

# Lane Denies Seeking Temple's Accounts

New York Times News Service

Mark Lane, the lawyer for the Rev. Jim Jones of the Peoples Temple sect in Jonestown, Guyana, said yesterday that he has not made any effort to seek access to the sect's secret assets in Swiss banks.

Denying reports received Friday by the Department of Justice, Lane said he had not gone to Switzerland to get at the secret accounts.

And in San Francisco, it has been learned, Jones ordered what former temple members say was an organized campaign of fraudulent voting practices that included importing busloads of illegal voters to cast their ballots in this city's 1975 municipal elections.

Lane, in a telephone interview from his home in Memphis, Tenn., where he arrived Friday night from a four-day trip to Paris, said his only knowledge of the secret funds came from documents and oral statements by Terri Buford. She is another of his clients and had been a close aide to Jones until she defected from the cult last September.

Lane said that, according to Buford, the Peoples Temple had accumulated \$7.5 million, the bulk of which was deposited in a Swiss bank account in Panama, while less than \$1 million was kept in a second account in Zurich.

**HE SAID BUFORD** had told him the Panama account had been opened several months ago by Tim Stoen, a San Francisco lawyer and former legal and financial aide to the Peoples Temple.

After studying the documents made available by Buford, Lane said, he believed the funds had been deposited in the name of an elderly woman member of the cult.

He also said he believed that, on the assumption the woman died along with more than 900 other members of the cult in Jonestown on Nov. 18, her son, who lives in the United States, is the legal heir to the funds.

Lane said he had advised the presumed heir to retain a lawyer and, through him, to order the secret Swiss accounts to be frozen. The son asked Lane to do this for him, Lane said, and he cabled the banks in Panama and Zurich to notify them of the precarious legal status of the funds and to ask the banks to guard the funds until a U.S. court determined how to dispose of them.

**LANE SAID HE** had undertaken this action only on condition that some of the funds would be retained for families of the victims of the mass deaths in Jonestown and that the presumed heir agreed to this.

Lane also said he had turned over documents of the Jonestown commune's bank account to a U.S. attorney in San Francisco on Dec. 6 in the presence of Buford and representatives of the FBI and Secret Service.

This was his last action regarding the funds, he said. The alleged fraudulent voting campaign in San Francisco was an effort to help elect politicians friendly toward the Peoples Temple, former temple members say.

Among those named by some of Jones's former followers as recipients of political support were Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, both of whom were shot and killed in their City Hall offices three weeks ago, allegedly by an enraged former city official. The police have said

that the shooting was unrelated to the Peoples Temple.

**THE FORMER FOLLOWERS** said that Jones had also ardently supported Joseph Freitas, the San Francisco district attorney; Mervyn Dymally, the lieutenant governor of California; State Sen. Milton Marks and Willie Brown Jr., the city's state assemblyman.

The alleged voting fraud is under investigation by Freitas. False voter registration in California is perjury, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

One former temple member, Neva Sly, recalled in an interview that her husband, Don, had driven busloads of temple members here to vote from Redwood Valley, Jones' settlement in northern California, and also from the temples branch in Los Angeles.

The out-of-town voters, Mrs. Sly said, were previously registered at the addresses of temple members living in San Francisco.

**IN WASHINGTON** the Defense Department has compiled a tentative estimate of \$3.5 million for the total cost of operations associated with the Peoples Temple in Guyana but withdrew the document for legal reasons before it was made public, Carter administration officials said yesterday.

Pentagon spokesmen declined comment, but officials elsewhere said they understood that the Justice Department had asked that the estimate be withheld because of possible legal actions arising from the airlift of more than 900 bodies to the United States.