

## Church Seeks Divine Aid To Buy 'Promised Land'

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex., Nov. 25 (AP)—Evangelist Lester Roloff says he plans to buy the campus of Ambassador College here from a Lynchburg, Va., businessman, and make it "the promised land."

Roloff, pastor of People's Church, said he plans to buy the 2,000-acre campus from F. William Menge for \$10.6 million, which he said he will get through divine intervention.

"We have no money," he said. "There are no hidden accounts. If there are, they're really hidden. I'll praise Him for getting us that money."

Menge is in the process of buying the campus from the World-wide Church of God, headquarter-

ed in Pasadena, Calif. The campus was closed in 1977 after its head, Garner Ted Armstrong, split with his father, Herbert W. Armstrong.

Menge said he plans to close the deal by Jan. 4 and has been negotiating with six ministries to lease the facilities near Big Sandy, Tex. Roloff's ministry is one of the six.

Others mentioned as possible purchasers of the campus include Texas evangelist James Robinson and the Rev. Jerry Falwell, who has a nationally syndicated television gospel show and heads Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg. Menge is a member of Falwell's church.

# 2 Ex-Aides Warn Guru Might Lead Sect to Violence

DENVER, Nov. 24 (UPI)—Two former top lieutenants of the Guru Maharaj Ji's Divine Light Mission have warned the estimated 15,000 American followers of the 19-year-old spiritual leader they risk a plight similar to that of devotees of the Rev. Jim Jones in Guyana.

Robert Mashler, who served as Maharaj Ji's personal secretary and president of the mission for six years, and John Hand Jr., former vice president of the organization, said Friday the guru had displayed behavior patterns similar to those of Jones.

After seeing the similarities of the behavior of Jones are so strikingly like Maharaj Ji, it's possible something

like what happened in Guyana, where about 280 people died, might be threatened," Hand said.

"He has two types of followers—ones who have to be told to do something and those who would respond just without thinking. Those are the ones I'm concerned about."

The death toll at the Guyana settlement of Jonestown, which was founded last year by Jones, leader of the Peoples Temple, is now put at about 800. The victims were either shot or poisoned by a drink laced with cyanide.

Mashler, who resigned from the mission last year, said he and Hand decided to denounce the guru because

they were "jaded by the deaths in Guyana and fearful for the lives of mission members, nearly a million of them in India."

"We feel a degree of guilt for contributing to turning him loose in the United States," said Mashler and Hand, who were instrumental in setting up the mission in the United States in 1971. "Our hope is that the families of these followers will try to exert pressure to save them."

The two men said Maharaj Ji had spoken frequently of building a city similar to Jonestown and was "initiated" by weapons and gangsters.

"He fantasized about building such a city," Hand said, "and there is

no one there who is capable of doing it. The mission has an estimated worth of \$5 million, they said.

A spokesman for the mission, headquartered in Denver, was not available for comment.

Mashler and Hand, two of about 15 members who saw the guru's private behavior, said Maharaj Ji was excited by the crisis underworld and, after viewing the movie "The Godfather," formed a security unit called the World Peace Corps.

The two former mission officials said Maharaj Ji's private behavior included physical and sexual assaults on followers.