

Washington Post

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1978

370 More Bodies Discovered in Jonestown

Air Base Mortuary Is Already Short of Room

By Alice Bonner
Washington Post Staff Writer

DOVER, Del. Nov. 24 — The 270 bodies airlifted here from Guyana Thursday and early today were already beginning to strain the capacity of the huge Dover Air Force Base mortuary when officials found out that almost three times as many were yet to come.

Five refrigerator vans, usually used for long-distance hauling of fresh foods, were leased and parked behind the mortuary building to preserve the remains until military and FBI experts finish identifying them. That process could take two to three weeks,

according to Army Maj. William Shuler, Pentagon spokesman for the operation here.

Shuler said the mortuary will need at least three more of the vans, which hold up to 100 corpses in bags. The ferrying of bodies here from Georgetown, Guyana, by Air Force C141 cargo planes is not likely to be completed until Sunday, Shuler said.

"We're beginning to feel the pinch now," Shuler said. He said the Army was preparing to send in a team of grave registration experts to aid the 44 Air Force civilian and FBI members who began the identification of bodies Thursday night.

The staff of 10 FBI fingerprint

technicians, sent in Thursday, whose first task was the positive identification of the body of Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones, was being expanded to 18 today.

Michael White, spokesman here for the State Department, which is handling disposal of the bodies, said he did not know when the remains will begin to be released to the nearest relatives.

"I guess my heart sank a bit," Air Force Maj. Robert W. Groom, the base information chief, said of the news that 775 corpses instead of the earlier count of 409 will pass through Dover. "It is taxing us. As of this

See DOVER, A4, Col. 1

DOVER, From A1

morning I thought we were on the downward swing."

At the base golf course clubhouse, a receiving center set up for people seeking kin among the dead has had only about 30 phone inquiries in two days. One visitor was an active duty Air Force member stationed here who was looking for his grandmother's sister, a spokeswoman said.

Airlift flight crews and volunteer pallbearers remarked repeatedly about the smell of the decaying bodies in metal containers.

"It was terrible—the weather and the smell," one flight crew member said Thursday as he came off the third plane, which was unloaded in a steady drizzle.

After ceremoniously handling about a dozen of the body containers, the volunteer crews began to treat the remains more like ordinary freight.

Although a chaplain still prayed at the landing of each plane, the men gradually dropped their slow, deliberate movements and began stacking the bodies two and three deep on flatbed yellow freight haulers that quickly replaced vans which carried the first few to the mortuary.

By the last flight, at about midnight Thursday, the containers were coming off the plane in groups of nine strapped together, three deep and three high.

Inside the containers, said a military observer, the limbs had fallen off some bodies and they "had maggots all over them. I've been through two

wars and this is the worst I've ever seen.

From Washington, United Press International reported:

The cost of the U.S. body recovery mission at Jonestown, Guyana, is approaching \$3 million and could run three times that much, State Department officials said.

At the Dover Air Force Base mortuary site, Michael White of the department's consular affairs office said officials have pegged the mission cost so far at "\$2 million to \$3 million, and it could triple."

John Bushnell, a deputy assistant secretary of state, said it is difficult to project a final cost, figure because "there are major conceptual problems at how one looks at the costs."

Bushnell said the Defense Department has estimated that, with fewer than 300 bodies returned from the Peoples Temple camp, expenses associated with the recovery mission had mounted to between \$2 million and \$3 million.

