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Guyana Cost to U.S. \$3.5 Million

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP) — It has cost the Defense Department \$3.5 million to \$4 million to conduct airlift and other operations in the Guyana cult tragedy in which more than 900 followers of the People's Temple died, a report said today.

The Pentagon report leaves open the likelihood of more costs being added to the total because military personnel are still working at the mortuary of the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on identification and processing of the remains, and because two Army helicopters are still flying for the United States Embassy in Guyana.

The Pentagon said that its cost estimates included operations of military aircraft to evacuate persons wounded at the Port Kaituma ambush in which Representative Leo J. Ryan was killed, to deploy a task force including helicopters and other equipment to shuttle the remains of the Jonestown dead to Georgetown and then to Dover and to return United States military personnel and equipment to their home bases.

The report said that a total of 67 C-141 and C-130 transport plane missions and 121 helicopter flights had been carried out.

The military force in Guyana totaled 321 graves registration and other personnel flown from Fort Benning, Ga., and

Fort Bragg, N.C. Military aircraft came from bases in the United States and the Panama Canal Zone.

Among the cost items taken into account, the Pentagon said, were per diem pay for all personnel involved, rations, supplies and equipment, mortuary services, rented billets and a variety of administrative and other services, plus replacement of uniform items and other gear that were destroyed for sanitary reasons.

In another development, the State Department assured Delaware officials that a decision would be made by Feb. 1 on what to do with 676 bodies of People's Temple followers now at Dover Air Force Base.

Representative Thomas B. Evans Jr., Republican of Delaware, said after a meeting with State Department representatives that he would like to see the bodies transported at the expense of the People's Temple to California and other states where the cult originated.

Members of the state's Congressional delegation and officials from the Governor's office met for more than an hour today with Barbara Watson, an Assistant Secretary of State. Also attending were representatives of the Justice Department and the Pentagon.