

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Burke's Office Flooded

In Los Angeles, Congresswoman Yvonne Burke's office has received hundreds of telephone calls from residents here who are worried that their relatives were killed in the Guyana suicides.

She said the sect apparently had obtained legal custody of many children, making it next to impossible for parents to regain the youngsters.

Mrs. Burke said her office was coordinating efforts to identify the victims and notify affected Los Angeles parents.

Notices have been sent out to black-oriented publications, she said, so parents will know where to turn for information about either their children or other relatives.

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

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Cult Operated Radio, Defying Rules of F.C.C.

By ERNEST HOLSENDOLPH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 — The People's Temple in San Francisco and its outpost in Guyana have communicated by ham radio in recent years rather than by telephone, provoking conflicts with the Federal Communications Commission.

An examination of commission files, which contained samples of conversation monitored by the agency, showed that the cult's officials in Guyana were preoccupied with medical records, and sought advice about repairing such things as refrigerators. At other times, however, the radio relayed social messages among family members.

Amateur Radio Service, or ham radio, is reserved for hobbyists; the commission prohibits its use for business, except in emergencies. But the sect reportedly ignored that rule and violated other regulations as well, apparently to avoid being overheard.

In citations that date back to May 1977, the commission said that the sect's radio operators used frequencies assigned to other kinds of broadcasters, employed fake identification call-signs and failed to observe the ham requirement of identifying the broadcaster at least once every 10 minutes.

They Avoided Being Overheard

To avoid being overheard, the sect's operators in California and Guyana would rendezvous on one frequency, use a code phrase and then make contact on a different prearranged frequency.

The sect's abuses of these rules angered ham operators across the nation. When the commission tried to discipline the sect's operators, more than 2,000 letters from the cult's adherents poured into the agency. These letters reflected warm devotion to the sect and deep distrust of its critics.

In a letter addressed to Charles Ferris, head of the commission, and dated Nov. 9, 1978, a San Francisco woman wrote: "I heard that Mr. Adam got a notice from F.C.C. about his radio. If it weren't for his radio a lot of people here wouldn't have any contact with their relatives thousands of miles away. Please be sure nothing happens to this radio."

Skill in Manipulation Shown

In another letter, Benjamin F. Bowers, also a ham operator for the cult, demonstrated the skillful manipulation of political figures that has come to characterize the People's Temple. In the spring of 1977, just after being cited for a violation, he wrote to the commission:

The church "has been commended by the denomination with which it is affiliated, the Disciples of Christ, which has counted among its members Lyndon Baines Johnson, Clarence Kelly and numerous congressional people and Government officials.

"Mrs. Carter and President Carter have written encouraging letters concerning its work. Mrs. Carter dined with Rev. Jim Jones last Fall and has since been very supportive of the church."

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- The Washington Post _____
- Washington Star-News _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
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position on the House of Israel has gone unanswered.

Members of opposition political parties and labor unions charged the group with breaking up their meetings, in one instance roughing up a party leader and running off with an amplifier and loudspeakers.

Group Claims 7,000 Members

With its headquarters about a mile from the center of Georgetown in a large, ramshackle house built in the British colonial style, the House of Israel now claims some 7,000 members, 600 of whom live in the capital. The four-story headquarters includes living quarters for about 75 people, offices, a gymnasium, classrooms in which Hebrew, Swahili and Marxism are taught, and a temple where the faithful gather every day for services and fervent, joyful-sounding singing. It is there, too, as well as on a weekly half-hour radio program broadcast on the Government station, that Mr. Washington delivers his message that blacks were the original Jews and that Christianity has historically oppressed black people.

In a smoky, mellifluous voice that rises in evangelical cadences, Mr. Washington urges his followers to get off their knees, open their eyes, and "forsake the colonial ways." Christianity, he says in numerous variations, has enslaved black people and robbed them of their identity, "made them so heavenly bound they are no earthly good."

