

Was Lane Paid to Protect Cult?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Attorney Mark Lane, who once contended he advised the Peoples Temple of charge, actually received more than \$10,000 to launch a counteroffensive against the cult's supposed enemies, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

Lane, 51, was hired by Peoples Temple founder Jim Jones, because Jones believed a government conspiracy existed to destroy him and his church, the paper reported. The Times cited documents made available by unnamed Temple members who worked with Lane.

In an interview with the Times, Lane was quoted today as saying that even knowing everything he knows now, he still believes the government should investigate

whether such a conspiracy against the Temple existed.

Jones and more than 900 of his followers died Nov. 18 in a mass murder-suicide at the cult's headquarters in Jonestown, Guyana.

According to the documents, Lane wrote a legal-strategy memorandum detailing plans for fighting the alleged conspiracy, the Times said.

Also included in the paperwork was a photostat of a check for \$10,000 made out to Lane from the Temple. Lane conceded in interviews with the Times last week that not only had he received the check, but the Temple owed him an additional \$2,800.

At an Oct. 3 news conference, Lane was asked how he was connected with the sect.

"Our organization, the Citizens Commission on Inquiry, has conducted an independent inquiry into the charges — nobody's paid for this — an independent inquiry," he replied.

In the strategy memo, dated Sept. 27, Lane accused the FBI, the CIA, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Post Office and the Federal Communications Commission of "trying to destroy Jones and the Temple," the newspaper said.

The proposed "counteroffensive" strategy recommended a stepped-up public relations campaign, including television specials and magazine articles

describing the conspiracy against the cult and depicting its settlement in Jonestown as an agricultural utopia.

"One (article) should deal with the campaign to destroy the Peoples Temple . . . An entirely separate article could be an in-depth look at the miracle of Jonestown," Lane is quoted in the document as saying.