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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

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PAGE 1 of 7

DATE 11/22/78 CLASSIFICATION UNCLAS PRECEDENCE IMMEDIATE

#F16800 AFOSDE HQ H0168 326#H3YU0 222243Z NOV 78

START HERE

FM DIRECTOR, FBI

TO ALL FBI FIELD OFFICES

PERSONAL ATTENTION

BT
ALL LEGAL ATTACHES (info)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/8/92 BY 1048 DKM/ukr

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2

RYMUR

12 THE PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO ADVISE YOU OF THE SCOPE
OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDER OF CONGRESSMAN LEO J.
10 RYAN IN JONESTOWN, GUYANA ON NOVEMBER 18, 1978, AND TO PROVIDE
SPECIFIC DIRECTION TO THE FIELD CONCERNING INVESTIGATION WHICH
8 IS TO BE CONDUCTED (u)

IN BRIEF SUMMARY, AS YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE FROM NEWS
6 MEDIA ACCOUNTS, CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND HIS PARTY, CONSISTING OF
HIS STAFF, NEWS MEDIA AND INTERESTED PERSONS SUCH AS RELATIVES
4 OF MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE (PT) WHO RESIDE IN JONESTOWN,
GUYANA, TRAVELLED TO JONESTOWN TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS THE
2 CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE HAD RECEIVED THAT CERTAIN CHURCH MEMBERS
WERE BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL IN JONESTOWN. NEWS MEDIA (u)

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APPROVED BY [Signature] DRAFTED BY [Signature] DATE 11/22/78 ROOM 4062/6 TELE EXT 4656

- 1 - MR. ADAMS
- 1 - MR. MOORE
- 1 - MR. INGRAM
- 1 - MR. [Redacted]
- 1 - MR. [Redacted]
- 1 - MR. [Redacted]

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PAGE 2

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE TWO DE HQ 00*6*168 UNCLAS

ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS PARTY MET WITH
20 THE REVEREND JIM JONES AND OTHER CHURCH LEADERS/MEMBERS IN
18 JONESTOWN. THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED THROUGH ATTORNEYS FOR THE
PT. IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE
16 CONGRESSMAN AND CHURCH MEMBERS. APPARENTLY, THROUGH NEGOTIA-
TIONS, SEVERAL CHURCH MEMBERS DESIRED TO COME TO THE UNITED
14 STATES WITH THE CONGRESSMAN AND THE CONGRESSMAN AGREED TO TRANS-
PORT THEM ON ONE OF TWO AIRPLANES WHICH TRANSPORTED THE CON-
12 GRESSMAN AND HIS PARTY TO JONESTOWN. ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS,
ONE OF THOSE WHO AGREED WAS LARRY LAYTON, WHO ENTERED ONE OF THE
10 PLANES CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESSMAN. SOME OF THOSE PERSONS
DESIRING TO LEAVE WITH THE CONGRESSMAN EXPRESSED APPREHENSION
8 THAT LAYTON WAS PERHAPS NOT TRUTHFUL ABOUT HIS DESIRE TO LEAVE
BECAUSE HE WAS A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF THE REVEREND JIM JONES.
6 AFTER SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE LOADED ABOARD ONE PLANE, LAYTON
APPARENTLY OPENED FIRE WITH A WEAPON HE HAD CONCEALED ON HIS
4 PERSON. THIS APPARENTLY WAS THE SIGNAL FOR UNKNOWN PERSONS
TO COMMENCE FIREING ON THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS PARTY RESULTING
2 IN THE DEATH OF THE CONGRESSMAN, CERTAIN NEWS MEDIA PERSONNEL
AND OTHERS. (u)

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PAGE

3

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE TWO THREE DE HQ 0168 UNCLAS

20 AFTER THE INCIDENT, THE WIDELY REPORTED MASS SUICIDE OF
CHURCH MEMBERS TOOK PLACE. (u)

18 IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT CHURCH MEMBERS HAD A FANATIC
ATTACHMENT TO THE REVEREND JIM JONES AND SIGNED WRITTEN OATHS
16 AGREEING TO KILL A CONGRESSMAN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND A FOR-
MER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONGRESSIONAL AND/OR
14 GOVERNMENT ACTION RESULT IN BRINGING DISGRACE UPON THE PT.
THERE IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WEAPONS SECURED IN CALIF-
12 ORNIA WERE TRANSPORTED BY SHIP TO CHURCH MEMBERS IN GUYANA
POSSIBLY FOR THE PURPOSE MENTIONED ABOVE. THE BODIES OF THE
10 CONGRESSMAN AND THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY AS WELL AS
WOUNDED VICTIMS OF THE INITIAL ATTACK HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO
8 THE UNITED STATES. THOSE VICTIMS WHO WERE NOT KILLED HAVE BEEN
INTERVIEWED. THE LARGE NUMBER OF CHURCH MEMBERS WHO COMMITTED
6 MASS SUICIDE ARE TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR
BURIAL. ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
4 TO ALLOW FBI AGENTS TO ASSIST IN THEIR INQUIRY INTO THIS MATTER
IN GUYANA INDICATE THE POSSIBILITY THAT A TEAM OF FBI AGENTS
2 WILL BE SENT TO THAT COUNTRY. LEGAT CARACAS IS ON THE SCENE
AND COORDINATING INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY THE SITUATION. (u)