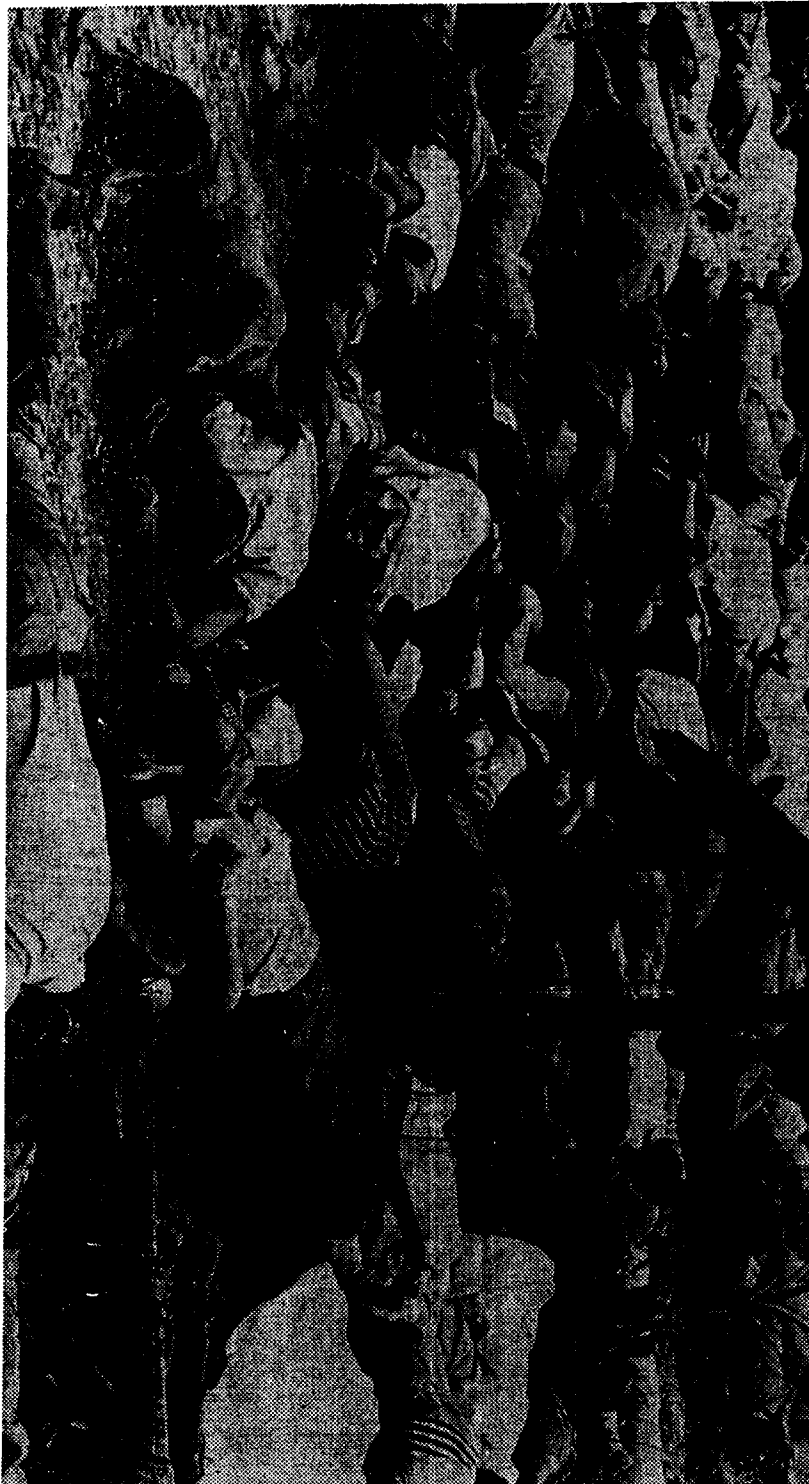
They covered such things as fuel, aircraft operation and the shipment back and forth of military equipment, but not such items as salaries for military and civilian U.S. personnel in Guyana.

On the plus side of the expense picture, Bushnell said "a number of people who have rather difficult responsibilities are getting through this operation the kind of training that, if it were a training exercise, would have been costly. To come up with total figure on all this is very hard."



Associated Press

Air Force officer with hand radio directs the work on rain-soaked runway.



New Revelation of Jonestown Deaths Shocks Remnant of Peoples Temple

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 24 (UPI)—The faithful remnant of the Peoples Temple reeled under a new blow today as word came that hundreds more of their families and friends had been found dead in Guyana.

"I don't know what to say. It's a shock. It's terrible," said June Crym, one of dozens of persons secluded in the temple headquarters in fear of violence from people who lost relatives in the Guyana tragedy.

