

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/02 BY [redacted]

Date of transcription 11/29/78

[redacted] Congressman LEO
RYAN (D-Calif.) who was slain in Guyana, November 18, 1978,
was interviewed at Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical
Services (MIEMS). (u)

[redacted] date of birth [redacted]
was listed in serious but stable condition at MIEMS with
bullet wounds of [redacted] (u)

[redacted] was unable to identify any individuals involved
in the shooting incident at the airstrip near Jonestown,
Guyana, on November 18, 1978. (u)

She said RYAN began formulating plans to visit
Jonestown in early summer, 1978, following West Coast
media coverage of defection from People's Temple of BEBBIE
LETTON BLAKELY in May, 1978. RYAN interviewed BLAKELY about
conditions in Jonestown in August, 1978 and subsequently was
contacted by other relatives of Temple members in Jonestown.
Liaison was established by RYAN's office with RICHARD MC COY,
U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C., concerning a trip
to Guyana to visit Jonestown. On November 1, 1978 a telegram
was sent to Jonestown by RYAN, formally announcing his intention
to visit the community. (u)

[redacted] said prior to leaving, she and RYAN spoke
with AL and JEAN MILLS of Berkeley, California, who had been
to Jonestown to obtain the names of any defectors that could
be interviewed. (u)

The MILLS stated that TIM CARTER, a Temple defector,
was in San Francisco two to three days prior to RYAN's planned
departure for Jonestown and had inquired of the MILLS as to RYAN's
flight schedule. The MILLS stated that although CARTER was an
alleged defector, his San Francisco apartment was virtually
bare of food or other indication of permanent residence.

[redacted] said it was also curious because upon arrival at
Jonestown, TIM CARTER was there. (u)

In addition, [redacted] stated RYAN's office received
a curious call allegedly from Pan American Airlines a few days

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prior to departure. A female said she was making final arrangements for the flight, including V.I.P. treatment for RYAN, and to firm up the schedule and itinerary. (u)

[redacted] said that a total of 16 concerned parents accompanied the Congressional party and press representatives to Guyana on November 14, 1978, arriving at Georgetown. All of the group stayed in Georgetown except BEVERLY OLIVER, STEVE KATSARIS, JIM COBB and CAROLYN BOYD, who stayed in Jonestown. (u)

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She and RYAN went to Jonestown on Friday, November 17, 1978, and stayed until Saturday, November 18, 1978, taking about 20 declarations from Jonestown residents who desired to leave with the Congressman. (u)

[redacted] said on November 18, 1978 a truck containing 28 people, including 16 defectors, left Jonestown for the airstrip 8 miles away. The driver was STANLEY GIBNS of Concord, California, who also had driven them from the airstrip to Jonestown the previous day. Among the defectors on the truck was LARRY LEYTON, brother of DEBBIE BLAKEY, mentioned above. (u)

The trip to the airfield took more than an hour due to poor road conditions. Two planes were at the airstrip, a large and a small craft. [redacted] was handling departure arrangements placing defector families in the large airplane, and single defectors in the smaller craft. It was obvious all present could not leave on the two planes, and that a return trip would be necessary. (u)

LEYTON insisted on leaving on the first plane to take off. All defectors were checked for weapons before boarding. LEYTON, wearing a poncho, entered the smaller plane prior to search and was challenged. LEYTON pulled a pistol and began firing inside the plane, before gun wrestled from him by DALE PARKS. LEYTON then fled the area. (u)

A few minutes later a tractor with flatbed on rear arrived at the airstrip with about ten men, both white and Negro. The truck began circling the planes as the men on the truck fired upon those not yet on board the two planes. SPEIER, RYAN and NBC newsman DON HARRIS attempted to hide behind the plane wheel. Both RYAN and HARRIS were hit by gunfire and killed. SPEIER played dead but was struck by bullets in the right forearm and right thigh. The attack lasted a few minutes. (u)

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[redacted] and several other wounded stayed near the planes following the assault, and a few others went to a nearby disco bar to await help. (u)

She said there was no indication of any violence or a conspiracy to kill RYAN prior to their leaving for Jonestown. It was her opinion the incident at the airstrip was a spur-of-the-moment plan initiated after several defectors had come forth seeking RYAN's assistance in leaving the commune. (u)

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[redacted] said she resided at [redacted]
[redacted] telephone [redacted]
[redacted] telephone [redacted] (u)