

Autopsies Are Performed on Jones and 6 Followers

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

Military pathologists performed autopsies yesterday on the Rev. Jim Jones and six of his followers who died in Guyana four weeks ago.

The autopsies were performed at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware by a team of specialists in forensic medicine from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington.

No results were released yesterday. Robert J. Havel, an official of the Justice Department, said that "the general results" would be made public when Justice Department officials received reports from the institute doctors. Prelimi-

nary results are not expected before next week, Mr. Havel said.

It can take months before final autopsy reports are written. Among the reasons for the long period are the need to correlate the large number of tests that are done on the samples collected at the post-mortem examination. Many specimens are sent for toxicological and biochemical analyses, while others must be examined under the microscope.

Can Detect Abnormalities

However, reports of preliminary diagnoses sometimes are made immediately or a few days after an autopsy. A pathologist can detect with the naked eye ana-

tomical abnormalities, such as a tumor, and make a tentative diagnosis. But such a diagnosis can be completely altered by more detailed anatomical studies and by the findings from laboratory tests.

In addition to Mr. Jones, autopsies were performed on the remains of Maria Katsaris, Mr. Jones's mistress, who reportedly was shot; Dr. Larry Schacht, a physician who worked at the People's Temple in Jonestown and who reportedly mixed the cyanide potion that killed the cult members; Caroline Moore Layton, a member of Mr. Jones's hierarchy; Ann Elizabeth Moore, a nurse who reportedly was shot to death; William Richard Castillo, and Violet Dillard.

All seven autopsies were performed with the written permission of the decedents' next of kin, according to Federal officials.

Earlier in the day, Defense Department officials said that a total of 10 autopsies would be performed, six yesterday and four today. But Mr. Havel said that permission had been received for only seven bodies and that only seven autopsies would be performed.

Relatives Offered 2 Bodies

Mr. Havel said that relatives had offered the bodies of Mrs. Layton and Miss Moore for autopsies, so they would be considered with the bodies of Mr. Castillo and Miss Dillard as the four random autopsies. Justice Department officials had said they would perform four random autopsies to help determine the cause of death of the more than 900 cult members. Medical examiners have said that there was no scientific basis for such extrapolation.

Defense Department officials declined to release the names of the pathologists who performed the autopsies. A Defense Department spokesman, Maj. Brigham S. Schuler of the Army, said that an unnamed civilian pathologist from Baltimore attended the autopsies as a consultant. Yesterday, Major Schuler said that there would be no civilian consultants.

The names of surgeons who perform an operation are usually disclosed. An autopsy is a postmortem examination that involves surgery. Major Schuler said that no public disclosure would be made at this time because it was a "very complex case" and because there had been situations where investigators had received crank calls as a result of disclosure.

State medical examiners not connected with the investigation said in interviews that the names of pathologists who conduct medical-legal autopsies are a matter of public record.

'This Is Public Information'

Dr. William Q. Sturner, the chief medical examiner of Rhode Island, who is head of the National Association of Medical Examiners, said yesterday that "it has been a time-honored" practice of forensic pathology that the cause and manner of death be disclosed as soon as possible after an autopsy because "this is public information."

"Pathologists should not have anything to hide in the examinations they do," Dr. Sturner said.

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