Crym, when told that many missing members of the Jonestown colony were now known to be dead, said she could only hope that this would dispel rumors that there is a hit squad or

plot" by surviving temple members to harm anyone.

The news of more bodies found at Jonestown stunned the temple faithful.

"We always hoped. You know, if you have children or loved ones and you haven't heard, you think there is always a chance they will come out of the jungle as others have," Crym said.

Crym said that while she did not have any relatives at Guyana, most of the people in the temple did, and that some have been waiting anxiously in the hope that their loved ones had somehow avoided the terrible death ritual.

If all are now accounted for, she said, it will end the anxiety, but also the hope.

"But we are still alarmed and disturbed by the rumors being thrown out on no basis whatsoever," she said. "People have been whipped up to such a frenzy by the reports of hit squads in the Temple."

She said some enemies of the Rev. Jim Jones who had let their feelings

spill out could incite "crazies" to attack the Temple.

"The police have been very cooperative. They are protecting us. We have no way of knowing" whether the Temple and its faithful might be actually be attacked, she said. "But over the past week we have received many death threats."

"We thought we should gather together here for safety," she said. "We are now a small number."

Crym said she does not know how many persons are still in the Peoples Temple congregation, which numbered 3,000 a few weeks ago. No Thanksgiving Day services were held. The faithful few in the temple had a quiet dinner by themselves.

Other churches have offered assistance, Crym said, and the local Council of Churches has asked the temple members if any help is needed.

"People have been calling expressing sympathy and understanding," she said. "We are encouraged about this and we are determined this is not going to end the Temple."

Nepalese Jet Crashes

KATMANDU, Nepal, Nov. 24 (UPI)—A Royal Nepal Airlines jet chartered by the British Army crashed today at Katmandu International Airport, but none of the 40 persons aboard was killed or injured. The Boeing 727 carrying 33 soldiers and a crew of seven developed trouble shortly after takeoff for Hong Kong.

Jones' Burial To Be in Indiana

RICHMOND, Ind., Nov. 24 (AP)—The bodies of the Rev. Jim Jones, his wife and son will be returned to this eastern Indiana city for burial, the mother-in-law of the cult leader said today.

Charlotte Baldwin said funeral plans are contingent on the release of the bodies from Dover Air Force Base, where corpses from the People's Temple settlement have been taken for identification. The FBI already has positively identified Jones' body.

Baldwin said she and her husband, Walter, wanted their daughter, Marceline, to be buried in her hometown of Richmond, near the Indiana-Ohio line. Her grandson, Steven, agreed that the bodies should be returned here, she said.

U.S., Fearing Rights Violations, Ruled Out Investigating Cults

Associated Press

The Justice Department ruled out investigations into alleged brainwashing and physical abuse in religious cults because of fears such inquiries would violate constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion, a department spokesman said.

Spokesman Robert Havel said Thursday night that Rep. Leo Ryan (D-Calif.), who was killed while leading a fact-finding mission to the People's Temple settlement in Guyana, had asked the department to investigate the religious group.

Ryan and Rep. Robert Giaino (D-Conn.) in May 1977 told the department that several religious cults controlled their members through brainwashing and physical abuse.

The two congressmen said they had also received allegations that some religious organizations were illegally converting members' veterans benefits, welfare payments and food stamps for their own use.

Benjamin Civiletti, then chief of the department's criminal division told the congressmen that brainwashing

and other thought-control tactics "would not support a prosecution under the federal kidnapping statute" and that an investigation could infringe on the freedom-of-religion guarantees in the Constitution.

Havel said, "Certainly there are constitutional problems involved. If the person is an adult and not being held against his will, there is not much we can do."

Christmas Tree Costs Up 10-15% This Year

LANSING, Mich., Nov. 24 (AP) — Christmas trees will cost 10 to 15 percent more this season, according to a specialist in the nation's leading Christmas tree state.

Even in Michigan, where the north woods and specialty farms are dotted with an estimated 50 million future Christmas trees, it will cost about \$1.50 a foot for a scotch pine at retail outlets, said Dr. Melvin R. Koeling, forest extension director for Michigan State University.

