

## **House International Relations Committee's Records Re: Jonestown and the Assassination of Rep. Leo J. Ryan**

At the direction of Chairman Clement J. Zablocki, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs created the Staff Investigative Group (SIG) to investigate the events surrounding the visit of Rep. Leo J. Ryan's congressional delegation to the People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, the attack on the contingent and Ryan's subsequent assassination at the Port Kaituma airstrip, and the mass suicide at the People's Temple on November 18, 1978. The SIG issued its final report, with recommendations, to the International Relations Committee<sup>1</sup> on May 15, 1979.

There are two groups of Committee records involving the events in Guyana. One is the SIG collection (27 boxes) and the other is full committee material that includes the follow-up to the SIG final report (10 boxes). Unless otherwise indicated, all records date from 1978-1980.

### **A.) Staff Investigative Group Records**

The 27 boxes of SIG records consist of six series (see appended folder title list):

**1.) Transcripts of Interviews** (11 boxes [boxes 1-11]). Arranged chronologically, this series contains the transcripts (those sent to the witness for edits and the edited version) of interviews conducted by the SIG with members of Representative Ryan's staff, State Department employees involved in the Guyana visit and aftermath, press who accompanied the delegation, former People's Temple associates, members and relatives of victims. Some transcripts include attachments. Most of the transcripts are accompanied by a summary.

**2.) Final Report and Recommendations, with Draft** (1 boxes [box 23]) Unarranged. This series contains the typescript (original and a copy) of the SIG's final report, recommendations, and confidential appendices. Most of the appendices are summaries of SIG interviews with references to page numbers on which the interviewee discussed the topic of the appendix. The topics of the appendices are listed in the published final report. They include the tactics of Jim Jones; conspiracy against Jones and the People's Temple; opponents and media intimidated, public officials used; awareness of danger, degree of violence; the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act; the role and performance of the U.S. Department of State; and others (see final report).

**3.) Investigative Records** (10.5 boxes [boxes 12-18, 21-22, 24-25]) Unarranged. This series contains files compiled by the SIG to investigate Representative Ryan's visit to Guyana and issues surrounding the events there on November 18, 1978. The records include State Department cables and documents, correspondence, memos, SIG interview summaries, press clippings, NBC News videotape, a transcript of Jim Jones' final speech

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<sup>1</sup> The Foreign Affairs Committee name changed to International Relations at the start of the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress in January 1979.

to People's Temple members, logs of People's Temple ham radio transmissions, articles and public speeches, and transcripts of executive session hearings on implementing the SIG's recommendations. Topics include preparations for the Codel visit to Guyana, actions of the State Department before and after the attack, the People's Temple before and after its move to Guyana, the Stoen custody case, the Privacy Act, Freedom of Information Act, Social Security Administration policy regarding overseas benefits, information on the Guyanese Government's investigation of the Jonestown incident, tax exemptions for religious organizations, the GAO study of the placement of foster children with People's Temple members, and cults in general.

**4.) State Department Telegrams and Documents** (2.5 boxes [boxes 19-21]) Arranged by SIG log number, these documents include State Department cables and correspondence from State Department files from Members of Congress, citizens, attorneys, and others regarding the People's Temple and its residents.

**5.) Files of SIG Staff Consultant George R. Berdes** (1 box [box 26]) These records, maintained by the SIG's consultant, contain memos, State Department cables, handwritten interview notes, and press clippings. Topics include preparation for the Ryan Codel to Guyana, the State Department's application of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, general workings and progress of the SIG, the Stoen custody case, and a list of those who died in Jonestown on Nov. 18, 1978.

**6.) Records Submitted by Galen W. "Joe" Holsinger** (1 box [box 27]) Unarranged. This series contains background material on the People's Temple submitted to the SIG by Joe Holsinger, Representative Ryan's administrative assistant. The records include 34 audiocassettes related to Holsinger's Dec. 4, 1978, interview with the SIG as well as other records.

### **B.) Full Committee Files Relating to Jonestown**

The House Committee on International Relations also archived 10 boxes of other records relating to the People's Temple and Jonestown. The bulk of the records are copies of SIG interview transcripts (boxes 1-8).