In a two-hour interview in a small office in his headquarters, Mr. Washington, who wore a dark-blue dashiki trimmed in red piping, talked about his sect and his life, and addressed some of the criticisms hanging in the heavy tropical air. The only subject he refused to discuss was Jonestown. He appeared an engaging man of intelligence and humor.

Liberation at Any Cost

"What makes us 'dangerous,'" he said, "ten times more dangerous than the People's Temple ever was, is that we are led by a political person who wants liberation by any means possible. You see, my people are all converts from the Christian religion, which has made me Public Enemy No. 1. Some folks say I'm the Government's strongest supporter; that makes me Public Enemy No. 2."

But whatever priority he may assign himself, his headquarters is clearly his castle. When he walks into a room, everyone — young or old, man, woman or child — snaps smartly to attention, raises a clenched right fist, and says, "Shalom," or "Shalom, Master."

"Shalom, Brothers and Sisters," he replies to a flock that appears to be both devoted and happy, smiling shyly at strangers. But Mr. Washington's control appears to be absolute.

As he outlines it, the road from orphan to omnipotence has been long and tortuous. It has led from a childhood stint singing in a traveling circus minstrel show, to a hitch in the United States Navy near the end of World War II, and the civil rights struggle in the American South.

Sees Christianity Plot by Whites

He says it was for integrating a cafeteria by driving a bus through its door, in Little Rock, Ark., that he first went to prison. It was during the six months in prison, he says, that "I began to think about black and white, religion, hell, the devil, Christianity," concluding that Christianity was a plot by white men to keep black men enslaved.

Upon his release, he says, he went to Mississippi, and there worked with Medgar Evers registering voters. But taking a swing at a white person with an ax handle landed him back in prison, this time for a year.

His time served, he headed for Chicago. There, though never ordained, he established the House of Israel with himself as its "Rabbi." It was there, too, that he came into contact with black activists like Huey P. Newton, Eldridge Cleaver and, later, H. Rap Brown.

His congregation grew. By 1975, he says, the House of Israel had spread to five temples in Chicago, one in Detroit and three in Cleveland, where Mr. Washington says he organized a boycott against McDonald's, the then-burgeoning hamburger chain, for what he says was the company's refusal to sell franchises to black people in black communities. The boycott was successful, he says, and nine franchises were eventually sold.

Once again, Mr. Washington found himself in a courtroom, charged and ultimately convicted by an all-white jury on nine counts of corporate blackmail. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison. Out on bail when his appeal was dis-

missed in 1961, he says he fled to Algiers, traveling from Algiers to other parts of Algiers.

He came to Guyana in 1972, he maintains, because "I had heard that Guyana was a young, developing country, moving towards socialism," and because a friend invited him to teach brick-making, a skill he had learned in his youth. His detractors, on the other hand, say he came here because Guyana was one of the few countries in the world that would have him.

Asked how he spent his decade as a fugitive, he answers, "Preaching and running and hiding and trying to find a place where I could live and find my place in the sun."

Judging from the external evidence, he has found it. From a small house and 13 members six years ago, the House of Israel has grown to encompass 37 temples and two farms of 100 acres and 50 acres that it leases from the Government, and on which four-dozen member families raise peanuts, watermelons, eddoes, a sweet potato variant, and okra.

Thanks to contributions and to the fact that members tithe 10 percent of their wages to the sect, he does not lack for funds. Mr. Washington says he does not know the amount of his annual budget because he doesn't "have too much dealing with money," but he allowed that his organization was "in no need."

Lives in Imposing House

He eagerly shows visitors where a major extension to the headquarters will soon be built. Mr. Washington him-

self lives in an imposing house near his headquarters at a location known only to a few trusted aides. He drives a late-model Cadillac.

"Our organization is blessed in many ways," he explains, with only a smile to point up the irony. "Jews are the most blessed people on earth and the House of Israel is the most blessed people in Guyana."

