

'Last Stand Plan,' Other New Troubles

POSSIBILITY JONES LEFT HIT LIST IS INVESTIGATED

12/11/78 By Phil Galley
Washington Star Staff Writer

Federal authorities are investigating reports that some surviving members of the Peoples Temple may be committed to another round of murder and suicide.

Phillip Heymann, head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, said yesterday that the Secret Service is looking into allegations that cult leader Jim Jones may have left behind a "hit list" of public officials and other individuals who were to be killed if anything happened to Jones and his followers in Jonestown, Guyana.

If such a conspiracy should be uncovered, Heymann said, "we will warn anyone whose name is picked up, whether he is a federal official or not," and arrange for their protection.

Asked if anyone has been warned so far, the assistant attorney general declined to say.

"It's highly inflammatory to even talk about it," Heymann said. "There are such reports, and we will take the matter seriously. I don't want to suggest that we have a valid hit list, but when there's that kind of talk, you've got to take it seriously."

MARK LANE, an attorney for the Temple who escaped the carnage at Jonestown that took the lives of more than 900 persons, including Rep. Leo Ryan, has said he has been questioned about a possible "hit list."

Lane says he is worried that his name may be on the list. He says his house has been broken into twice since the Jonestown tragedy and that he found several packs of Kool-Aid outside his front door.

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MARK LANE
Leafy walls, cream couches

Plague Mark Lane

TEMPLE

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Most of those who died at Jonestown had swallowed Kool-Aid laced with cyanide.

In addition, some of the Jonestown survivors have expressed concern that the fanatical Jones left behind "death squads" to carry on the killing.

Heymann, at a briefing for reporters, also said the FBI is investigating reports of possible suicide pacts among some of the cult's survivors in Guyana and in the United States.

HEYMANN NOTED that it is not a federal crime to commit suicide. But if the reports should prove valid, he said, "we'll try to figure out the decent thing to do" to stop further suicides by Jones' followers.

Meanwhile, it appears unlikely that there will be any U.S. prosecutions of the murders and mass suicide in Guyana.

For one thing, Heymann said, the FBI jurisdiction in the case is limited to the murder of Ryan and the wounding of Richard Dwyer, an American Embassy official who accompanied Ryan to Jonestown, at a remote airstrip in Guyana.

Further hampering FBI efforts is the fact that key witnesses and two of the five persons eyewitnesses saw fire on Ryan's party were among those who subsequently died at Jonestown.

The Guyanese government, which has barred

FBI agents from joining the investigation on its soil, has charged three persons in connection with the murders and is detaining any material witnesses.

ONCE ANY suspects are charged and tried in Guyana, they cannot be extradited to the United States, according to Heymann.

"The prosecution in this case is properly the business of the Guyanese," he said. "It's not my business to speculate on the adequacy of that prosecution."

Heymann said the U.S. government has been providing technical assistance to the Guyanese in its investigation of the Jonestown tragedy and expects Guyana to share its findings and evidence with the FBI.

"Most countries, including Guyana and the United States, are properly jealous about their investigative jurisdiction," Heymann said. "I hope they will call on us for any assistance they may need in this matter."

HOUSE BROKEN INTO, KOOL-AID ON DOORSTEP

By Judy Bachrach
Washington Star Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Mark Lane called the Peoples Temple in San Francisco recently. Things — curious and troublesome things — have been happening ever since his escape from the mass deaths in Guyana.

Lane says his home in Washington has been broken into twice, right before the suicide-murders, and again last weekend. Each time the stereo and TV sets remained intact. He has no idea what if anything was taken. Last weekend, someone deposited before his front door here in Memphis four packets of Kool-Aid, the powder base for the soft drink that the doomed residents of Jonestown drank down with cyanide. As a result, Lane's two assistants left their jobs in fright. So Mark Lane decided to set the record straight.

"I called the Peoples Temple. I said, 'I want you to know this. I've been around the Movement a long time. If anything should happen to anyone I love, we'll be coming out to San Francisco.'

"A woman named Vera Young spoke to me. She said, 'We have no comment.'

"I said, 'You understand I'm asking you if there is any plan to harm me or my family. And you're telling me there'll be no comment?'