Other records in the series include a draft of the final report with confidential appendices (box 5); executive session transcripts regarding the implementation of the SIG's recommendations (box 6); records on the role and involvement of Guyanese Government officials (box 6); tape transcriptions of Jim Jones' speeches, broadcast media coverage, and Federal Communications Commission ham radio transmissions (box 9); notes on State Department cables; correspondence dated May 1979-December 1980; a file supplied by Representative Ryan's legislative assistant Jackie Speier; three audiocassettes of an interview with U.S. Consul to Guyana Douglas Ellice; staff memos dated April 1979-November 1980 regarding the Ryan investigation; and materials relating to the SIG's presentation of its report to the full committee (box 10).

## **Folder Title List: House International Relations Committee Staff Investigative Group's Records re: Jonestown and the Assassination of Rep. Leo J. Ryan**

### ***Boxes 1-11: Interview Transcripts***

#### **Box 1**

Holsinger, Galen W. "Joe"  
Schollaert, James T.  
McCoy, Richard  
McCoy, Richard  
McCoy, Richard

#### **Box 2**

Speier, Jacqueline  
Wright, Rosalie M.  
Holsinger, Will  
Freitas, Joseph, Jr.  
Katsaris, Steven A.  
Hunter, Kathy  
Kespohl, Jan

#### **Box 3**

Mills, Al  
Stoen, Tim  
Parks, Dale  
Kilduff, Marshall  
Houston, Sam and Nadyne  
Blakey, Deborah

#### **Box 4**

Javers, Ron  
Tracy, Phil  
Lindsay, Gordan  
Sung, Steve  
Bouquet, Clare P.  
Oliver, Beverly and Howard

#### **Box 5**

Blakey, Deborah  
Hubert, Jim  
Boyd, Carol  
Flick, Bob  
Lane, Mark & Teresa Buford

#### **Box 6**

Stoen, Grace & Jeffrey Haas & Margaret Ryan  
Garry, Charles  
McCoy, Richard  
Speier, Jacqueline

Tumminia, Frank

**Box 7**

Reiterman, Tim

Weber, Dan

Watson, Barbara M., Alan A. Gise, Robert Dalton

Hewitt, Ashley C., Jr.

Dobrenchuk, Stephen, Richard Belt, Eileen O'Kane

**Box 8**

Blacken, John

Griffith, John

Bova, Michelle

Gunn, Joyce, Jack Komitor, Rudolph L. Rivera

Henneke, Fred

Kinsolving, Lester

**Box 9**

Burke, John

Dwyer, Richard

Kibble, Stepney C.

**Box 10**

Ellice, Douglas

Mason, Nancy; T. Dennis Reece

Clayton, Stanley

**Box 11**

Rhodes, Odell, Jr.

Efrein, Laurie

**Box 12**

Senate transcript: "Information Meeting on the Cult Phenomenon in the United States," 2/5/1979

House Foreign Affairs Comm. executive session hearing, 2/20/1980

House Foreign Affairs Comm. executive session hearing, 2/20/1980

Hearing before the Subcomm. on International Operations, "Implementation of Recommendations Made as a Result of Inquiries Previously Conducted into the Jonestown Tragedy," 3/4/1980

**Box 13**

Ryan Correspondence re: trip to Jonestown, Guyana (9/26-10/19/1978)

Chairman Zablocki's mandate for investigation into Ryan assassination (12/28/1978)

Chairman Zablocki's letter to State Dept. (11/21/1978) and State's response (12/13/1978)

Chairman Zablocki's letter to State Dept. (11/28/1978) and State's response (12/19/1978)

Chairman Zablocki's letter to State Dept. requesting additional information (2/2/1979) and State's response (2/28/1979)

State Dept.'s additional response (1/9/1979) to Chairman's letter of 11/28/1978

Series of memoranda from State Dept. officials detailing contacts with Peoples temple as requested from A. Hewitt (12/4/1978-2/15/1979)

Copy of Jonestown guestbook (8/19-12/9-1978)

Affidavit of Yolanda D.A. Crawford (4/10/1978)