The question is, to what extent those blessings flow directly from the Government. "I love the Prime Minister," Mr. Washington says. But he denies they are close personal friends or that they see each other socially. He also denies that he and his organization have used any violence, or are tools of the Government, or call to do its dirty work.

"The House of Israel have one leader," he says adamantly. "That's me. We belong to no political party. But when the Government deals with issues that affect me and my people, my wife and my three children, then we move to support that Government policy, if it means picketing, going to cut cane, or whatever we feel is necessary. But the Government does not dictate to the House of Israel."

Perhaps not. But clearly Mr. Washington's growing organization, helpful though it may be to a Government that needs all the support it can muster, still serves at its pleasure. After all, with law enforcement officers waiting for him in the United States, Mr. Washington's alternatives are somewhat limited, a point he acknowledges.

After listening to him rhapsodize at considerable length about the glories of socialist Guyana, the reporter asked Mr. Washington if he would ever like to return to the United States.

Mr. Washington's face looked like an inner tube from which air was rapidly escaping. "I'd give both arms," he said slowly, his voice soft for the first time in more than an hour. "I'd give both arms. But you know, I'm 49 years old. I can't serve 45 years in prison."



The New York Times

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham

'HOUSE OF ISRAEL'

Fugitive's Cult in Guyana Flourishes

ALBERTTOWN, Guyana (AP)—"Am I your master?" he asks.

His Guyanese followers nod and chant in unison, "Amen."

He is a man of many names, a fugitive, and the leader of the House of Israel, a cult more dedicated to black power than to Judaism, and one of many religious sects flourishing in Guyana.

"We are Jews by nature, not by religion," one of his followers said.

Born David Hill in Nashville, Ark., the cult leader uses the name Omari Oba, but is Rabbi Edward Emmanuel Washington to the public. He says he does not know his age.

He looks about 50, has receding gray hair and a mouthful of crooked teeth. Followers call his wife "the queen," and "my lady."

He started the House of Israel with four people 3½ years ago after leaving Cleveland where he faced 45 years in prison on charge of blackmail, using the mails to defraud and income tax evasion.

"They said I owed income taxes," he said. "I never had a job that earned a check. My life is the church."

The House of Israel supports itself, he said.

The 8,000 followers Washington claims to have in Guyana are required to give 10% of their earnings, plus other gifts and donations, to the church, he said.

Members farm 150 acres leased to the House of Israel by the Guyanese government and make and sell pastries, clothes and shoes.

The main House of Israel temple is in a white, run-down, four-story wooden building in this Georgetown suburb. About 70 members live in the 15 rooms and the dormitory above the temple. Washington, his wife and three children live in the plush Bel Aire suburb among diplomats and government officials.

The mass suicide-murder of more than 900 Americans at the Jonestown Peoples Temple settlement has thrust the House of Israel into the limelight. Some critics say Washington is a menace, but that he enjoys favors from the government of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham in exchange for political support.

"My relationship to the prime minister and the Guyanese government is that I am a black man. The prime minister is black," Washington says. "I've only seen him about once since I've been in the country."

His followers wear black, red and green dashikis, or African-style robes.

Washington says a number of his followers are Americans who have taken Guyanese citizenship.

"We do not believe in violence," he says. "We believe violence is the downfall of any people. We teach life, not death. We triumph over death. This is why we follow a very strict diet that God gave to Israel. We do not smoke. We do not drink. We don't use dope or drugs."

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- The Los Angeles Times J R 7

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I'm Master, U.S. Fugitive Tells His Guyanese Cult

ALBERTTOWN, Guyana (AP) — "Am I your master?" he asks. His Guyanese followers nod and chant in unison, "Amen."

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He looks about 50, has receding gray hair and a mouthful of crooked teeth. Followers call his wife "the queen," and "my lady."

He started the House of Israel with four people 3½ years ago after leaving Cleveland, Ohio, where he faced 45 years in prison on charges of blackmail, using the mails to defraud and income tax evasion.

"THEY SAID I owed income taxes," he said. "I never had a job that earned a check. My life is the church. In Cleveland, I had a storefront church at 105th Street for \$90 a month. I was evicted because I couldn't pay the rent."

The House of Israel supports itself, he said.

All of the 8,000 followers Washington claims to have in Guyana are required to give 10 percent of their earnings, plus other gifts and donations, to the church, he said.

A notice in the temple advertised a day for his wife, "Queen Oba Day in a Big Way," and added: "Bring your gift \$."

Members farm 150 acres leased to the House of Israel by the Guyanese government and make and sell pastries, clothes and shoes.

The main House of Israel temple is in a white, rundown four-story wooden building in this Georgetown suburb.

About 70 members live in the 15 rooms and the dormitory above the temple. He, his wife and three children live in the plush Bel Aire suburb among diplomats and government officials.

THE MASS suicide-murder of more than 900 Americans at the Jonestown settlement of the Peoples Temple, another religious cult, has thrust the House of Israel and its relationship with the government of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham into the limelight. Some critics say Wash-

ington is a menace, perhaps a dangerous one, but that he enjoys favors from the government in exchange for political support.

"My relationship to the prime minister and the Guyanese government is that I am a black man and the prime minister is black," says Washington. "I've only seen him about once since I've been in the country."

"I'm not political . . . and that's very difficult in Guyana because if you have a base or if you have what people consider a powerful organization, political parties tend to force you to be one way or another."

His followers wear black, red and green-colored dashikis, African-style robes.

"THE BLACK represents the people," says Washington. "The red symbolizes the blood the blacks have spilled ever since the Europeans captured us and made us niggers, coons and other animals. The green symbolizes the earth the divine being has promised to give to the chosen people."

"The purpose of my mission in Guyana is to resurrect the dead people, the African race, that has been slaughtered by white theology."

"The European man has taken the Bible and made everybody white and is preaching a white theology that made slaves of my people throughout the world. My job is to pull them out of these graveyards called white theology and resurrect them."

Washington says a number of his followers are Americans who have taken Guyanese citizenship.

"We do not believe in violence," he says. "We believe violence is the downfall of any people. We teach life, not death. We triumph over death. This is why we follow a very strict diet that God gave to Israel. We do not smoke. We do not drink. We don't use dope or drugs."

AT THE HOUSE of Israel services, the followers sing what Washington calls "revolutionary songs" and hold prayer services.

Yesterday's sermon was titled, "Africa Awake."

He told the congregation that blacks in North and South America are oppressed by white theologians, colonialists, capitalists and imperialists.

"I have come that you might be freed from all these things if you will turn away from white theology and become followers of me," he told the congregation. "I will show that the world can be ours."

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- The Washington Post _____
- Washington Star-News A-14
- Daily News (New York) _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The Atlanta Constitution _____
- The Los Angeles Times _____

Date _____

Handling the Guyana Bodies Has Delaware City on Edge

By GREGORY JAYNES

Special to The New York Times

DOVER, Del., Nov. 29 — This is a little town in a little state, a place where the part-time Mayor proudly raises the American flag each morning there is no rain. In the center of town is the capitol, old and red brick, where they make the laws of a land merely 96 miles long and 35 miles wide at its widest. To the south of town is its largest industry, Dover Air Force Base, 3,600 acres on which 6,500 people work for an annual payroll of about \$70 million.

**The Talk
of
Dover**

Understandably, almost everything that goes on in Dover is tied, however tenuously, to the base. For the most part, it has been a happy union since 1941, when the just-completed municipal airfield was leased to the United States Army Air Corps. Over the years, as the property remained in military hands, people retired and settled here, sons joined up and served here, Air Force dollars held the local economy steady and the population grew five-

fold, from 5,500 in 1940 to its present 27,000.

