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Temple Memo Says Lane Sought Guyana Refuge for Miss Walden

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The Press-Scimitar Bureau

WASHINGTON — A confidential People's Temple memorandum alleges that lawyer Mark Lane attempted to smuggle Memphis Grace Walden, a witness in the Martin Luther King assassination, into Jonestown, Guyana, under a false passport.

Lane, who is Miss Walden's attorney and co-guardian, denied the allegations made in the People's Temple memorandum yesterday in a telephone interview from his Memphis office.

Miss Walden had been considered a potential witness to the assassination of the civil rights leader in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

The 63-year-old Miss Walden had been subpoenaed by the House Assassinations Committee to testify on her allegations that she saw King's assassin flee from a rooming house bathroom, from which the fatal shot was fired.



Lane

She claims the man she saw was not James Earl Ray, who later confessed to the killing and is now serving a 99-year prison sentence in Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary.

Although Miss Walden never testified before the committee, her story was discounted by House investigators because of her long history of mental illness.

The memo was found in the personal files of People's Temple leader Jim Jones at the cult's Jonestown settlement. U.S. and Guyanese authorities have been conducting extensive searches of the settlement since Jones and more than 900 of his followers took their own lives last month.

The mass suicide took place following the ambush and murder of U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., three American newsmen and a disenchanted Jones follower who was trying to escape Jonestown.

The contents of the memo, which was marked "Confidential-Confidential," were made public in an article written by a *New York Times* reporter in Guyana.

It was prepared by Terri Buford, a San Francisco Temple official, and suggested that Lane had persuaded members of the

People's Temple that United States government authorities wanted to silence Miss Walden.

The memo 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. (Central Intelligence Agency) might try to stop her from entering the country. Therefore Mark should try to get her another passport."

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

The memo continued: "If he (Lane) 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 be similar to Grace Walden and also if it doesn't look (like) 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.
Turn to Page 3 — CULT

Cult Says Lane Wanted Miss Walden in Guyana

From Page 1

ute. The good points of this would be we wouldn't run the risk getting caught by a passport on the white market."

Miss Buford later became disenchanted with Jones and the Peoples Temple and left the movement.

Lane yesterday denounced the allegations, adding that his law partner, April Ferguson, had talked to Miss Buford who said the memo was "completely untrue."

Lane was contacted by the New York Times concerning the memo found in Jonestown. Although he was unavailable at the time, Lane said Ms. Ferguson related Miss Buford's disavowal of the memo.

"My law partner told the New York Times that if they printed the story I would take legal action against the paper," Lane said. And concerning the allegations made

in the memo, the lawyer termed them "ridiculous."

Lane said that Jim Jones had issued an invitation to Miss Walden to go to Guyana when the attorney was in Jonestown in September to discuss possible government "harassment" of the Peoples Temple with Jones. While there, Lane said he was asked to speak on the House investigation into the King assassination.

"I told them among other things that Grace Walden had been locked up in mental institutions for 10 years," Lane said. This was in reference to Miss Walden's 10 year stay in Western State Mental Hospital suffering from "organic brain syndrome," a chronic illness related to alcoholism. Lane has charged that Miss Walden was held prisoner in the mental institution to silence her version of what occurred the day King was shot.

Lane said that after he related Miss Walden's story Jones told him he would invite her to "come down" and stay in Jonestown.

"I said thank you," reflected Lane, adding that he never explored the possibility. "I knew Grace would not like it — I never mentioned it to her." Miss Walden, who has been judged to be mentally incompetent by a Shelby County court, is cared for by Lane. The lawyer has lived in Memphis since September of this year.

As to the allegations he wanted to smug-

gle Miss Walden out of the country, Lane said, "First of all Grace Walden wouldn't have to be smuggled anywhere. At the time I was down there (in Jonestown in September) she was not a witness and had not been subpoenaed (by the House Assassinations Committee)."

"Secondly, I wanted her to testify," he said. Lane is also representing Ray and had publicly stated he was basing his attempts to obtain a new trial for Ray on Miss Walden's statement that Ray was not the man she saw fleeing Bessie Brewer's Rooming House the day King was shot.