

Guyana Wants to Question Lane About Attack on Ryan and Party

12/13/78
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Washington Post Foreign Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Dec. 12.—Guyanese authorities said today they want to question conspiracy lawyer Mark Lane about the circumstances surrounding the killings of Rep. Leo J. Ryan and four other members of his party on a remote airstrip in the heart of Guyana's rain forest.

Specifically, authorities said they believe Lane may be the only living—and presumably uninvolved—witness able to say whether the Rev. Jim Jones personally ordered the Nov. 18 attack on Ryan or whether the People's Temple gunmen acted under the direction of other members of the Jonestown hierarchy.

The ambush, which was unsuccessful in the sense that some members of the congressman's party survived, triggered Jones' decision to force his followers to take poison that left more than 300 Jonestown residents dead only hours after Ryan was killed at the Port Kaituma landing field.

The question whether Jones or some of his aides ordered the attack could have a bearing on future prosecutions here of three of Jones' top lieutenants, who say they were ordered to take a suitcase full of money and several letters to the Soviet Embassy in Georgetown. The three, Mike Prokes and Mike and Tim Carter, made it as far as Port Kaituma before

being apprehended by Guyanese police. They are now being held in Georgetown.

Lane, one of two Peoples Temple lawyers who accompanied the Ryan party on its fateful trip to Jonestown, had remained behind after the congressman left for the airstrip with his group of aides, journalists, a U.S. Embassy aide and a Guyanese government official, as well as 18 persons who had decided to defect that day from the remote agricultural commune.

Lane, who has left Guyana for his home in Memphis, Tenn., has said publicly that shortly after the Ryan party left Jonestown, Jones told him that the congressman and his group might be killed. But, at least publicly, Lane has not elaborated on whether he believes Jones ordered the ambush personally or simply knew that others from among his hierarchy had directed that the attack be carried out.

According to the senior state counselor prosecuting Larry Layton, the Jonestown loyalist charged here with murder and attempted murder in connection with the Port Kaituma ambush, Layton has denied that Jones personally ordered the killings.

According to the counselor, Man-gram Kissoon, Layton has told Guyanese police that he does not know why he decided to join Ryan's party

See GUYANA A24, Col. 6