

Cult Leader's Papers Indicate Links to U.S. Embassy

JONESTOWN, Guyana, Dec. 4 (AP) — Senior aides of the cult leader, Jim Jones, maintained much closer relationships with United States Embassy consular officials in Georgetown, Guyana, than has so far been officially acknowledged, Mr. Jones's personal papers indicate.

The papers, acquired by The Associated Press, indicate that one United States official promised to "discreetly" find out who within the embassy was spreading rumors questioning Mr. Jones's religious beliefs. They also show that the embassy complied with the vehement requests of Mr. Jones's aides for advance lists of Jonestown residents whose relatives had asked the embassy to investigate the commune.

The personal papers from Jonestown make it clear that the intention of getting the names in advance was to fully brief the subjects before the American officials arrived at Jonestown.

The United States State Department has said that in 75 interviews by consular officials with People's Temple members in Jonestown, no evidence was uncovered of repression or of people wanting to leave the community.

Link to U.S. Consul Indicated

The Jones papers suggest that there was a close relationship between Richard McCoy, the consul at the United States Embassy until last May, and several top Jones aides in Georgetown, including his public relations chief, Sharon Amos, Terri Jones and Tim Carter. Mr. McCoy, who now serves on the Guyana desk at the State Department in Washington, has not been available for comment.

In a memo to Mr. Jones dated last April 4 this year, Miss Amos said she telephoned Mr. McCoy to complain that the American Embassy was spreading rumors that Mr. Jones was an atheist. According to the memo, Mr. McCoy said that deputy chief of mission, John Blacken, had mentioned that Mr. Jones was starting to doubt the existence of God.

Mr. McCoy expressed doubt that Mr. Blacken was the source of rumors because "John was very sophisticated in knowing what to say and what not to." He promised Miss Amos that "he would discreetly find out who was the one in the embassy that was talking."

Sought to Influence Judge

Mr. McCoy was quoted as fully informing cult aides on pressures on Congress and the State Department over the custody battle between Mr. Jones and Grace and Timothy Stoen involving 6-year-old John Victor Stoen. The Amos memo said, "the assistant secretary of consular affairs told Dick when Dick was visiting recently in Washington that in no certain terms would they consider embassy involvement at all in this case."

Other personal Jones' documents showed that during this same period senior Guyanese officials were attempting to influence the local judge handling the custody case in Guyana.

Regarding Mr. McCoy's views on Jonestown, a March 8 document refers to him as saying "when he is asked about us, he tells people what we are doing here. He says he tells people that no allegations have been proven against us, that we are decent, law abiding citizens who

are trying to help develop Guyana. He tells people that none of the charges against us have any substantiation."

Closer links between Mr. McCoy and the cult are revealed in memos detailing the first meetings between Jones aides and his replacement Douglas Ellis. The updated document signed by Terri Jones and countersigned by Mr. Jones's wife, Marcelline, quoted Mr. Ellis as mentioning that "there were a few people he had to see by request of some letters he had received."

The memo writer continued, "I said Dick always told us who he had to see because we could make sure they were there...I felt he [Ellis] was reluctant about this though, it was like he would tell us when he got there so we couldn't brief them."

An undated unsigned memo addressed to Mr. Ellis expresses the increasing frustration of the Jones aides over the consul's unwillingness to give an advance list.

"We are sick of this and do not appreciate being interrogated again. We are upset about it," the document said, referring to an upcoming visit to the Jonestown settlement by the consul. "We were told by McCoy that we would never have to go through this again," the memo said.

It later added, "everyone thinks it might be them" who would be interviewed. "It is upsetting people because in the past Dick McCoy has always told us who."

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST