

12-8-78  
NYT

# GUYANA AIDE TELLS OF REBUFFING CULT

## He Says He Refused to Halt Legal Action in Custody Case

Special to The New York Times

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Dec. 7 — The Minister of Home Affairs said today that he had refused several impassioned appeals by members of the People's Temple to halt legal action against Jim Jones in the John Victor Stoen child custody case.

The Minister, Vibert Mingo, said in an interview that Sharon Amos and other People's Temple representatives had told him that Mr. Jones was seriously ill in early 1978 and needed medical attention in Georgetown. They sought to have him stop court orders demanding Mr. Jones's appearance in the child custody case.

The custody case appeared to have become the focal point of Mr. Jones's rising fear that there were forces that were seeking to destroy his movement.

Mr. Mingo said that at no time had he interfered with court procedure for any police investigation at Jonestown.

Asked if he had ever got in touch with the trial judge of the case, Justice Aubrey Bishop of Guyana's Supreme Court, Mr. Mingo said that would be "most irregular; they might request that but I never spoke with him."

In the three months before his death, Mr. Jones would not come to Georgetown despite the court summonses.

In one memorandum from Jonestown files published in the foreign press, it was alleged that Mr. Mingo had called off the police investigation so the public would not learn of charges that the national police commissioner, L. A. Barker, had several years before tortured a suspect to death.

### Incident Is Denied

In separate interviews, both Mr. Mingo and Commissioner Barker denied that such an incident had ever taken place.

He confirmed that the People's Temple had offered to help the ruling party, the People's National Congress, in a referendum in July, but he said that he rejected that help on the ground it was illegal for foreign nationals from non-Communist states to become involved in the political process.

He said that he had noticed that the People's Temple group had taken part in May Day activities here, but he said that they had done so on their own.

In a separate interview, Hamilton Green, the Minister of Health, Housing and Labor, said that the Government was weighing several ideas about what to do with the vacant 3,000-acre agricultural community.