The place was conservative, clean, patriotic and there was a certain sense of security lent by the giant C-5 Galaxies, the largest cargo planes in the world, as they filled the skies and blocked the sun over Dover.

Nothing changed much until last week, when the ugly thing that happened in Guyana was brought here for disposition.

With 911 bodies out on the base, the town crawling with fingerprint specialists and military pathologists, and the possibility that hundreds of unidentified human remains would have to be buried in the area, local tempers slid to the edge.

This morning, State Representative Michael Harrington, whose district embraces Dover, wrote President Carter that he had learned from the State Department that cremation of the unidentified was not being seriously considered. "Delaware doesn't deserve this burden," wrote Mr. Harrington. He urged that the bodies be flown in military planes to California.

Of considerable concern, said Mr. Harrington, is the chance that a shrine might someday be erected here to the memory of those who died in Guyana.

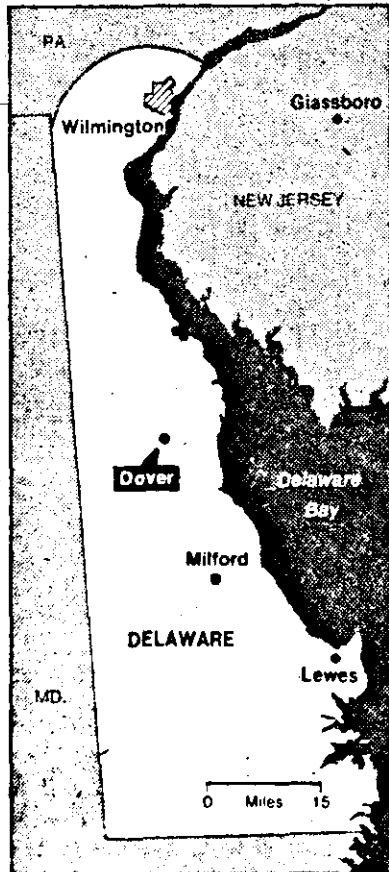
Dover's Mayor, Charles A. Legates, is also set against any of the bodies staying here. "I just don't want the State Department to conduct a mass burial anywhere remotely near Dover," Mr. Legates said. "If you read your past history, martyrs are made of people in such a situation.

"You could expect martyrdom, a shrine, hordes of people making an annual pilgrimage on the anniversary of Jonestown. We just couldn't handle that."

Judging from a reliable barometer of local feelings, a noon radio talk-show called "Speak Your Piece," the Mayor is not alone. Since Thanksgiving morning last week, the day the first shipment of bodies arrived from Guyana, "Speak Your Piece" has been wholly consumed with the issue of disposition of bodies.

"We're just three counties," said a woman caller today. "It's a little state. They have to cremate those bodies. We haven't got the room."

"Let this be California's problem instead of a little state like Delaware,"



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- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The Atlanta Constitution _____
- The Los Angeles Times _____

Date _____



The New York Times / Keith Meyers

An Air Force C-5 transport rising beyond a cemetery in Dover, Del., yesterday. Many of the townspeople there believe that the bodies flown from Jonestown, Guyana, should not remain in the state.

another caller said. "They ought to put them on the same planes they came in on and take them where they belong."

So went nearly all the calls on the one-hour show, ending with a man saying: "It's not Delaware's responsibility if the Government messes up. I don't want a bunch of kooks coming in from out of state to worship these people that killed themselves."

While townspeople continue to rail at the situation, Air Force people down at the base are showing signs of strain. They have had to deal with bodies stacked in refrigerated trucks, bodies stacked in hangars, and bodies wall-to-wall in the field mortuary.

"I came within an inch of popping that guy in the mouth," a sergeant was

telling a colleague yesterday. The man who narrowly escaped injury was a spokesman from the Pentagon. "Acted like he owned the place," the sergeant complained.

The telephone rang and the sergeant answered. On the other end was the daughter of one of the victims. "No m'am," said the sergeant. "Don't come here. It's just a waste of money to come all the way. You can't get on the base. You have to go through the State Department. I'll get you the number."

