

## Cultist's hearing held in Guyana

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By TOM FENTON

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Larry Layton says he wanted to kill Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., because he believed Ryan and others "were working in conjunction with the CIA to smear the Peoples Temple."

The comment was in a statement Layton gave police that was offered as evidence Wednesday in a hearing to determine if there is enough evidence to

bring the 32-year-old cult member to trial on charges of conspiracy to murder the congressman.

Ryan, three newsmen and a Temple member were shot to death at an airstrip near the cult's jungle settlement of Jonestown Nov. 18. The shootings inspired a mass suicide-murder that same day in which more than 900 cult members died.

Conviction carries a mandatory sentence of death by hanging but it can be commuted to life. The last hanging in Guyana was in 1970.

Defense attorney Rex McKay objected to introduction of the statement. He is expected to try to show it was not made voluntarily, which would make it inadmissible as evidence under Guyana law.

The statement said: "I Larry Layton

take full responsibility for the deaths that took place at the Port Kaituma airstrip.

"I had begged the Bishop Jim Jones (the Temple's leader) that I be allowed to bring down the plane but he disapproved. My reason for suggesting this was because I felt those people were working in conjunction with the CIA to smear the Peoples Temple and smear Guyana.

"I got a gun from a friend of mine, one poncho, and I went to the airstrip intending to bring down the plane.

"But when the shooting started I started shooting as I thought that it was all too late. I don't know why I did it."

Prosecutor Nandram Kisooson said if the statement is thrown out in the hearing, it could still be introduced during a trial.