"She said, 'Well I'll say this. At the present time, we have no such plans.'

"That's not very reassuring," Mark Lane replied.

BUT THEN NOTHING coming out of either San Francisco or Guyana lately has been reassuring. Not the fact that more than 900 people died in

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LANE

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Jonestown. Nor the reports of \$7 million Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones had supposedly stashed away in Swiss banks, and of another \$3 million he kept in Guyana. Nor, least of all, the latest word on how Jim Jones intended to spend some of that money. Mark Lane, the 51-year-old lawyer who could double for Mephistopheles on a bad day, knows quite a bit about the money and for what it was intended. He heard it from a Peoples Temple defector who is now his client.

"It was called the Last Stand Plan," says Mark Lane. "And the plan was to begin with the suicides. And then to kill the defectors and people who helped them — like me. And also to kill reporters and public officials.

"Whether the plan is being put into effect now, I don't know."

But another part of the Last Stand Plan, says Lane, called for the remnants of the Peoples Temple to take the pulse of the American nation, after the slaughter in Guyana. If it turned out that most Americans were appalled by the deaths there, then the remaining followers of Jones would condemn their leader and call him paranoid. It is, however, a fact, says Lane, that the Peoples Temple seriously considered the possibility that many Americans would find the mass deaths in Jonestown "beautiful."

Lane pauses, then says drily, "Maybe what happened in Guyana was terrible enough for them. But

there is a man here in Memphis, a man in a penal farm here. And I'm told his name was discovered on a list found in Jim Jones' cabin after his death. And I was also told by two reporters that this man had been shunned by someone who asked him if they could get him out on bail, would he then break into my house and get some documents.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES are all shockingly, unforgettably different but the symptoms are the same. Plots, counterplots, fear, paranoia, truth, lies and, of course, murder. Mark Lane, has spent a good portion of his life swimming against the treacherous currents of conspiracy that often threaten to engulf him. It was he who wrote "Rush to Judgment," attacking the Warren Commission report on the assassination of John F. Kennedy. It is he who is now taking the side of James Earl Ray, claiming that his client has been wrongfully convicted of murdering Martin Luther King. That is what brought him here to Memphis in the first place — and to the house with its curious leafy wallpaper and its cream colored couches, where he resides with three women, one of whom is his girlfriend.

Walking into that house is an exercise in paranoia — and these days after all that has happened in Guyana, one is never entirely certain what is paranoia and what is well-founded fear. The most mundane occurrence — Mark Lane's Mustang stalled for the first time since he got it yesterday morning — takes on a significance out of all proportion.

And now Mark Lane himself is under attack. Mark Lane is considered just a mite suspect by some of the more conventional lawyers in Tennessee who resent his causes and his flamboyance. But more than that,

Mark Lane, who freely admits he knew very well that something was rotten in Jonestown even before the mass murders and suicides took place, is under attack for not having told Rep. Leo Ryan and his party that they might be murdered if they went there.

"BUT I NEVER thought for a minute that it might happen," protests Lane. "The Peoples Temple had been talking about it for years and hadn't done it. So there was no reason to believe that they might do it. Why didn't the State Department tell Ryan not to go down there? Or the FBI? Did they warn him?"

"On Oct. 6, 1977," Lane continues in a rush, "Jim Jones decided to kill all the people in Jonestown. Now that was one year before I'd even heard of Jonestown. There were international radio communications between Jonestown and (Jones' lawyer) Charles Garry.

"Since Jones was talking about 'revolutionary suicide,' which Huey Newton had written about, it was arranged for Newton to contact Jones and beg him not to do it. Angela Davis was also involved, begging Jones not to do it. And Charles Garry knew about it. Now after Garry and everyone else knew about it because there were radio communications on the subject, how could the State Department not know?"

Lane insists that he told a Ryan aide (at Jim Jones' behest) not to let the congressman visit the colony of Americans in Guyana because it might be considered a provocative action. "I told Jim Jones was a sick man, that he had been taking drugs intravenously for five weeks. And I also said that Jones was thinking of moving to a different country (the Soviet Union), one that was unfriendly to the United States, and so his visit might have embarrassing consequences."

