

GUYANA - TO WIT. - 2342 30JAN79 061030 FS

Coroner's Ord Chap 13.

COUNTY OF Essequibo

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/7/02 BY [redacted] 67c

MINUTES of an Inquisition taken and held at
Matthews Ridge, North West Magisterial District

~~at the residence of~~

in the County aforesaid, on the 13th
day of December, 1978 upon the body of

James W. Jones et al

~~known to the coroner~~ ^{now} dead, before

one of the Coroners of ^{the State of Guyana} ~~the County of Essequibo~~

~~and~~ ^{and woman} following good and lawful
Men/constituting a Jury, viz:

- (1) Albert A. Graham (Foreman)
- (2) Charles Hinds
- (3) Prince Glasgow
- (4) Ivelaw Worral
- (5) Leaz Peole

The Jury being duly sworn, ~~and sworn to~~ ^{and sworn to} in the presence of the
Coroner, when the following Witnesses were
called and examined—

- (1) Cecil A. Roberts of C.I.D. Headquarters, Eve Leary - Ex. "A1-13".
- (2) Dr. Cyril L. Kootoo of Central Medical Laboratory - Exs. "E1-E2".
- (3) P.C. 8900 R. Oliver of Photographic Branch, Eve Leary, Exs. "C1-C2", "D" and "E1-E15".

TAKEN BY ME and read over to the abovesaid witness who declared the same to be correct and signed at the Court at Matthews Ridge on this 13th day of December, 1978, the witness and I being all present together at the time of the reading and signing hereof.

M.H. Bacchus,
Magistrate & Coroner,
North West Magisterial District.

CYRIL LESLIE MOOTOO Sworn States:-

I am Government Senior Bacteriologist and Pathologist, my address is at the Central Medical Laboratory, Georgetown. I am also a graduate of the University of Dublin, Edinburgh and I am also a Registered Medical Practitioner. On 20th November, 1978 I went to Jonestown North West Magisterial District and was shown several hundred of dead bodies some were identified to me by Odell Rhodes, this person (identified). I performed post mortem examination on some of the bodies. This I did in the presence of A.C.C. Roberts. I really started my examination of the said dead bodies on the Monday night 20th November, 1978. I slept at Jonestown about 50 yards from the dead bodies. The first body I performed post mortem with dissection on after it was identified by the said Odell Rhodes was the body of James Warren Jones. On examination I found he had a bullet wound on the right aspect of the skull just above the right ear, directly above the right ear. There was a larger wound on the left side of his head above the left ear. On closer examination I found the wound on the right side was the entrance wound and that on the left side exit wound. I saw evidence of a near discharge. From my experience I would say it was a .38 weapon. In my estimation I would say he had died 56 to 60 hours before I started to work on him. I started to work on the 21st November, 1978 about 9.00 a.m. The said body would have died after Saturday 18th November, 1978 midday. The cause of death Compound fracture of the skull, laceration of the brain due to gun shot injury. The area of the

entrance wound is one of the suicide area from a right handed person. Next body was found in a room identified by Odell Rhodes as that of Ann Elizabeth Moore (approximately) 26 years. On examination I found she too had a head injury the entire left aspect of the head was blown off and the brain was scattered all over the floor. There were no injury on her body. In my opinion that could not have been self inflicted she was murdered. I did a partial dissection but found no abnormality. I examined James Warren Jones abdomen and found no abnormality also. The cause of Ann Elizabeth Moore's death was due to a compound commuted fracture of the left side of the vault and base of skull with laceration of the brain due to gun shot injury. A weapon of a high velocity such as a high powered rifle was used to cause her death. I then carried out post mortem toxicology study for poison on several other dead bodies among these that had been identified by the said Odell Rhodes. From the rostrum the identified bodies with tags would be on your left. I then went into the other groups of dead bodies on the right and back of where I was standing I made spot checks on some of those bodies which had not been identified. I made a list of the names of the dead bodies which were identified by Odell Rhodes. This is my said list tendered, admitted and marked exhibit 'B'. I did also a toxicology study for poison on 25 unidentified dead bodies from different parts. Death was due to acute cyanide poison. In my estimation death could have supervene Saturday 18th November, 1978. A lethal dose of cyanide could kill a child in five minutes and a baby less. From what I saw most person died between twenty and thirty minutes after taking lethal dose of Cyanide poison (This is drinking). The entire premises in front of rostrum was littered with plastic cups with or without this redish brown solution. There were syringes on a desk on the rostrum unused on a wooden container, there were vials of valium and ampoules of valium. This valium is a tranquiliser. There was a bottle containing phenegran tablets which is another mild tranquiliser which is used in treatment of allergy. There was a large bottle (8 oz.) containing chloralhydrate and this is used to put little children to sleep. I also saw about 7 (1 litre) bottle containing Potassium cyanide with labels and two litre bottles containing potassium chloride. If injected or drunk suppress the heart beat and makes death easier. Tests were carried out on the syringes and the half steel drum of cool aid and some of the remnants in the cups and there were all positive for potassium

cyanide. The other stuff such as the potassium bottle, valium etc were given to analyst for examination. The objective was to prove what label it carried that was its contents. I got back one report from the analyst that in a bottle labelled valium there was also cyanide. The action of Potassium cyanide is a respiratory supressor and gives the effect of chemical suffocation because it interferes with taking up of oxygen by the lungs. I see this exhibit "A1 to A13" and among the names of some appears are some of the names of the persons I carried out Post Mortem examination as shown on exhibit "B".

Cross-examined:- None.

No question by members of the Jury.

C. Leslie Mootoo

TAKEN BY ME and read over to the abovenamed witness who declared the same to be correct and signed at the Court at Matthews Ridge on this 13th day of December, 1978 the witness and I being all present together at the time of the reading and signing hereof.

M.E. Bacchus,
Magistrate & Coroner,
North West Magisterial District.

RICHARD OLIVER Swart States:-

I am Detective Constable No. 8900 stationed at the Police Photographic Branch, Eve Leary, Georgetown. As a Police photographer I went ⁱⁿ to Jonestown on Monday 20th November, 1978 in company with A.C.C. Roberts. Certain bodies were identified to me by Odell Rhodes (identified) and upon instructions I took photographs of the body identified to me as James Warren Jones and made prints from negatives, this is the photographs of James Warren Jones tendered, admitted and marked exhibit C1 and C2. I also took a photograph of Ann Elizabeth Moore, this is the said photograph of A.E. Moore tendered, admitted and marked exhibit "D". I also took fifteen photographs, tendered, admitted and marked E1 to E15. The photograph 'E1' shows Jones' house 'E2' scene of poison, 'E3' shows another picture of James W. Jones. 'E4' shows Marceline Jones, wife of James Warren Jones. 'E5' shows scenes of poison vials. 'E6' shows dead bodies in bulk near pavillion. 'E7', 8, 9 and 10' show more dead bodies. 'E11, 12, and 13' shows