

Lane cites plot to kill cult's critics

By The Associated Press

MEMPHIS — Author-lawyer Mark Lane said Tuesday there is a "master plan" to murder high U.S. government officials, defectors from the Peoples Temple and columnists who have written critically of the sect.

Lane told ABC-TV News that he learned of the plan from a woman identified only as the second in command to sect leader Rev. Jim Jones. Lane said the plan is financed with \$3 million in cash and \$8 million being held in Swiss bank accounts. Lane said he knows the account numbers.

He said he has talked with FBI and Secret Service agents about the plan, adding that the Secret Service was concerned that it may be put into effect next month during the Democratic Party's mini-convention in Memphis.

President Carter, Vice President Walter Mondale and other top administration officials are expected to participate in the convention.

The Secret Service has said it was investigating reports of an assassination plan.

Lane also told police Tuesday that he feels he may be in danger because of his connection with the Peoples Temple cult in Jonestown, Guyana.

Lane, who was Jones' attorney and who fled Jonestown as more than 900 of Jones' followers prepared to drink cyanide-laced fruit drink, said he found four packages of Kool Aid in a plastic bag at his doorstep early Saturday morning.

Lane, however, did not report the incident to police until Monday night.

Officers H.I. Chapman and G.S. Willis said each of the packages contained a

small amount of the soft drink powder in grape, orange, strawberry and cherry flavors. Lane said he had reported the incident to the FBI.

An FBI spokesman, who asked not to be identified, confirmed Lane's report but refused to comment on what action the FBI might take. He said the FBI has already interviewed Lane in connection with the assassination of Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif.

Ryan and four members of his fact-finding party were killed Nov. 18 at an isolated airstrip near Jonestown. Shortly afterward, Jones told his followers he had ordered the killings and then decreed the mass suicide.

Lane and another attorney, Charles Garry, got out of the compound as the suicides started.