BUT THERE IS another side to Lane. Mark Lane who insists he was not really the cult's lawyer did not merely threaten suit against New West Magazine just two months ago when it was thinking of publishing an article distinctly unfavorable to the Peoples Temple and Jim Jones.

"It wasn't a threat," Lane says coyly. "I was simply advising them."

Mark Lane first met Jim Jones in September of this year, when the leader of the Peoples Temple invited him down to visit Guyana. Mark Lane says he agreed to go there out of curiosity.

"Jones was a very sympathetic person, the ultimate con-man," Lane recalls. "In fact, Ryan said it best two months later when he visited the place. He told me, 'This is a remarkable place, and it took a genius like Jones to do it.' But he's also the greatest enemy of this place."

"That was a very astute observation," concludes Lane.

But what struck Mark Lane when he visited Jonestown for the first time in September was that, "The ruling circle was predominantly white — with one exception, Jones' adopted son. But for the most part the ruling circle was middle class, college educated, and white. And yet a vast majority of the people there were black, working class and poor."

"Jones told me he was very sick, physically. That he might have cancer. That he had a heart condition. He called his wife 'Mother,' and he kept saying to her, 'Mother, give me a pill.' And then he would pop these nitroglycerine pills. I don't think that there was anything wrong with him."

"On the other hand, during his two visits to Jonestown, Lane says he found members of the colony who were very rational in their motivations for being there, and to this day he harps on that theme constantly, with grave and deliberate insistence.

"AT THAT TIME," he says slowly, "there were 800 black people there searching for human rights." A pause. "And they didn't find it in Jonestown. But I talked to a 77-year-old lady. I asked her, 'Are you a captive here?'"

"And she said, 'When I lived in Watts, I had four locks on my door, and I was afraid to go out at night. I was a captive in America.'"

"In Jonestown," Lane continues, "There were 70 medical workers and one doctor. And there was a school system there superior to most public school systems in America."

Mark Lane is asked about the reported tortures in Jonestown, the beatings, the humiliations, the sexual practices. He is asked if it was really so idyllic in Jonestown.

"Not idyllic." He shakes his head. "But mix all these things together and you'll find out why they left America."

He leans forward in his chair for emphasis. "That's something the media is not prepared to deal with. The central question. One thousand Americans were looking for some-

thing there they couldn't find here."

HE WAVES HIS hand in disgust. "So the media turns all these people into cultists who died with smiles on their faces. Jim Jones' dream, being the ultimate confidence man, is that the American media would call what happened there a mass suicide. And the American media has done it. Is it suicide when children die? I saw guys there with dozens of weapons, crossbows, pistols, and automatic weapons. If someone comes up to you with an automatic weapon and tells you to drink poison, the question is not if you will die, but how you will die. The bodies there were found piled on each other four-deep. Is that how people die?"

He subsides back into his chair. "So these people are labeled weird, because it's easier for us to dismiss

them that way. But many of them were beautiful, warm people."

Mark Lane now stands to make quite a bit of money detailing the lives and terrible deaths of those beautiful, warm people for The Los Angeles Times, which will be syndicating five of his articles, mainly for foreign publication. A West German publication has already shelled out \$25,000, according to one source. Italian, Swedish and Dutch publications have reportedly paid \$5,000 each. "Isn't The Washington Post going to make money off the deaths of these people?" Lane asks. "Isn't the reporter from The San Francisco Examiner? Aren't you earning your salary the same way?"

HE SHAKES HIS HEAD wearily. Newsweek, he sighs, hasn't been kind to Mark Lane. Neither has Time. He was misquoted, he now says, in the newspapers that reported he refused to eat in Jonestown, fearing that the cheese sandwiches that were offered contained drugs. Mark Lane calls the writer of that particular story "a f--- liar." He says he never saw a cheese sandwich until long after lunchtime, never was offered one, and didn't suspect that the sandwiches contained drugs. Mark Lane feels that, once again in his rough and stormy career, he has been vilified.

"It's the story of my life," he says shrugging. "I'm tired of all this bull—"

But the other story of his life is how Mark Lane saved Leo Ryan's life — "temporarily," as he says with a grimace. How he wrested the knife away from the first assailant who attacked the congressman.

