

The Knoxville News-Sentinel

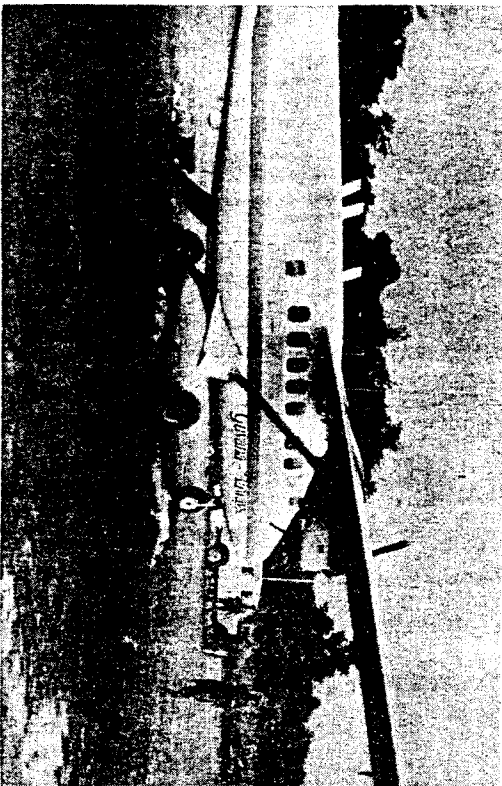
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82 Pages, Four Sections

Mass Suicide, Murder Sweep Sect



Americans Slaughtered on Airstrip

Bodies lie on a Guyana airstrip by the plane which was to carry them back to Georgetown. Rep. Leo Ryan and four other Americans were massacred by

Lane Warned Rep. Ryan of 'Persecution'

By CLARK REID

WASHINGTON — Memphis lawyer Mark Lane warned U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan of an "embarrassing situation" of an alleged religious group calling itself "The People's Temple" could result in a "most embarrassing situation" for the United States.

Ryan and four other Americans were killed Saturday as they prepared to leave Jonestown, Guyana, after touring the People's Temple compound near the border between Guyana and Brazil.



Rep. Leo Ryan



Jim Jones

CHRONICLE: Guyana — A Guyana government official said today the band of American religious fanatics who massacred Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California and four other Americans in his party had begun a wave of mass suicide and murder that left 400 persons dead and 600 missing.

Guyana Minister of Information Shirley Field-Ridley said Guyanese troops today began a search for the missing members of the Peoples Temple in the Jonestown settlement and found that some of the victims apparently were murdered.

Mrs. Field-Ridley told a news conference that some of the victims "showed signs of violence, including presumed gunshot wounds, which were not consistent with suicide." She said some of the victims showed no signs of violence and were presumed to have been pushed.

She said a man who fled from the religious community headed by a California, Rev. Jim Jones, reached a police station in the jungle interior of Guyana and reported that leaders of the sect were preparing for a mass suicide by poisoning.

Jones, 46, variously called himself the "prophet of God" and "father" and preached a rambo-yant mixture of occultism, healing, racial integration and socialism.

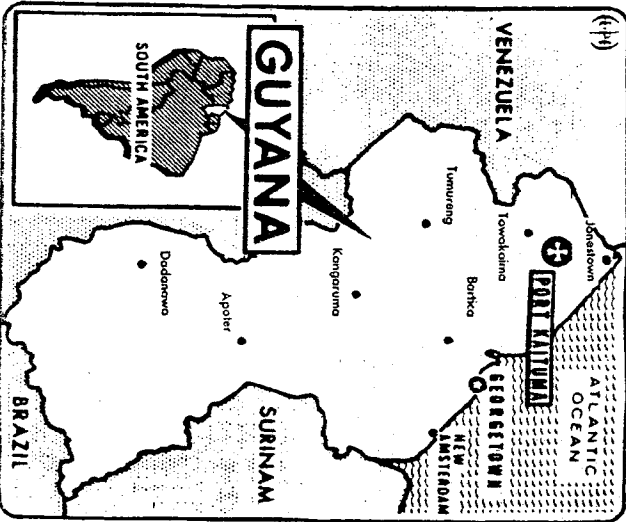
Mrs. Field-Ridley said, "Some of the bodies were found in homes, some were found in clearings in the forests, but no live persons were found . . . The troops are searching for them."

