

Guyana police quiz 3 survivors

By GEORGE ESPER

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Police say a decision will be made by Wednesday on which of the 80 survivors of the Peoples Temple suicide-murders can return home and which will be held as suspects and material witnesses.

Three members of the sect were questioned by police at headquarters Monday, but Assistant Commissioner Skip Roberts said no charges were filed. He would not say what the questioning covered.

"We just want to question them some more and go back over their story," Roberts said. He said they would be released but did not say when.

The three were identified as Tim Carter, 28, his brother Michael, 20, both of Boise, Idaho, and Michael Prokes, 32, a former Modesto, Calif. television newsmen.

The State Department said in Washington it expects survivors to start back to the United States from Georgetown on Tuesday but there was

no sign from Guyanese officials that that would happen.

Prokes and the Carters had been jailed but were released Saturday, taken to the rundown Park Hotel and told to stay available for questioning.

Police have filed murder charges against two other cult members in connection with the Nov. 18 deaths of Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four others at the airstrip at Port Kaituma near Jonestown and the murders of a mother and her three children in the sect's temple at Georgetown the same day.

Larry Layton, 32, San Francisco, has been charged in the airstrip murders of Ryan, three journalists and a woman sect member who was trying to flee with Ryan from Jonestown.

FBI releases Jones' note

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI on Monday released the contents of a note found on the body of dead cult leader Jim Jones but said it had not been able to determine who wrote it.

A government source said the note appeared to be written by a close follower of Jones, endorsing the mass suicide decision.

The handwritten note said:

"Dad: I see no way out — I agree with your decision — I fear only that without you the world may not make it to communism —"

It was signed by a nickname, but the FBI would not divulge it. An FBI agent, Dave Cassens, said it was not a nickname used by Jones.

Jones' followers often called him "Dad" or "Father."

In another portion of the note, apparently in the same handwriting, were these words:

"For my part — I am more than tired of this wretched, merciless planet and the hell it holds for so many masses of

beautiful people — thank you for the only life I've known."

The word "only" was underlined twice.

"Until adequate handwriting of Jones and other possible authors are obtained, it will not be possible to identify the writer," Cassens said.

The note was found on Jones' body after it was airlifted from Guyana to Dover Air Force Base, Del., last Thursday with the corpses of other Peoples Temple members who joined in the mass suicide-murder ritual in Jonestown on Nov. 18.

An airman spotted the note in the left pocket of the red shirt Jones died in as the cult leader's body was being fingerprinted by FBI agents to verify an identity.

Cassens said the bureau has samples of Jones' signature but "they are not adequate to identify or eliminate Jones as the writer of this note."

FBI handwriting analysis experts examined it Monday in a laboratory here after disinfecting it.

Roberts said Guyanese officials were making a complete inventory of Jonestown but that no decision had been reached on what to do with the settlement 150 miles northwest of the capital.

So far only one cult member, 84-year-old Miguel DePina, who was in a Georgetown hospital during the suicides the murders that left 918 dead, has returned from Guyana to the United States alive.

He arrived in New York on a flight from Guyana Sunday accompanied by his grandson, Michael Woodward of Long Beach, Calif.

"He can't talk. He's in real bad shape. Real bad," Woodward said. DePina's wife of 60 years was among the 908 Americans and one Guyanese found dead in Jonestown. Most died after drinking a fruit drink laced with cyanide. Some who resisted were forced the lethal mixture.