

# Peoples Temple ordered money transferred to Soviet consul

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By TOM FENTON

**MATTHEWS RIDGE, Guyana (AP)** — Leaders of the Peoples Temple ordered the transfer of more than \$7 million in cult funds from foreign banks to the Soviet consul in Georgetown just before the mass murdersuicides, a Guyanese official testified Sunday.

Skip Roberts, Guyanese assistant police commissioner, told a coroner's inquest the orders were in letters that were to have been carried by courier from the Peoples Temple settlement of Jonestown to banks in Panama and Venezuela. The inquest is being held into the Nov. 18 deaths in Jonestown of more than 900 members of the California-based cult, including the founder Jim Jones.

"I believe the letters are originals and

I doubt that the instructions reached the banks," Roberts told a reporter after the two-hour hearing in a government office complex in Matthews Ridge, about 34 miles from Jonestown. "I expect the money is still there."

During five-days of testimony that ended Sunday, Haroon Bacchus, northwest Guyana district magistrate, copied witnesses' statements in longhand and read them aloud. He said he would make a concluding statement Wednesday. That is the same day the jury of four men and a woman is expected to announce verdicts on the causes of death.

Roberts said two of the six letters introduced into evidence Sunday instructed two Swiss banks in Panama to turn over more than \$7.2 million to Fidor Timofeyev, the Soviet consul in Georgetown, when the time deposit accounts mature in 1979. Georgetown is the capital of Guyana.

Surviving cultist Tim Carter testified last week that he was one of three men sent from Jonestown with a suitcase containing money and letters. He said he had been told to deliver them to "the embassy."

Carter said he believed the suitcase was to be delivered to the Soviet Embassy, but he did not make the delivery.

Officials said when Carter was taken into custody, the suitcase contained only documents. But Roberts said that between Dec. 1-3, Carter led him to a place at Port Kaituma near Jonestown where he had stashed \$296,500 in U.S. bills and \$5,000 in Guyanese money.

Roberts also said \$634,867 in U.S. currency and about \$57,000 in Guyanese money was found in Jonestown between Nov. 18 and Nov. 20.

The letters to the Panama banks and the Soviet consul were written by Annie Jane McGowan, 70, whose passport shows she visited Panama Nov. 6. Her name does not show up on Peoples Temple organizational charts admitted in evidence at the inquest.

Carter said she was "an old lady who is not in an administrative position," but other cultists said the woman, a kitchen worker, was a longtime cultist and confidant of Jones.

She died in the murder-suicides that followed the killings earlier in the day of Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., three newsmen and a defecting cult member at Port Kaituma. Ryan had visited the camp to investigate complaints of oppression and brutality.