

Guyana Seeks To Query Lane On Ryan Killing

GUYANA, From A1

as it was leaving Jonestown and then, once aboard the smaller of two planes sent to pick up the congressman and his group, why he opened fire in the plane carrying four other defectors.

Layton was nowhere near the larger aircraft when Ryan, three newsmen and one of the 18 real defectors were shot by other Jonestown gunmen. He nevertheless has been charged with these murders as well.

Kissoon explained today, at the beginning of the initial inquest that will determine whether Layton will be brought to trial on the eight charges against him, that Layton was charged with the five murders under a Guyanese law that makes "aiding and abetting" a crime the same as committing the crime itself.

Layton could be hanged if the charges against him are sent to trial and he is convicted. Lane's testimony is not needed to prosecute Layton but, according to Kissoon, could be vital to determining who, if anyone, ordered Layton to carry out the actions with which he has been charged.

As far as is known, the gunmen

who carried out the attack on the larger aircraft all died later when Jones ordered his followers to drink a potion of grape drink, cyanide, and tranquilizing drugs.

Propes and the Carter brothers escaped death at the Peoples Temple by leaving with the cash and letters destined for the Soviet Embassy. The three also apparently carried with them automatic weapons for reasons that have so far remained unexplained.

Lane and Charles E. Garry, the second Peoples Temple lawyer at Jonestown on Nov. 18, have said they also escaped death when they talked a guard into allowing them to leave before the suicide-murder rite got very far along. Lane did give a statement to Guyanese police, Kissoon said, although, apparently in the confusion after the mass suicide and murder was discovered, certain important questions were not asked.

Kissoon did not explain why he is not also interested in talking to Garry about the circumstances surrounding Ryan's murder.

Kissoon said it would be impossible for Guyana to ask U.S. authorities to extradite Lane since there is no reason to believe he assisted a crime here. Lane could, however, voluntarily return for questioning or submit to questioning in the United States.

Meanwhile, the Guyanese government is proceeding with its investigation of the events surrounding the deaths at Port Kaituma, Jonestown and here in Georgetown, where four Peoples Temple members were found with their throats slashed four hours after the mass deaths at Jonestown ended.