'Smaller Bodies Found Under Larger ...'

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Nov. 24—U.S. military personnel, finding "smaller bodies under larger bodies and children under those," discovered today that as many as 780 Americans died in Jonestown last Saturday when cult leader Jim Jones led them to commit suicide.

A week-old estimate of just over 400 bodies, apparently based only on a rough count made by the Guyanese authorities, who were the first to reach the death scene last weekend and did not move the bodies, was "found to be seriously in error" today, according to a U.S. spokesman. When

U.S. military personnel packing the dead in plastic bags neared 400, they realized there were many more to go.

"The way all this happened was that nobody [in the U.S. military task force] stopped to count" when they reached Jonestown early this week, said another U.S. official. "But as they bagged the bodies, they noticed the pile wasn't going down."

"We simply began to discover more and more and more bodies," said Air Force Capt. John J. Moscatelli, spokesman for the U.S. military task force here.

"Under adults we found smaller adults and children, and more small babies than anticipated."

Most of the previously overlooked bodies were found at the bottom of what turned out to be a three- and four-deep pile off to the side of the open-air pavilion. There Jones supervised the distribution of the poisoned Kool-Aid to followers herded around him, encircled by armed guards. Jones himself was later found shot to death at the front of the pavilion.

Today's unexpected discovery was a swift, shocking blow to both U.S. authorities and relatives of Peoples Temple church members that both doubled the death toll at Jonestown and snuffed out hope that many more survivors might be found.

See JONESTOWN, A2, Col. 1



© 1978, Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

Relief workers carry a large wooden chest found in the home of cult leader Jim Jones.

JONESTOWN, From A1

Just yesterday, U.S. officials here raised doubts whether there really were 300 to 400 more Jonestown residents who had fled into the surrounding forest.

"You don't know whether to be relieved or horrified," said U.S. Consul Douglas Ellis who has been the liaison between the embassy here and the 32 known survivors of Jonestown as well as relatives of Jonestown residents seeking to discover whether their loved ones are dead or alive.

"It appears that there may not be anybody to search for and rescue."

All week long, officials had agonized over the mystery of what had happened to several hundred Jonestown residents apparently not counted in the original estimate of about 400 dead. U.S. military helicopters were scheduled to begin flying over the dense rain forest surrounding Jonestown broadcasting loudspeaker appeals to any survivors who might have fled there.

Now, however, the numbers that had been in contention here all week appeared to be adding up.

The Guyanese government said today that its records showed 950 Peoples Temple church members had entered Guyana since the Jonestown agricultural commune was founded five years ago.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy today examined and photocopied 803 U.S. passports the Guyanese authorities had recovered in Jonestown. The copies will be sent to Washington for a determination of how many persons they cover. That number could be more than 800 because some children may have traveled on parents' passports, and others have been born in Jonestown. Markers in a small cemetery found in Jonestown indicate that only about 10 residents died there before last weekend.

Against that evidence are these numbers:

- As many as 780 bodies were counted in Jonestown by this afternoon.
- Four other Peoples Temple church members were killed inside the Georgetown headquarters Saturday night, and one defector from the

commune was shot to death along with Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and three newsmen after they left Jonestown earlier Saturday.

32 other Jonestown residents who escaped Saturday's violence. Some of them left with Ryan's group and survived the ambush at the Port Kaituma landing strip near Jonestown, and others slipped out of onestown before and during the forced mass suicide.

• 48 other Peoples Temple members still under armed guard and house arrest inside the Georgetown headquarters house. They include Jim Jones'

son and top lieutenant, Steve Jones, and other members of the Jonestown basketball team, which was in Georgetown playing the Guyanese national team last weekend.

According to Guyanese police sources, some cult members now in that house are being investigated for the murder of Peoples Temple member and house resident Sharon Amos Harris and her three children, who were found in the Georgetown house Saturday night with their throats slashed. Survivors from Jonestown have told authorities that members of

the basketball team were trained sharp-shooting security guards who practiced with firearms in the forest around Jonestown.