And no doubt he will also be recounting his strange escape from the dying colony and the guard who kept mumbling over and over, "It's beautiful to die, man. It's just beautiful to die all together. This is the way you struggle against fascism."

"Killing children is fascist," Lane says he told his guard. "But at least you know that Charles Garry and I will be alive to tell the story."

Lane had known the guard whose name was Poncho. He had talked with him one time late into the night about the assassination of Martin Luther King. And so perhaps that is why the guard let Mark Lane live.

And as for those who did not share that privilege — as for network newsman Don Harris, for instance — well, Lane has a story about him, too.

Before they all went down to Jonestown, Don Harris called Lane. "I've heard great things and horrible things about Jonestown," said Harris. "I've heard that they are good guys and that they are bad guys."

And Mark Lane says he told Harris, "Go easy, Don. I'm not sure there are any good guys."

"I know," said Harris. "I know."

Carter's Comment On Peoples Temple

Here is what President Carter said about the Jonestown mass murder-suicide at his nationally televised news conference yesterday.

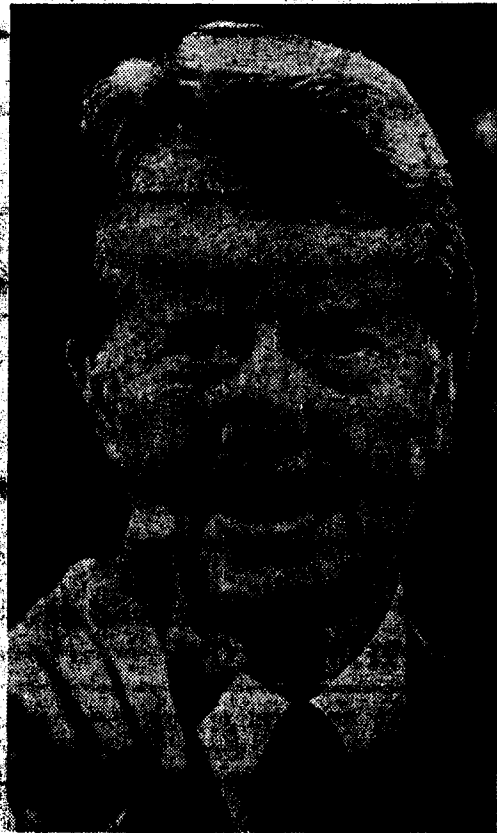
QUESTION: Mr. President, I want to ask about Guyana. Do you think that the nature of that cult says anything about America? And secondly, what can the government do to avoid future Jonestowns?

THE PRESIDENT: I obviously don't think that the Jonestown cult was typical in any way of America. I think these were people who became obsessed with a particular leader's philosophy. They were obviously misled; a tragedy resulted. It did not take place in our own country.

In retrospect, all of us can deplore what did occur. It is unconstitutional for the government of our country to investigate or to issue laws against any group, no matter how much they might depart from normal custom, which is based on religious belief. The only exception is when there is some substantive allegation that the activities of those religious groups directly violate a federal law.

I might point out that Congressman (Leo) Ryan and other Congressmen did go to the Justice Department several weeks or months ago to go into the so-called brainwashing aspects of a few religious cults around the country. My understanding is that the so-called Peoples Temple was not one of those thought by them at that time to be indulging into brainwashing. It was a recent, late development that no one, so far as I know, was able to anticipate or assess adequately. So I don't think we ought to have an over-reaction because of the Jonestown tragedy by injecting government into trying to control people's religious beliefs.

And I believe that we also don't need to deplore on a nationwide basis the fact that the Jonestown cult, so-called, was typical of America, because it is not.



President Carter at his news conference.

U.S. Checks Report of 30 Cultists Fleeing

Venezuelan border patrol aircraft spotted the group on the day after the Nov. 18 mass suicide-murder. It would be the largest unaccounted for group of escapees from the Peoples Temple compound. The same sources said that an earlier report that members of the cult had fled Guyana by one of the Peoples Temple boats seemed unlikely.

U.S. officials said they are checking reports that 30 to 40 people were spotted moving in a group from Guyana to the Venezuela border shortly after the mass suicide-murder at Jonestown and may have entered Venezuela, authoritative government sources said.

The report, revealed yesterday, said that