

Probers May Call on Lane To Provide Clues to Massacre

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WASHINGTON — Memphis lawyer Mark Lane is expected to be called before a House committee to testify on the ambush murder of Rep. Leo Ryan (D-Calif.) and four other Americans on a remote airstrip near Jonestown, Guyana.

Rep. Edward Derwinski (R-Ill.), a member of the House International Relations Committee which is looking into Ryan's murder, said yesterday he expects the hearing will be scheduled soon after the 96th Congress convenes in January.

The Illinois Republican has more than a casual interest in the investigation of the slaying of Ryan, three American newsmen and a disenchanted follower of People's Temple cult leader Jim Jones.

Derwinski had been scheduled to accompany Ryan on his fateful fact-finding tour of the People's Temple compound in Jonestown. He bowed out of the trip at the last moment and is now interested in the investigations being conducted by a grand jury in California, the FBI, the Congress and the government of Guyana.

"Mark Lane would be the most logical witness for the committee to call," observed Derwinski.

Lane, who was representing Jones, flew to Guyana with Ryan and a party of American newsmen. Ryan was investigating charges that Jones was holding members of the People's Temple cult against their will, employing torture and abuse to do so.

Shortly before Ryan and his party were scheduled to leave Jonestown, a knife-wielding cultist attacked the

Representative. Lane and another man were able to stop the attacker before Ryan was hurt.

Less than two hours later, however, Ryan and the four others were dead, murdered by several of Jones' top lieutenants just moments before the party was scheduled to fly to Georgetown, Guyana's capital.

Lane and San Francisco attorney Charles Garry, who was also representing Jones, remained at Jonestown, only to find themselves in the middle of a mass suicide rite called for by Jones, following the discovery that some members of Ryan's party had survived the ambush. That mass suicide took the lives of 913 Jonestown residents, but Lane and Garry were able to escape.

Since his return to the United States, Lane has done an about-face and is now saying the People's Temple represents a danger to U.S. politicians, newsmen and others reportedly placed on an "assassinations list" by Jones.

Lane has appeared before the grand jury in San Francisco which is examining the possibility of a conspiracy to kill Ryan (a violation of Federal law).

The Guyanese government would also like Lane to appear before its Criminal Investigations Department which is building the case against those still alive and implemented in Ryan's murder.