

Memo Discusses Smuggling Witness into Guyana

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GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Dec. 7 — A memorandum found in the files of the Rev. Jim Jones and apparently written by an official of the People's Temple in San Francisco discussed the possibility of the cult helping its lawyer, Mark Lane, to smuggle a witness in the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination case into Guyana using a false passport.

The memo, discovered among papers dated early this year, apparently was written by Terri Buford, who worked for the temple at the time but who is now associated with Mr. Lane. A spokesman for Mr. Lane denied, however, that he had discussed such a possibility.

The memorandum, marked "Confidential-Confidential" and addressed to "Jim," noted, "I got a message over here that you wanted me to tell Mark Lane that he should look into some alternative means of getting Grace Walden to Guyana because the C.I.A. might try to stop her from entering the country. Therefore Mark should try to get her another passport."

Testimony Found to Be Useless

Miss Walden, a Memphis resident with a history of mental illness, has been put forth by Mr. Lane as a witness who could prove that James Earl Ray Jr. did not shoot Dr. King. Investigations by several organizations, including the House of Representatives, have found her testimony useless. But according to the memo, Mr. Lane persuaded members of the temple that the United States authorities wanted to silence Miss Walden.

"I will relay the message to Mark and see what he says," the memo said. "I will do so in person as I don't feel it is wise to this over the phone."

The memo continued: "If he doesn't have those kind of contacts — do you think we might ought to offer the tampering of Maxine Swaney's passport — we have her passport here and it might be something that would similar to Grace Walden and also if it doesn't look her, maybe we can swap the pictures."

"The drawback of this would be of course if a traitor were to look at the immigration list, we would be caught in a minute. The good points of this would be we wouldn't run the risk getting caught by a passport on the white market."

Controversy on Lane's Role

The memo, signed 'Teri,' has surfaced at a time when more and more questions are being asked about Mr. Lane's dealings with the cult and with the United States Government on behalf of the cult.

American officials spoke privately today of a letter from the lawyer to the

State Department earlier this year warning that if it did not halt its "harrassment" the cult would move to a country that would embarrass the United States.

They said Mr. Lane was apparently acting on orders from Mr. Jones to try to halt an inspection by Congressman Leo J. Ryan of California. Mr. Ryan's trip ended with his murder by cult members three weeks ago and appears to have set off the mass deaths at Jonestown.

While Mr. Lane's letter did not mention a country by name, it is believed to have reflected Mr. Jones's plans to move the group to the Soviet Union or Cuba. Members of the Soviet Union's delegation here had met with officials of the People's Temple to discuss such a move, and Mr. Jones had begun conducting Russian language lessons for the people at Jonestown.

Questions About Warnings

American and Guyanese sources here said Mr. Lane often appeared, as one put it, "to feed the paranoia" in Jonestown.

In a news conference here on Sept. 20, for instance, Mr. Lane said a citizens' committee had concluded that there "has been a massive conspiracy to destroy the People's Temple and a massive conspiracy to destroy the Rev. Jim Jones . . ." that was "initiated by intelligence agencies of the United States."

Part of the controversy surrounding Mr. Lane has centered on whether he was warned of the dangers at Jonestown and whether he adequately warned others in the Ryan inspection party. The lawyer

wrote a letter to Mr. Ryan, dated Nov. 6, 1978, similar to the one sent to the State Department. Mr. Ryan responded that the United States would not be influenced by any threats from the group.

Mr. Lane was unavailable last night, but a law associate, April Ferguson, said he had written no such letter to the State Department. She said the reference to the group's threat to move to another country

sounded like the letter to Mr. Ryan.

As for the memorandum, Miss Ferguson said Miss Buford had not written such a message and Mr. Lane had not been involved in any discussions about getting Miss Walden to Guyana under a false passport. Miss Ferguson said that there had been discussion about taking Miss Walden there but that there was no reason she could not have traveled openly.