• Four other Jonestown residents found aboard the cult's coastal freighter, the Albatross, when it landed in Trinidad this week after leaving Guyana well before last weekend's violence. Those four are being temporarily held by Trinidad authorities, who are in communication with Guyana.

• Two or three more Jonestown residents reportedly found by a Guyana Defense Force patrol boat aboard the

cult's fishing boat, the Cudjoe, three days ago just 20 miles north of its Port Kaituma dock. They are being questioned by police here. A third boat used by the Jonestown commune, named the Marcellene after Jim Jones' wife, is still missing.

These numbers make a total of between 850 and 900 Peoples Temple members now accounted for in Guyana.

The only remaining lead on more possible survivors from Jonestown is a report from Venezuela that the pilot of a Venezuelan military plane patrolling its disputed border with Guyana saw what appeared to be 30 or 40 people heading west toward the border from the rain forest around Jonestown and Port Kaituma. Guyanese government spokesmen denied knowledge of such a report.

Meanwhile the grim airlift of bodies from Jonestown continued at a brisk pace. By midday 485 bodies had been taken in plastic body bags by helicopter from Jonestown to Timehri International Airport, where they were transferred to aluminum coffins and put onto military cargo planes bound for the U.S. Air Force base in Dover, Del.

This afternoon, the government of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham made its first public report to the Guyanese people about the Jonestown affair. Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid delivered the report in a 15-minute statement to Parliament that was broadcast across the country by the Guyanese Broadcasting Service.

Reid's address, in the crowded chamber of the 150-year-old pink and white neoclassical parliament building was essentially a chronological listing of the steps the government took after the Jonestown violence occurred. Nothing new was revealed.

Reid, a large black man with a full grey beard, who, like the 53 members of the National Assembly wore an open-necked shirt and no coat in the tropical heat, also stated his nation's "deep regret and sympathy" to the American people for the tragedy that occurred at Jonestown.

He pointedly indicated throughout his statement that he believed his government had acted as quickly as possible at every stage of the emergency.

For example, he said that after the



© 1978, Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

Children's bodies were discovered under the bodies of adults.

ambush of Ryan's party at the Port Kaituma airstrip, "one of the more seriously injured persons was conveyed that very evening to the hospital in Georgetown where a medical team was on standby and the injured person received immediate attention. Others were flown out the following day."

Later, he pointed out that, after the first report was received of a possible mass murder or suicide at Jonestown, the Guyanese Defense Force mobilized troops as quickly as possible at Matthews Ridge, 20 miles away, and "moved by foot and train to Port Kaituma and then to Jonestown Sunday on foot.

"It should be noted that all this was done under very adverse conditions," Reid said, explaining that the terrain was very rough and rain was falling heavily.

Reid ended his address by saying

that he wished to "reiterate our deepest sympathy to all who are grieving. We mourn with all of them."

After finishing, Reid strode hurriedly off the floor, pushing his way through reporters and bystanders. He was followed by catcalls from members of the opposition Peoples Progressive Party, whose acting leader tried to insist that Reid answer ques-

tions.

When the speaker of the house ruled that, for technical reasons, the Jonestown matter could not be discussed on the floor, cries of "Shame, shame," and "cover up" rang out.

Some members of the opposition party and its newspaper here have raised questions about the apparently close relationship between Ptolemy Reid in particular and the Burnham government generally with Jim Jones. Jones and Reid met on several occasions and the Burnham government has been accused here of looking the other way when the Jonestown commune using its three boats, allegedly, shipped out produce and brought in supplies without going through customs.

For the foreign reporters who filled the press seats in the National Assembly to hear Reid, the most important thing he did in his address was make the first reference those reporters heard today to the new, greatly enlarged body count at Jonestown.

Jones Used Sex to Manipulate Followers, Ex-Cultists Say

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 24 (AP)—The Rev. Jim Jones ordered the beating of homosexuals, forced men and women to strip in public and had a secretary arrange sexual liaisons with men as well as women, according to articles in two California newspapers today.