Affidavit of Deborah Layton Blakey (5/12/1978)  
Summary of Consular Officer's visit to Jonestown (Reece/Ellice) (11/7/1978)  
State Dept. airgrams detailing Privacy Act regulations (7/5/1975, 11/18/1977)  
Jonestown and Peoples Temple -- Chronology of Significant Correspondence (1974-1978)  
Foreign Affairs Manual (vol. 7), Special Consular Services (submitted 12/15, 22/1978)  
Report by Comptroller General, "Government Field Offices Should Better Implement Freedom of Information Act"  
State Dept. reports on Privacy Act and FOIA (12/1979-1/1980)  
Correspondence: Special Investigative Staff Group and Dept. of State (11/21/1978 - 5/14/1979)

#### **Box 14**

Congressional correspondence on Ryan inquiry (12/7/1978-3/7/1979)  
Correspondence between Special Investigative Group and HEW re: Social Security issues with Jonestown (2/1/1979-1/8/1980)  
Confidential memos to Chairman Zablocki and Chief of Staff Brady (12/7/1978-5/22/1979)  
Final tape of Jonestown mass suicide/murder (Nov. 1978)  
Staff memos re: Ryan inquiry (12/14/1978-10/24/1979)  
Oshkosh speech by Mark Lane  
Miscellaneous memos and correspondence (2/14/1979-4/11/1979)  
Miscellaneous correspondence and articles  
Investigation into Jonestown incident by Government of Guyana (11/26/1979-4/3/1980)  
Correspondence between Special Investigative Group and Government of Guyana re: trip to Guyana (3/16-28/1979)  
Typed statement found in box on Jim Jones' porch in Jonestown (3/20/1979)  
State Dept. report on Ryan assassination (4/24/1979)

#### **Box 15**

Retyped pages of Guyana Report  
Original draft of Guyana Report (George Berdes)  
Correspondence to various government agencies requesting information relative to investigation (12/11/1978-4/19/1979)  
Resolution and statements for Committee hearing (5/15/1979)  
Memos re: tax exempt status of religious organizations (2/14-11/1/1979)  
Letters on recommendations of Staff Investigative Group (5/23-9/28/1979)  
Opinions of legal scholars on first amendment/religious freedom issue (12/18/1978-4/12/1979)  
Congressional Research Service memos on first amendment/religious freedom issue (2/14/1977-1/31/1979)  
New York State bill concerning temporary conservatorship (3/25-10/20/1980)  
[Passport Applications] closed for 50 years  
Draft statement of Staff Investigative Group for hearing (5/15/1979)  
Security for hearing (5/15/1979)  
Statement on religious expression (Germany)  
Comments by Jack Anderson on "Good Morning America" (5/10/1979)  
Summaries of transcripts for Mike Finley (3/19-4/11/1979)  
Notes on NBC film footage  
Miscellaneous correspondence (11/21/1978-3/31/1980)

#### **Box 16**

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings  
GAO findings on placement of foster children with members of Peoples Temple (6/12/1979)  
Request by Representative Royer for oversight hearings (11/2/1979-3/14/1980)  
Correspondence with Walter H. Thain (3-7/1979)  
Mailing list for Ryan assassination report  
Letters and cables to members of Ryan family (5/15-12/17/1979)

Correspondence with Evans family (2/17-26/1980)  
Correspondence with Congressman Biaggi (12/6/1979-2/5/1980)  
Esther Deitz -- B'nai B'rith cult project (7/19/1979)  
Advisor Moon Articles  
Ryan plaque dedication (12/6/1979)  
Meeting with Steve Hassan (10/3/1979)  
Material relating to hearings by Subcomm. On International Operations (2/20, 3/4/1980)  
General correspondence file #1 (12/1978-2/1979)  
General correspondence file #2 (3-5/1979)  
General correspondence file #3 (5-12/1979)  
General correspondence file #4 (1/1980-8/1981)

### **Box 17**

Dwyer inquiry re: Lane book  
Newspaper clippings re: People's Temple  
Correspondence with Mrs. Leonard re: Anada Marga cult  
Declassification of Guyana materials  
Report by State of California re: foster children  
[Congressional correspondence re: religious cults]  
Chronological file of correspondence  
Correspondence of International Operations Subcommittee  
Correspondence concerning Swami Baba Muktananda Paramahansa  
Interview transcripts logged out by Intelligence Committee  
Material pertaining to hearings of Subcommittee on International Operations re: Jonestown recommendations  
White House Conference on Families  
U.S. vs. People's Temple of the Disciples of Christ, et. al.