Mrs. Field-Ridley said troops had been unable to locate Jones, a former San Francisco Housing Authority director, who fled from the U.S. after a five-time indictment for kidnapping and other crimes.

A California psychologist who accompanied Ryan to Guyana to try to get his daughter out of Jonestown said members of the group rehearsed mass suicide and had been practicing for some time before they left California.

"They will all be dead tomorrow," said Stephen Kakuzis, whose son Anthony, 23, was critically wounded in the Saturday night attack in which Ryan, a California Democrat, was killed.

Ryan, accompanied by aides, reporters, and relatives of some sect members, came to this former U.S. colony on the last week to investigate reports of large-



scale abuses of members of the religious group.

The U.S. Representative, 33, was killed by a shotgun blast as he attempted to take several disenchanted members of the sect back to Georgetown by plane.

A knife-wielding assailant had attempted to stab Ryan earlier while the Representative was visiting Jonestown.

Two members of Ryan's group, including his wife, were also killed in the attack.

The dead included three men and one of the settlement's defenders. Ten persons were wounded, three seriously, and the husband of one of the wounded had a stroke. The U.S. Embassy said they were all Americans.

Survivors of the attack said a band of black and white members of the People's

Temple opened fire with automatic weapons and shotguns as Ryan and his party were boarding planes at the Port Kaituma airstrip, eight miles south of Jonestown and 150 miles northwest of Georgetown.

In San Francisco, a People's Temple spokesman who identified himself as Rev. James Jones denied that members of the sect did the airport killings.

Ryan, reporter Don Harris, 42, and cameraman Robert Brown, 36, both of NBC News and both Los Angeles residents (Gregory Robinson, 27, a photographer for the San Francisco Examiner, was trying to escape from Jonestown, See the Page 11, Page A-2

400 Dead, 600 Missing in Cult Mass Suicide, Murders

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was killed. Her home address was not known.

A White House statement said President Carter was saddened by Ryan's death. "It was his drive to get information at first hand that led to his tragic death," the statement said.

Lane, who was in San Francisco, came to Guyana with Ryan to act as a liaison between the two men. Jones reported missing for hours, was not harmed and was in Georgetown, according to his staff members in Memphis.

There was no word on the whereabouts of Garry, who survivors said remained behind at Jonestown to try to negotiate the release of another settler.

Robert Fick, NBC field producer, said he and others fled 50 to 75 miles at Ryan's group as the planes were being loaded.

"People were being wounded and falling to the ground. As they fell, people with shotguns would walk over and at point-blank range shoot the victim in the head," Fick said in an account broadcast by NBC. "That was how Ryan and Harris died."

According to Fick, there were eight to 10 bodies lying on the ground. Survivors fled back and while they stayed until nightfall.

The government flew troops to Port Kaituma yesterday, and Fick said they arrested nine suspects. A Guyanese government spokesman in New York, Jack Gellinas, said one of those arrested was an American named Larry John Layton. His home address was not revealed.

Police and soldiers arrived at Port Kaituma at daybreak and a Guyanese police plane ferried the survivors back to Georgetown. The U.S. State Department spokesman said the U.S. Air Force took them to Puerto Rico and to Andrews Air Force Base in Washington.

The bodies remained at Port Kaituma. State Department spokesman Tom Roeske said the bodies were being brought to Georgetown where autopsies would be performed to comply with Guyanese law in cases involving homicide.

The wounded hospitalized at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base in Puerto Rico were Anthony Katsaris, of Potter Valley, Calif., wounded in the chest; Ben Canary, who was fleeing from Jonestown and was wounded in the abdomen; and a woman, identified as a nurse, who had been in Jonestown and was wounded in both legs.

A Navy spokesman said Mrs. Oliver's husband, Howard, suffered a stroke in Georgetown and was hospitalized with his wife.

Five of the survivors were hospitalized at Andrews. They were Jackie Speyer, one of Ryan's aides, who was listed in serious condition with "extensive head trauma," and two other men, including reporter Ron Javens and NBC Channel 5 news anchor Steve Sung, with shoulder wounds.