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PAGE 4

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0168 UNCLAS

20 THE FBI IS CONDUCTING A BUREAU SPECIAL PREDICATED ON THE
18 CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE {18 USC SECTION 351} WHICH
16 INCLUDES THE CONSPIRACY ASPECT OF THAT STATUTE WHICH IS SET
FORTH SEPARATELY FROM TITLE 18, U. S. CODE, SECTION 371, AND
CONTAINED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE. (u)

14 THE PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION IS TO IDENTIFY THOSE
12 PERSONS WHO MURDERED THE CONGRESSMAN AND/OR WHO CONSPIRED
10 EITHER IN GUYANA OR IN THE UNITED STATES TO KILL CONGRESSMAN
8 RYAN. THIS STATUTE PROVIDES FOR EXTRA TERRITORIAL PROSECUTIVE
JURISDICTION WHICH ALLOWS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO
PROSECUTE PERSONS IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSASSINS OR CO-CONSPIRATORS
WHO ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES SHOULD THEY BE EXTRA-
DITED TO THIS COUNTRY. (u)

6 IN THAT REGARD, THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY IN SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA, HAS ADVISED THAT A GRAND JURY WILL BE CONVENED
FOR PROSECUTION PURPOSES. (u)

4 TO DEVELOP THE FULL FACTS REGARDING THE DEATH OF CONGRESS-
2 MAN RYAN IT WILL BE INCUMBENT UPON THE FBI TO INTERVIEW ALL
PERSONS WHO HAVE INFORMATION RELATING TO HIS DEATH AND/OR
ANY CONSPIRACY WHICH CAN BE IDENTIFIED WHICH IS LINKED TO THAT (u)

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COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 5

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE#FIVE**FIVE DE HQ 0168 UNCLAS

20 DEATH. THIS INITIALLY WILL INCLUDE INTERVIEWS OF WITNESSES AT
18 THE SCENE, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S STAFF, AND INTERVIEWS
OF CHURCH MEMBERS WHO SURVIVED THE MASS SUICIDE. (u)

16 ANY PERSON IDENTIFIED IN NEWS ACCOUNTS AS PROVIDING
14 INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT IN GUYANA OR WHO HAS BEEN IDENTI-
FIED AS HAVING INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND CIRCUMSTANCES
12 SURROUNDING THE SAME, SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED. IN THIS REGARD,
FBIHQ IS REVIEWING ALL PRESS CLIPPINGS AND SETTING FORTH LEADS
10 FOR INTERVIEWS AS NECESSARY. ALL OFFICES SHOULD INSTITUTE
IDENTICAL PROCEDURE. (u)

8 NUMEROUS PERSONS HAVE CONTACTED VARIOUS FBI OFFICES WITH
INFORMATION RELATING TO THIS MATTER. THESE PERSONS SHOULD BE
IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEWED. (u)

6 U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES
AND COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE PT CHURCH AND THIS INCIDENT. WFO
IS REVIEWING THESE COMPLAINTS AND LEADS REGARDING INTERVIEWS
4 OF COMPLAINTANTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. (u)

2 CURRENT CHURCH MEMBERS ARE TO BE IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED
TO DETERMINE IF THEY HAVE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THIS INCIDENT (u)

THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS INVESTIGATION IS REALIZED AND (u)

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PAGE

6

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE SIX DE HQ 0168 UNCLAS

THE FACT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS WILL BE
 20 REQUIRED IS NOTED. THE BUREAU IS NOT INVESTIGATING
 18 THE PT CHURCH AND WE DO NOT INTEND TO INFRINGE UPON THE
 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF PERSONS TO EXERCISE A RELIGIOUS
 16 BELIEF. (u)

ALL LEADS DEVELOPED THROUGH INVESTIGATION ARE TO BE
 14 TELEPHONICALLY DISPATCHED TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE WITH
 FOLLOW UP TELETYPES CONFIRMING THE TELEPHONE CALL AND
 12 ADVISING FBIHQ AND SAN FRANCISCO (u)

ALL OFFICES ARE TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT THOROUGH
 10 FILE REVIEWS ON JAMES WARREN JONES, DOB MAY 13, 1931
 OR 1933, AKA JIM JONES. THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE OF CHRISTIAN
 8 DISCIPLES OF GOD, AND CONGRESSMAN LEO J. RYAN OF CALIF-
 ORNIA. THE RESULTS OF THIS FILE REVIEW, WHETHER NEGA-
 6 TIVE OR POSITIVE, SHOULD BE FURNISHED BY IMMEDIATE TELE-
 TYPE TO FBIHQ. WITHIN THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH ABOVE,
 4 YOU ARE TO CONDUCT SELF-INITIATED INVESTIGATION
 SHOULD IT BE REQUIRED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTING IN YOUR (u)

2 BT

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