

Jonestown tape said to reveal most were pressured into dying

Georgetown, Guyana (KNI)—A dramatic tape recording of part of the death ceremony at Jonestown reveals how members of the community were pressured into gulping poison by their leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, a high-placed source said yesterday.

He said the tape shows that Mr. Jones put his followers under such intense psychological pressure to die that their deaths could almost be considered "involuntary suicide."

"But the bottom line is still murder," he added, contending that they did not kill themselves voluntarily.

The tape also reveals that some argued against killing themselves, including one woman who defied Mr. Jones, insisting that she had the right to live. Her body was found along with the others.

The tape records 45 minutes of the murder-and-suicide ceremony last month in which 913 persons were wiped out in the cult's settlement in the Guyanese jungle.

Earlier Dr. C. Leslie Mootoo, the Guyanese government's top pathologist and

medical examiner, said he didn't believe that "there were ever more than 200 persons who died voluntarily." He said he considered the others—more than 700 persons—to be murder victims.

The tape reveals a revival meeting atmosphere in the settlement after Mr. Jones had exhorted the group to die, telling them their position was hopeless. There were shouts of "Hallelujah" and "I am willing."

At one point Mr. Jones, who was white, told his largely black following, "This is the black way to die."

The source said comments on the tape indicate that the children in the settlement were killed first. Some say this would have sapped the parents' will to live.

Information on the tape came from a source who has listened to it repeatedly since it was discovered in a tape recorder in the Jonestown pavilion where most of the cultists' bodies were found.

The tape was found by an American official who visited the jungle settlement

shortly after the bodies were found. It has been played for the American ambassador to Guyana and then returned to the United States. Copies are in the hands of Prime Minister L. F. S. Burnham of Guyana and the Guyanese police.

Evidence indicates that the Jonestown cultists died over a period ranging from 3 hours to 5½ hours. It is not known at what point the tape was made, but the source said it appears to be in the early part of the death session, because Mr. Jones is telling his followers why they must die.

"You can hear babies crying and Jones is doing most of the talking, verbally battering them," in an effort to prepare them for death, the source said.

Mr. Jones called his followers together after U.S. Representative Leo J. Ryan, (D., Calif.), and four members of his party were slain by members of the cult. Mr. Ryan had gone to Georgetown to investigate whether some members of the settlement were being held there against their will.

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Alleged confidant of Jones testifies on Ryan slayings

San Francisco (AP)—Terri Buford, a Peoples Temple member who reportedly was a confidant of the Rev. Jim Jones, testified yesterday before a federal grand jury investigating the murder of Representative Leo J. Ryan.

None of her testimony was made public.

Mr. Ryan, a California Democrat, died in Guyana November 18 at the hands of temple members shortly before a mass suicide and murders took the lives of more than 900 cult members at their agricultural settlement of Jonestown.

The grand jury wants to know if a conspiracy was formed in this country to murder Mr. Ryan.

After Ms. Buford, 24, finished testifying, her attorney, Mark Lane, said she had answered all the grand jury's questions and did not take the Fifth Amendment or ask for immunity.

Mr. Lane said she had already turned over Peoples Temple bank account records showing that the cult had more than \$7.5 million in accounts of Swiss banks in Panama, and that she had no knowledge of the Ryan party's murder.

He said she left Guyana three weeks before the killings and had been living in Mr. Lane's home in Memphis.

Ms. Buford also testified before a California attorney general's task force investigating voter fraud involving temple members.

Questions arise on legality of Jones's cremation

Clarksboro, N.J. (AP)—A day after the body of the Rev. Jim Jones was cremated

here, a deputy attorney general said serious questions had been raised about the cremation's legality and that the state would begin an inquiry.

"From the information we have at this point, it is not clear who authorized the cremation of Mr. Jones," Charles J. Mysak, the deputy attorney general who is legal counsel for the state Board of Mortuary Science, said yesterday.

"We have to take a look at the type of burial permits" at the Eglington Cemetery here where the leader of the Peoples Temple was cremated Tuesday, he said.

To legally cremate a body in New Jersey, authorization is needed from the next of kin or other lawful authority, he said. He added that death certificates or special permits are also required.

But the death certificates are being completed in Guyana and cemetery officials have said they did not know they needed a special permit and had not received one.

It was not known who gave directions to have Mr. Jones cremated. Some followers have said cremation was his own wish. His wife's parents had said at first that they wanted to have the couple's bodies flown to their home in Indiana, but then said they thought cremation would be best.

Mr. Jones's body was cremated Tuesday after it arrived from a funeral establishment in Dover, Del., near the Air Force base to which the bodies of the victims were flown from Guyana by United States authorities. The body was released to the funeral home by the Air Force.

Mr. Jones died among more than 900 followers at the Peoples Temple agricul-



TERRI BUFORD
... testifies on Peoples Temple slayings

tural settlement in Guyana last month during a mass suicide and murder ritual that he apparently led.

An autopsy confirmed Mr. Jones died of a gunshot wound to the head, but a State Department spokesman said that although the type of wound was consistent with a suicide, the possibility that someone else pulled the trigger had not been eliminated.

Mr. Jones's cremated remains were scheduled to be taken from a cemetery safe yesterday and returned to Delaware, but it was not known whether that had occurred.