San Francisco Examiner reporter Tim Retherman, wounded in the forearm, and Carolyn Boyd, who was being treated for shock and emotional stress.

Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the

U.S. Embassy in Georgetown, was slightly injured, and so was Washington Post reporter Charles Krause.

Jones, who is married and has seven children, was born in Indiana, the son of a poor, interracial couple. At one time, he could list among his friends Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone.

But Jones' star faded after a series of allegations by former members of the Peoples Temple. They complained that his methods of control included beatings and exhausting work schedules, and accused him of extorting huge sums of money and issuing death threats to anyone who strayed from the church or disrespected it.

The rigid discipline was designed, former members said, to toughen members so they could survive a nuclear holocaust or a direct takeover of the United States, which Jones had predicted.

Former members said Jones' following diminished to his authoritarian regime because his rules and rituals left them terrified and often brainwashed.

Deaths

Donna Adams Baker, 78, 1515 Isabelle Tower.

William G. Baker, 78, 1515 Isabelle Tower.

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Baker, 78, 1515 Isabelle Tower.

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ment. . . they will be constrained to consider accepting either offer." Lane wrote, "The important consequences which may flow from further persecution of People's Temple and which might very well result in the creation of a most embarrassing situation for the U.S. Government."

In a Nov. 10 reply to Lane, Ryan challenged the attorney's charges of persecution, adding that his investigation of the Peoples Temple was the request of members of many churches who were concerned about their welfare.

"It is true that most of the comments I have heard from relatives are negative, but that is precisely the purpose of this inquiry," wrote Ryan. "Rather than take the word of relatives who can be pre-

sumed to be under some emotional bias, I intend to go to the source and to allow those on the other side the opportunity to speak in their own behalf."

Ryan added, "I am truly disappointed to learn that (Lane's) use of the phrase 'which hurt' in connection with an open and honest inquiry of the United States House of Representatives into the welfare of American citizens presently living in Jonestown."

The congressman told Lane, "your vague reference to the creation of a most embarrassing situation for the United States, does not impress me at all."

Lane saved Ryan from a possibly fatal bludge at the Guyana camp shortly before Ryan was killed at the airstrip.

The first attempt on Ryan's life was thwarted when Lane grabbed the knife of a young man who lunged at the Representative, according to an eyewitness reporter.

A former Knoxville man was killed in a motorcycle accident in South Alabama last month, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Adams, told the press.

Michael J. Arnette, 27, a graduate of Knoxville Catholic High School, was working in Mobile as a machinist. He was a graduate of Faulkner Junior College in Mobile, and a member of the Church of Christ.

Berry's is in charge.

the immaculate Conception.

He has his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Adams, told the press.

Mrs. Jan (Pat) Adams, Mrs. Knoxville Catholic High School, was working in Mobile as a machinist. He was a graduate of Faulkner Junior College in Mobile, and a member of the Church of Christ.

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FRONT 11-22-78

Jones says father 'obsessed'

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — The son of fanatical cult leader Jim Jones said Tuesday his father was a sick man, a "man obsessed ... a very frightened man," but he was worshipped by women and held enormous sway over his devoted disciples.

Stephan Jones, 19, said he and his mother recently had tried to keep his 46-year-old father out of the sect's decision-making process, but he admitted they failed.

On Jones' orders, more than 400 residents of the jungle camp of the People's Temple sect committed suicide Saturday. Jim Jones and his wife were among the dead.

"We all here and in the States are shocked," the younger Jones told reporters. "We can't understand it because it is not our way of life and never has been."

"My entire life I've lived to better the lives of people and not to destroy them."

The 6-foot-4 Stephan, who came here from Jonestown three weeks ago as coach of the camp's basketball team, said his major concern now is the well-being of the survivors, including 500 or so camp residents who fled into the jungle during the mass suicide.

"The utmost in all our minds is the safety of those unaccounted for and the safety of the people here," he said. "I want to do all I can to see everybody gets a chance to find someplace to settle down and start over again, if that is at all possible."

