

Jones cult airlift expensive

WASHINGTON (AP) — It has cost the Defense Department between \$3.5 million and \$4 million so far to conduct airlift and other operations in connection with the Guyana cult tragedy, a report said Thursday.

The Pentagon report leaves open the likelihood of some additional costs being added to the total because military personnel are still working at the Dover Air Force Base mortuary in Delaware on identification and processing of the remains and because two Army helicopters are still flying for the U.S. embassy in Guyana.

The Army and Air Force operations were ordered after more than 900 Peoples Temple adherents in Guyana died in a mass suicide-slaying.

The Pentagon said its cost estimates include operations of military aircraft to evacuate persons wounded at the Port Kaituma ambush in which Rep. Leo Ryan was killed, to deploy a task force

F Post 12-22-78

including helicopters and other equipment to shuttle the remains of the Jonestown dead to Georgetown and then to Dover, and to return U.S. military personnel and equipment to their home bases.

The military task force in Guyana totaled 321 graves registration and other personnel flown from Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Bragg, N.C., while military aircraft came out of U.S. airbases from coast to coast in the United States and from the Panama Canal Zone.

Among the cost items taken into account, the Pentagon said, were per diem pay for all personnel involved, rations, supplies and equipment, mortuary services, rented billets, and a variety of administrative and other services, plus replacement of uniform items and other gear which were destroyed for sanitary reasons.