

## Lane Wrote Cult Might Depart Guyana to Hurt U.S.

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

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GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Dec. 7 — Mark Lane, a lawyer for the People's Temple, told the State Department earlier this year that if it did not halt its "harrassment" the cult led by the Rev. Jim Jones would move to a country that would embarrass the United States, American officials said privately today.

According to the sources, Mr. Lane was apparently acting on orders from Mr. Jones to try to halt the inspection trip of California Congressman Leo J. Ryan. The trip of Mr. Ryan 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 to the State Department did not mention a country by name, it is believed to have reflected Mr. Jones's plans to move the People's Temple to the Soviet Union or Cuba. Members of the Soviet Union's delegation here had met with the People's Temple officials to discuss such a move, and Mr. Jones had begun conducting Russian language lessons for the people at Jonestown.

Mr. Lane could not be reached for comment about the letter.

The disclosures about it add to a growing controversy here and in the United States about whether the lawyer was forewarned of the dangers at Jonestown and whether he adequately warned others in the Ryan inspection party. The lawyer wrote a similar letter to Mr. Ryan, dated Nov. 6, 1978. Mr. Ryan responded that the United States would not be influenced by any threats from the group.

Mr. Lane's dealings as the Temple's lawyer have come under increasing scrutiny as the controversy grows.

### Smuggling of Witness Discussed

The New York Times has obtained a memorandum apparently written by Terri Buford, a San Francisco Temple official, to Mr. Jones, saying that Mr. Lane was trying to smuggle a witness in the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination case into Jonestown under a false passport.

The memorandum, marked "Confidential-Confidential" was recovered from Mr. Jones's files at Jonestown. It was addressed to "Jim" and 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."

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 Miss Buford's memo, Mr. Lane persuaded members of the People's Temple that United States Government authorities wanted to silence Miss Walden.

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

### Passport Switch Contemplated

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."

The memorandum went on to sketch Miss Buford's doubts: "Just a question on my own and I have not discussed this with anyone here — but do you think that given that Grace Walden is a very closely watched person in my opinion that they might as a matter of course follow her all the way to Guyana and catch her in the act of being someone else just by the virtue of the fact of following her."

Miss Buford later left the People's Temple movement and is now associated with Mr. Lane.

In a press conference here on Sept. 20, for instance, seven weeks before the mass murders and suicides, Mr. Lane told newsmen that what he called the citizens' committee on inquiry had "concluded without question 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."

Shortly after this session, on the advice of the State Department, Congressman Ryan, a California Democrat, cabled Mr. Jones and said he wanted to come down and inspect the camp. Mr. Jones, the sources said, in turn urged Mr. Lane to forestall the visit.