The State Department, Mayor Legates feels, "is going to give me the shaft one way or another. I can't find anybody at the State Department to talk to. Calling the State Department is like calling a sponge. You can't put your finger on it."

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Let the Joneses keep up with Guyana costs: reps

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—An increasing number of congressmen are demanding that the Peoples Temple or relatives of the more than 900 cult members who died in Jonestown, Guyana, pick up the tab for flying the bodies back home.

Air Force transports have flown the bodies to Dover Air Force Base for identification. The cost of the operation has been put at \$3 to \$9 million. The State Department has also offered to fly back survivors who cannot afford their own tickets.

A State Department spokesman said that efforts are under way to recover \$750,000 in cash from the Peoples Temple funds that the Guyanese police are holding. But he said that the question is "a complex legal matter." The money was turned over to police by surviving cult members after the mass suicide-murders.

A Justice Department spokesman said the department was looking into the matter of whether surviving relatives living in the United States can be

asked to pay the costs. But he held out little hope that any money would be recovered.

Didn't seek permission

He said that the Air Force voluntarily flew the bodies back without asking permission of relatives, and it would now be difficult to send out bills. As for billing the Peoples Temple in San Francisco, he doubted that there would be any legal obligation for the temple to pay such debts.

But Rep. Philip Crane (R-Ill.), a candidate for the GOP presidential nomination, said: "I don't think American taxpayers have any responsibility to absorb one cent of the burden of dealing with the problems in Guyana."

And in a letter to Attorney General Griffin Bell, Rep. James Hanley (D-N.Y.) asked for a "complete and thorough investigation of the assets of the Peoples Temple." (It is unlikely the Justice Department will honor that request, mainly because Justice does not want to raise any constitutional issues of freedom of religion.)

Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) said that the U.S. was right to fly the bodies home but, nevertheless, the State Department should require the Peoples Temple to pay part of the costs.

- The Washington Post _____
- Washington Star-News _____
- Daily News (New York) 56 _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The Atlanta Constitution _____
- The Los Angeles Times _____

Date _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



The throne area used by Jim Jones is strewn with bodies. (UPI photo)

Research urged on cult life

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The mass ritual deaths of religious cult members in Guyana punctuates a dramatic need for research on why people surrender rational thinking for a bizarre lifestyle, a government psychiatrist said Wednesday.

But Dr. Stephen Hersh, a specialist in mental health of the young, warned that the phenomenon of cults will not lend itself to quick or easy pronouncements.

"The desperation of parents who feel that their children have been captured and seduced into an alien way of life cannot be ignored," said Hersh, director of youth programs at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Yet the right of any person of age to choose his or her own religion or way of life must not be violated."

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

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San Juan Star
San Juan,
Puerto Rico

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Research Urged on
Cult Life
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San Juan

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Baseball players who started out like champs, only to die in Guyana

By Alan Cline

That 1977 Opportunity High School baseball team started off like world champs.

Under rookie coach Ron Cabral, the Cobras went undefeated in preseason play, beating good teams like Lowell, Mission, Lincoln and O'Connell.

Second baseman Amondo Griffith hit a ton. Even though the team never won a game in San Francisco AAA league play, he ended the season with a .533 average. That's a base hit more than every other time at bat.

Pitcher Wesley Breidenbach was another good hitter at .363, along with catcher-first baseman Billy Oliver, .312.

Outfielder Mark Sly was the speedster, stealing six bases. To

'Shocked the hell out of everybody'

him, baseball was not the most important thing — it was everything

Cabral, now a teacher and baseball coach at Wilson High School, remembered that team yesterday as he scanned the casualty list from the Peoples Temple agriculture project in Guyana.

The four players were among the dead. So was the team's equipment manager, Stanley Gidg.

When additional names are made public, the coach fears he'll

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

6 S.F. Examiner

San Francisco, Ca.

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