Friday government records showed 915 members of sect had entered the country.

Rhodes said the infants and children were the first to die.

They were led — many crying — to a table at the steamy assembly hall where the commune nurse squirted cyanide down their throats with a syringe and then gave them a grape Kool-Aid mixture for a chaser.



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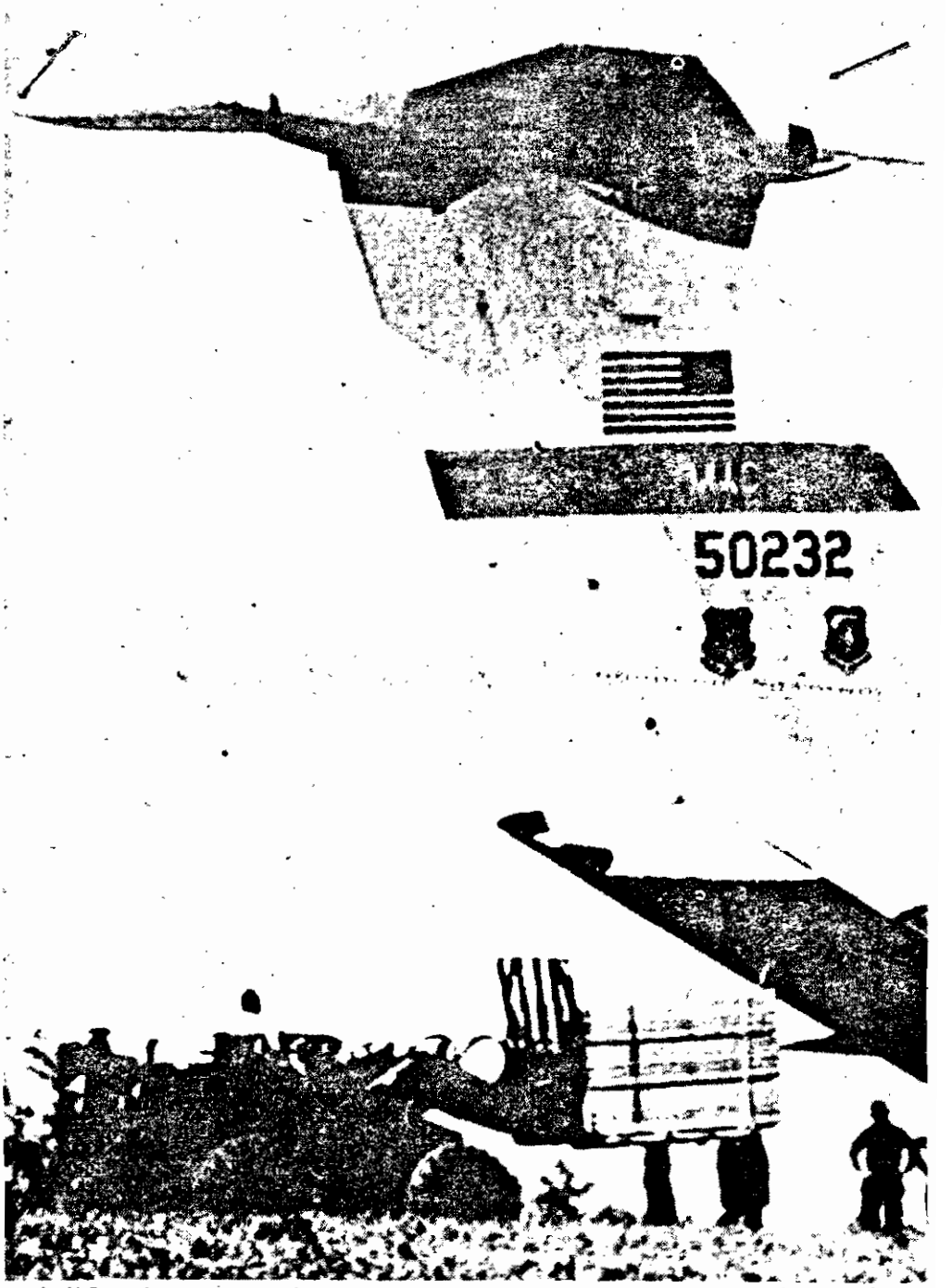

A U.S. military front-loader lifts a pallet of coffins containing the bodies of the Jonestown massacre victims onto the loading platform of a Military Air Transport Command Friday at Georgetown's International Airport. Officials said the total number of victims of the bizarre rites may go as high as 800 persons. (UPI photo)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U.S. offers explanation on revised suicide count

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The State Department found itself on the defensive again Friday about the tragedy in Guyana, this time in its effort to account for the abrupt rise in the body count of People's Temple suicides from about 400 to nearly 800.

Pressed at a news briefing repeatedly for an explanation as to why several days passed before several hundred bodies were located, a high-ranking State Department official offered two explanations:

—The United States Army Graves Registration unit had given priority not to counting but to identifying bodies and packaging them for evacuation. Only as they progressed with the gruesome task did they become aware that the original body estimate by Guyanese police had been far too low.

—Other American army personnel flown to Guyana had given their highest priority to cooperating with the Guyanese search for survivors of the People's Temple, especially when it seemed earlier this week that scores of hundreds might have escaped from Jonesville.

John A. Bushnell, deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, told a news conference that the figure of 400 to 410 bodies had been only "a rough, preliminary estimate" by the Guyanese police contingents when they first entered the Jonesville area.

Another administration official, also in direct contact with American operations in Guyana, said the Guyanese police had carried out only a hasty and superficial original count because they feared they might contract diseases from contact with the decomposing corpses.

The Guyanese government cited the fear of an epidemic when it asked American authorities to abandon their plan to bury the People's Community members in Guyana and to evacuate them to the United States as soon as possible.

Bushnell said Friday that in many cases the graves registration squads discovered the corpses of small children under the bodies of their parents. He said that at least 180 children under 15, including many infants, were among the 775 bodies that had been counted up to noon Friday.

It was evident, however, that the official explanations by Bushnell and others of the dramatic increase in the body count neither satisfied questioners nor silenced those who have been critical of the government's handling of the Guyanese tragedy from the first report last Saturday of the killing of Rep. Leo J. Ryan and four other Americans after their visit to Jonestown.

All week, the State Department has found itself on the defensive, responding to charges that it failed to warn Ryan adequately of the danger involved in his visit to Jonestown and to questions on why United States consular officials failed to discern the character of the People's Temple during periodic visits to the community.

At Friday's news conference, the department spokesman, Hodding Carter 3d, was asked whether the State Department would become "more aggressive in the future in investigating cases such as this."

Carter said he thought it obvious that the government would examine what happened in this case and "what can be learned from it," but he added that consular officers in Guyana had investigated the People's Temple aggressively within their mandate.

Department officials have said repeatedly that consular officers cannot be expected to behave as agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that the officers were inhibited by constitutional guarantees from interfering in Guyana with what supposedly was an American religious establishment.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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