But he said it seems impossible to continue the settlement at Jonestown, 150 miles northwest of here.

A survivor of the ritual said armed men stood in a ring around the Peoples Temple settlers gathered by Jim Jones for the mass suicide. The cultists drank cups of fruit drink laced with cyanide, and the witness said at least one woman

balked but was shouted into submission by fellow sect members.

Had he been in Jonestown, Stephan said, he might have been able to talk his father out of ordering mass suicide. If this failed, he said, he would have stood up and discredited and denounced his father to try to convince people he was wrong.

The young Jones praised the communal life of the camp, but he said it was flawed by a growing paranoia and the egotism of his father.

"I feel Jim Jones was a man obsessed with his own ego and power. There were women up there who worshipped him," he said.

Asked how he thinks history will view his father, the younger Jones said: "I don't care. I just hope it doesn't discredit what I have done. I can almost say I hate this man for what he has done. He has destroyed everything I've lived for."

FBI confirms cult probe

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The FBI confirmed on Tuesday that its agents were investigating rumors that Peoples Temple members had plans to kidnap or assassinate high-ranking U.S. officials to avenge any harm which might come to the cult's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

"There are the rumors, and some death threats have been made, but we don't know whether the threats are from cranks or not," said FBI agent Robert Fuller.

One death threat was reported against the son of an aide to Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif. Ryan was killed in an ambush in Guyana near the San Francisco-based cult's settlement.

Jones' body was found Monday at the settlement, along with the remains of more than 400 temple members, the victims of a mass suicide.

The deaths of Jones and his followers came after the ambush Saturday at a landing strip near the settlement left Ryan, three newsmen and a temple member dead.

Ryan's group was preparing to leave after a fact-finding visit to the Jonestown commune when fanatic followers of Jones opened fire on the delegation.

The FBI said it has known of the contingency plan for some time, but has received new information from defectors over the past few days.

Fuller said the information came from current and former temple members and that the plan called for retaliation in the event Jones was arrested or harmed.

One death threat was reported to have been against Will Holsinger, son of Ryan's administrative aide, Joe Holsinger.

The younger Holsinger had been employed by Ryan the past two months to investigate the Peoples Temple in San Francisco.

A few hours after the first radio reports of the shootings at the landing strip, the wife of the younger Holsinger received a telephone call saying "Your husband's meal ticket had his head blown off and he (Will) might be next."

Police were notified and the family moved to another San Mateo residence which is being guarded by police.

Post
11-22-78

Cult doctor's fate unknown

HOUSTON (AP) — The camp doctor who reportedly brewed and administered the poison that killed more than 400 people in Guyana had written to his family of "the satisfaction of assisting poor people, many of whom have never seen a doctor in their lives."

Dr. Larry Schacht, 30, was a physician in Jonestown, Guyana, serving the members of the Peoples Temple.

Odell Rhodes, a teacher at the South American colony who escaped the mass suicide, said Schacht prepared the cyanide potion and helped nurses ladle it out, starting by spooning or squirting it into the mouths of infants. Rhodes said adults then lined up and received the poison drink in paper cups.

The bodies of more than 400 persons were found in and around the Jonestown meeting hall, including that of the Rev. Jim Jones, founder of the sect. The suicides occurred shortly after a U.S. congressman and four others were ambushed and killed at the settlement.

The doctor's fate was unknown. His brother, Danny Schacht, said Tuesday, "We really don't know what happened. We'll just have to wait and see."

Earlier, Schacht had said he was certain his brother would not commit suicide.

His father, Ezra Schacht, told the Beaumont Journal in a copyright story: "I'm just drained here. I can't believe something as productive as this (his son's work) was smashed."

Larry Schacht's letters to his family made no mention of rumors that members of the settlement were being held against their will.

He wrote that the Peoples Temple "proclaims the true brotherhood and liberation of the blacks. The pastor has told the congregation that the Bible is used to keep them in slavery. Actually, the pastor is a prophet and stands for and is fighting for the true liberation of all mankind and to make this a better world."

The family said Larry Schacht joined the Peoples Temple in California, attended a junior college and then medical school in Mexico. He went to Guyana about two years ago.

