

memorandum

DATE: 1/5/79

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF CHARLOTTE (62-0)

SUBJECT: THE FARM
SUMMERTOWN, TENNESSEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

11/9/92 1048DKM
#284,125 & #284,126
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-29-91 BY SP8 BT/SE
#304,206-306,012

b6
b7C
b7D

Leo Ryan

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of LHM concerning captioned matter.

Enclosed for the Memphis Division are two copies of this LHM.

LHM being submitted for information purposes. (Deemed appropriate)

By communication dated 12/8/78 [redacted]

[redacted] enclosed to the FBI, Asheville, N. C., an original transmittal envelope and eight-page letter he received which was unsigned and postmarked Albany, New York, 12/3/78. In Mr. [redacted] letter, he advised that his publication did a feature article on The Farm, which is located in Summertown, Tennessee. He referred to the recent massacre in Guyana and the stories in the public media concerning the "Jones cult," and believed the Federal Bureau of Investigation would be interested in the contents of the letter he received postmarked Albany, N. Y., in view of the situation in Guyana. Therefore, the letter in its entirety is being reproduced in LHM form for review of the Bureau and Memphis Division, which covers the Summertown, Tenn., area.

No further investigation being conducted by the Charlotte Division unless advised contrary.

Receipt of [redacted] communication enclosing the unsigned letter was acknowledged telephonically to [redacted] wife, [redacted] at Hendersonville, N. C.

ENCLOSURE

REC-125

- 2-Bureau (Encs. 4)
- 2-Memphis (Encs. 2)
- 1-Charlotte

15 JAN 8 1979

JMQ:jeb
(5) *the* XEROX
JAN 12 1979

Records:
Place original in 89-4286
Place copy in 62-0.

[redacted]



58 JAN 19 1979

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

0-7 (2 copies) to SF for info, 1/9/79 DES/GRF

62-0-87284

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Charlotte, North Carolina

January 5, 1979

THE FARM
SUMMERTOWN, TENNESSEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

By communication dated December 8, 1978 [redacted]

[redacted] forwarded to
the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Asheville, North
Carolina, the following: (u)

b7D

Transmittal letter designated to [redacted]

[redacted] marked "Personal and Urgent," and postdated Albany,
New York, December 3, 1978, enclosing an eight-page unsigned
letter as follows: (u)

"Sir: Beware 'The Farm,' near Summertown, TN!
Please, do not publicise this drug cult in your
pages! It is in the same category as the 'Jones
Cult' What is presented to the 'public' (you
for instance) is a facade of lies (and including
your own several pieces on its' 'marvels,' that
has misled some of your readers into disaster
beyond your belief! No one knew the truth about
Jones' cult outside of the few who dared to talk
and were not believed! See what happened? Only
the names are different! The conditions are
much the same, except that the 'Farm' cult is
far more degenerate! We were there! We escaped
by a miracle but lost everything - a small price
to pay for our freedom!

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER
RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS
OF THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY
OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR
AGENCY; IT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE
NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE
YOUR AGENCY.

1-29-91 SP8/ste
#306,206 + 306,012
11/19/92 1048DKM/ndm
#284,125g
#284,126
1575

ENCLOSURE



THE FARM
SUMMERTOWN, TENNESSEE

"Any other information you have received about the Farm must be one of 2 kinds:

1. The 'propaganda' - or:
2. The truth!

"We feel your magazine was not to blame for our horror, but if you don't wake up, you will be to blame if you support this insane, incredible thing any further in your pages. We are not advising or criticizing; we are simply stating facts, based upon a nightmare experience which we survived. Scientology, Moonies, Jones' Cult, The Farm, and all their off-shoots and branch communes, are as deadly to America as the atomic war that is much more honest and open a threat.

"These cults appear to be kind, gentle, unselfish, helpful, healing, and harmless. Their leaders are often 'beautiful people' with great power to hold the rapt attention and worship of many troubled people, young and old, minorities, and the like. Even 'est' and TM. are, in the main, only more sophisticated mind traps for the unwary and innocent victims of men without conscience and an insatiable urge for absolute power. We have all copies of your magazine and respect your efforts. Please believe, we have no motive; no revenge, no punishment in mind, but a fair warning from those who were heavily involved in what, we were led to believe, was a viable, sane and healthy alternative to the conditions that seemed intolerable in the rapidly growing world violence & greed, the pursuit of pleasure, privilege, property, profit and power at the price of world destruction and the end of all good. Note this please. We do not write to the 'papers' or the T.V. people, or anyone but you, sir, the creator of the Mother Earth News wherein we saw and read the interview with 'Stephen' cult leader of 'the Farm,' and which led us to go to Tennessee at great loss to us of all our possessions, property, money, goods, peace of mind, but which taught us this priceless lesson:

(w)

THE FARM
SUMMERTOWN, TENNESSEE

"Believe in nothing (and no one) that offers to 'save' you from the rest of your world at the price of your inalienable right to be yourself, whatever you are.

"We dare not reveal our names or real locations. People 'disappear.' The P. O. from which this is mailed is not even close to where we are. We hope you will publish nothing from any cult again, that you cannot personally verify as factual and not a propaganda 'come on' to entrap your readers. The 'Farm' has power over thousands of deluded people who will do ANYTHING they are ordered to do. This is the deadliest menace in the world - power such as that! For the sake of all who died at Jonestown and all who will die by similar means elsewhere, do not be a party to it, for God's Sake, PLEASE?

"We will never write again. Good-bye!"

[redacted] wife of [redacted] was contacted at [redacted] telephone number [redacted] and advised that [redacted] has no affiliation with The Farm of Summertown, Tennessee. [redacted] advised that [redacted] published an article concerning The Farm after one of the individuals associated with [redacted] went to The Farm and interviewed individuals there. [redacted] advised that that published article is available if desired. (u)

At the time the article was done, [redacted] advised one STEPHEN GASKIN solely controlled the Farm. She stated The Farm is approximately one thousand acres in size and has "hundreds of people" living there. She stated the inhabitants of The Farm are primary vegetarians who grow their own food. She advised the inhabitants are attracted to this commune ideologically and philosophically. It is generally a "back to the earth" movement; however, they do accept unwanted children at the location and care for these children. Also, there is a natural birth clinic operating at The Farm. (u)

THE FARM
SUMMERTOWN, TENNESSEE

[redacted] advised that the representatives of [redacted] who traveled to The Farm for the purpose of the interview, were very impressed and praised it highly. There was no indication to anyone of any restraints placed on the inhabitants as movement appeared to be uncontrolled. However, [redacted] did advise that at the time of the publication representatives' visit, The Farm was controlled by one individual. Therefore, in view of the recent situation in Guyana, the above letter, which was received by her husband, was furnished | u/