The accounts, quoting former followers of Jones, paint the picture of a leader who used sex to manipulate, seduce, blackmail and dominate members of the Peoples Temple.

Jones was found shot to death last Saturday after a ritual of mass suicide and murder at Jonestown, Guyana. Nearly 800 of the cult followers died after drinking poison.

"Jones used to say that the only perfect heterosexual around was him. All of us had to admit that we were homosexuals," Gerald Parks, 45, a former member of the Peoples Temple, was quoted as saying in a copyright article in the San Jose Mercury.

"Then we found out it was him. He was having sex with guys. The guys, they'd brag about it right up front," Parks told the Mercury.

The Mercury quoted former Temple members as saying that on one occasion Jones told his followers to continue hitting a homosexual already beaten bloody and to "kick him where he deserves it."

According to an article in the Los Angeles Times, Jones had a secretary

arrange sexual liaisons with men as well as women.

"She would call up and say, 'Father hates to do this, but he has this tremendous urge and could you please,'" said Al Mills, former Peoples Temple membership chairman.

"Everyone had to say they were a homosexual or a lesbian," Mike Cartmell, a former associate minister at the Temple, told the Times. "Jones realized the power of sex in destroying stable family relationships. In some cults you have communal living. In Peoples Temple, Jones made himself the only legitimate object of sexual desire."

Cartmell told the Times that Jones once tried to approach him, but "the phone rang and I fled the room."

Cartmell said he later asked Jones why he had sex in this way.

"'You have to,' he said Jones replied. 'It focuses their interest on you.'"

According to Cartmell, Jones boasted that he would engage in sex up to six hours at a time because "it totally obliterates" the personalities of his partners.

Mills said Jones ordered his followers, many of them once strictly monogamous Christians, to commit homosexual or adulterous acts because they were easier to manipulate or blackmail when they felt guilty.

Cartmell also said he believes Jones provided under-age girls to male followers to compromise them.



HUMANITARIAN AWARD—The late cult leader Jim Jones, second from right, received a Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award last January from the Rev. Cecil Williams, center, pastor of San Francisco's Glide

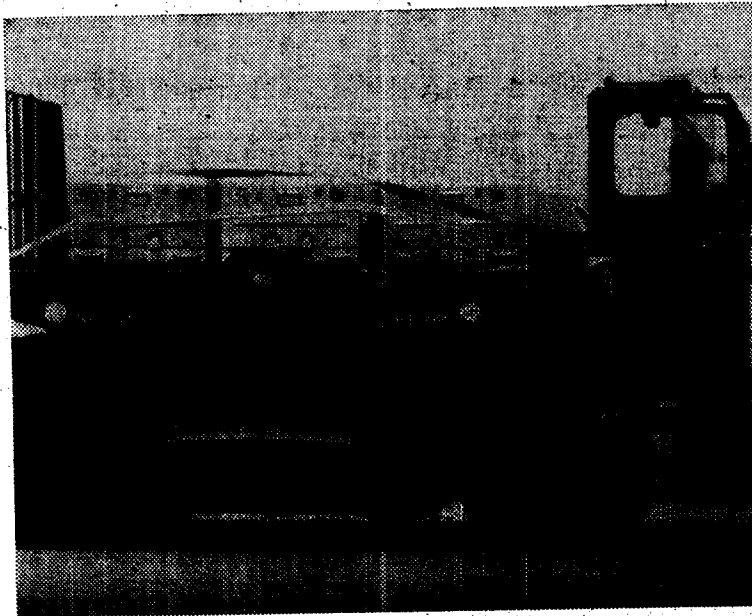
Memorial church. Other recipients were, from left, Bob Gnatz, of Public Advocates Inc., Mack Lyons of the United Farm Workers and Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, publisher of the San Francisco Sun Reporter.

C1978. The San Francisco Examiner



Associated Press

Metal containers are stacked three deep as third transport plane is unloaded.



By John McDonnell—The Washington Post

At Dover, Del. Air Force Base, giant flatbed truck carries Guyana caskets.