Danny Schacht said that before joining the group, his brother "was somewhat aimless. These people turned him around and gave him a sense of self-fulfillment."

Camp doctor, nurses brewed deadly brew

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A survivor of the mass suicide at the Jonestown religious settlement said the camp doctor and his two nurses brewed the deadly purple drink of cyanide and Kool-Aid in a large stainless steel vat and then administered it to the babies first.

Dr. Lawrence Schacht, 30, of Houston, Tex., and his two nurses squirted the fruity-flavored potion into the mouths of squirming babies before ladling it into paper cups for hundreds of adult members of the Rev. Jim Jones' People's Temple Saturday at their isolated jungle colony in northwest Guyana, said Odell Rhodes, a 36-year-old teacher.

Rhodes said he escaped when Schacht asked for a stethoscope and he volunteered to get it. Instead of returning, he fled into the jungle, he said.

Two other aged survivors were found in the camp, and 12 others who fled came out of the jungle. The police count of bodies in the camp reached 409 by Monday night, and Guyanese troops were searching the jungle for hundreds of others believed to have fled when Jones summoned them to die.

Rhodes said he saw mothers give the poison to their children before taking it themselves.

"It just got all out of order," he reported. "Babies were screaming, children were screaming, and there was mass confusion."

Armed guards turned back persons who tried to leave the ritual.

Those who drank went into convulsions, their eyes rolled upward and they gasped for breath before falling dead.

Jones, clad in black pants and a colorful casual shirt, was found on his back on the pavilion stage. He apparently shot himself in the right temple. The body of his wife was nearby.

Bodies carpeted the open-air pavilion, and the yard around it was solid with them. Many of the victims clutched each other.

"From the air it literally looked like a garbage dump where somebody dumped a lot of rag dolls," said Charles Krause of the Washington Post, who visited Jonestown as a representative of the foreign press.

Another survivor, Grover Davis, 79, said he realized what was coming when

Jones announced by loudspeaker: "The time has come for us to meet in another

place." He said he slipped off and hid in a hole at the edge of a clearing.



Death vat

The vat of death sits on a sidewalk on the compound of People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, Monday, with bodies of followers around after Saturday's mass suicide. The vat contained an ade drink laced with deadly cyanide. (AP Laser-photo)

Today's topic

Why did they die?

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of members of a religious cult formed an orderly line, then took their lives with a draught of poison. Shocking, yes. And bizarre. But not, say the experts, surprising.

Challenged from without, shaken by defections within, the Rev. Jim Jones's People's Temple swelled with uncertainty, then "imploded," experts believe. Nearly 400 cultists took their own lives in the isolated jungle of Guyana, a tiny South American republic.

Some reportedly were shot, but Guyanese authorities said most apparently died of poison. An estimated 700 others were believed to have fled into the jungle. The suicides — including Jones, his wife and son — died just hours after the sect ambushed and killed five Americans, including U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan of California.

Mind-befogging though the mass suicide appears, scholars on suicide and cults such as the People's Temple say they saw it coming. It was only a question, they say, of who and when.

"Nobody has believed we silly people who said it is possible to control people to this degree. But it has happened," said Boston psychiatrist John Clark, who has studied these cults for five years.

"This is not surprising," said Rabbi James Rudin, an official of the American Jewish Committee who has written extensively on cults. "It's not surprising when you consider the totalitarian atmosphere in which most cults operate."

"Our war, our side — it's a madness of many," said Dr. Edwin Shneidman of the University of California, the nation's only professor of thanatology — a discipline named for Thanatos, the Greek god of death.

These men say that strong, even totalitarian, leaders like Jones leave no room for their adherents to dissent. Often, says Clark, it is this uniformity of thought and belief that attracts followers:

"People who go into cults are in a state of mind that does not allow inside information to enter. They feel safe, cozy. They can talk their own language to each other. It's reinforced by their opposition to all outside reality — an 'us and they' mentality."

Clark believes Congressman Ryan cracked this wall of uniformity when he visited the People's Temple commune Saturday to investigate alleged abuse of sect members; several members chose to leave with him. These events, Clark says, "tore apart the cult's sense of certainty."