### **Box 18**

State Dept. information on Guyana  
CIA intelligence on Peoples Temple (12/21/1978-3/8/1979)  
Rozcynko Olivers, et.al. (2-11/1978)  
Mark Lane interview with Barbara Walters (11/29/1978)  
Correspondence with Thea Stein Lewinson re: handwriting analysis (2/5/1979)  
Correspondence with Rev. John V. Moore, First United Methodist Church (11/26-12/22/1978)  
Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee (2/17-12/12/1978)  
Jim Schollaert (12/4/1978)  
Cables re: Kathy Hunter  
Subcommittee in International Operations (6/16-10/5/1978)  
Memos to Chief of Staff Brady (12/7-13/1978)  
Cables re: Joseph Mazor  
Cables re: Gordon Lindsay  
Correspondence with Dr. James Gordon, NIMH (1/8/1980)

### **Box 19**

[State Department] Telegrams (log # 1-115) (prior to 11/1978)  
[State Department] Telegrams (log # 116-171) (prior to 11/1978)  
[State Department] Telegrams (log # 172-272) (11/1978)  
[State Department] Telegrams (log # 273-357) (11/1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 358-419) (2/1977 - 2/1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 420-450) (2/1977 - 2/1978)

**Box 20**

[State Department] Documents (log # 451-470) (1977-1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 471-525) (1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 526-578) (1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 579-625) (1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 626-678) (1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 679-725) (1978)

**Box 21**

[State Department] Documents (log # 726-771) (1977-1978)  
[State Department] Documents (log # 772-902) (1977-1978)  
NBC News videotape, "Guyana Special," 11/19/1978 – **electronic record**  
NBC News videotape, "Guyana Special Report," 2/22/1979 -- **electronic record**  
NBC News videotape, "Guyana," 4/4/1979 -- **electronic record**  
NBC film footage notes made by Staff Investigative Group  
Summaries of investigative interviews, 12/4/1978 - 3/21/1979  
Background notes on Guyana  
State Dept. response (3/14/1979) to Chairman's letter (2/2/1979)  
Chronology of significant correspondence, Jonestown and the Peoples Temple

**Box 22**

Written log of monitoring by Mr. O'Toole of Peoples Temple radio transmissions between San Francisco and Jonestown, 9/1977-11/1978  
FCC tape and reel chronology  
Summaries of tapes (4/21-9/12/1977)  
Tapes and reels (4/21-9/12/1977) **electronic record**  
State Dept. report and attachments (12/1/1978)  
Photographs of People's Temple Members

**Box 23**

Original and Copy of Confidential Appendix to Final Report (5/15/1979)

**Box 24**

Correspondence and memos re: tax exempt status of religious groups (1979-1980)  
Miscellaneous correspondence and cables re: Jonestown, Guyana (1978-1979)  
Miscellaneous newspaper clippings  
House Information Systems computer information re: Ryan inquiry (1979)

**Box 25**

[Notes on] Draft of Final Report  
Rep. Royer (1979-1980)  
White House Conference on Families (1979-1980)  
New York State Bill: Temporary Conservatorship (1980-1981)  
Newspaper Clippings, Memos re: Jonestown Follow-up (1979-1980)

**Box 26**

Miscellaneous Files of George R. Berdes:  
a.) Transcript of "Final Tape: (11/1978)  
b.) Guyana trip (3/13-23/1979)  
c.) California planning (1978-1979)

- d.) State Department report (1978-1979)
- e.) Jackie Speier (1978-1979)
- f.) McCoy et.al (1978-1979)
- g.) Scope, purpose, outline
- h.) General correspondence
- i.) Follow up list
- j.) Death list
- k.) Interviews
- l.) State Department reports
- m.) Tom Smeeton's memos (1978-1979)
- n.) State Dept. correspondence re: Stoen (1978)
- o.) "Our Response" -- on report of investigation of Korean-American Relations by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Unification Church (1/15/1979)

**Box 27**

Cassette tapes submitted by Joe Holsinger in connection with his statement of 12/4/1978

Background Material (Peoples Temple Case Records) received from Joe Holsinger of Rep. Ryan's office, 12/7/1978