"I think the thing imploded," he said. "You have to understand that there is no room for ambiguity in groups like this. When ambiguity occurred, when something went wrong, they all panicked and the cult destroyed itself."

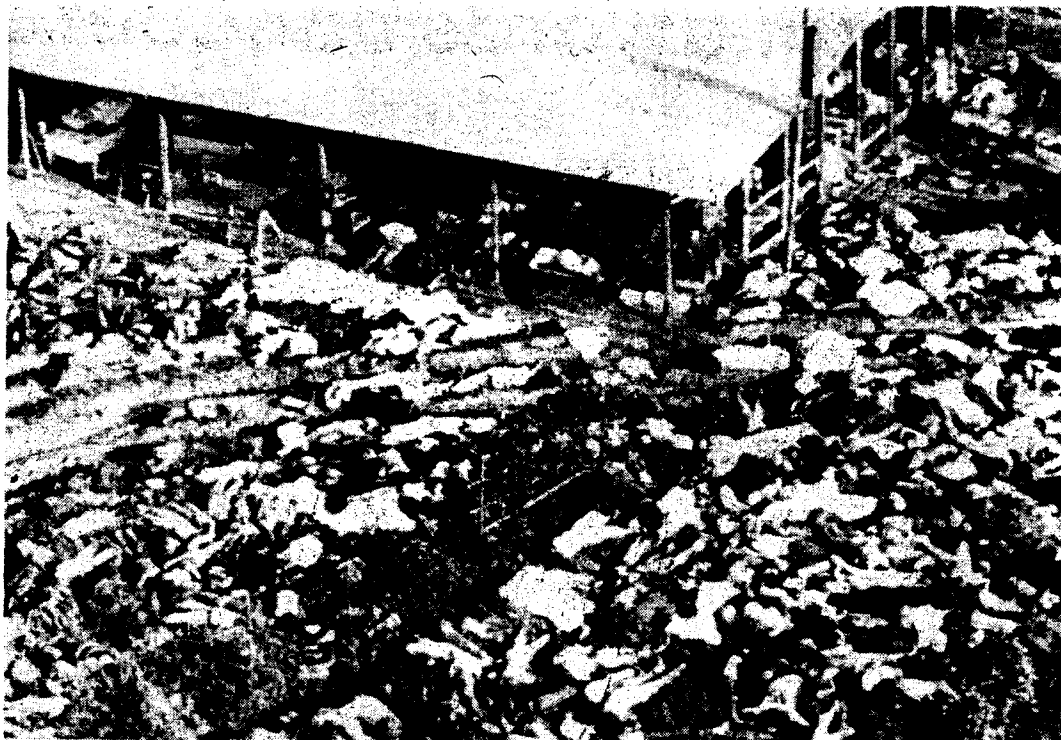
The ambush and killings followed. Within hours, according to witnesses, cult members lined up for a draught of poison reportedly brewed in a large vat.

Mark Lane, a lawyer representing the cult, was at the camp just before the deaths. He said the members discussed suicide before he fled, fearing for his own life. He said two cult members told him: "We are all going to die now."

"They were smiling ... they looked genuinely happy," Lane said.

A California psychologist, who accompanied Ryan to Guyana to try to get his daughter out of Jonestown, said members of the group rehearsed mass suicide and signed undated suicide notes before they left California for Guyana.

One can only speculate about Jones' motives. There were reports he was seriously ill. He was apparently fascinated by suicide and once led a demonstration calling for a "suicide barrier" on San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. But a more compelling question is why his followers were willing to join him in death.



Mass suicide scene

This view shows the area of People's Temple at Jonestown, Guyana, where cultists committed mass suicide Saturday. Authorities said some poisoned themselves and others used guns. (AP Laserphoto)



Death reigns

Bodies of People's Temple followers fill the meeting hall of the cult's settlement in Jonestown, Guyana, Monday. More than 400 of the faithful members of the controversial religious sect killed themselves Saturday following the slaying of U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., and his party in an ambush at a remote airstrip in Port Kaituma. (AP Laserphoto)