Section 8

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These are the official documents of the Parole Commission and their findings and recommendation. They are of importance in showing the relatively brief amount of time they were able to devote to the case and the reasoning underlying their decision.

In the initial parole hearing, the examiners relate that they spent "hours" over two days studying the voluminous documentation submitted to them. (Compare this with the months of full-time work devoted to the case by Judge Peckham and Mr. Buddress.) They also make errors of fact throughout the hearing, the most important of which is the question posed by Mr. Aranda when he asks Larry, "... what are the names of the two people you killed?" (Larry killed no one.) Moreover, in announcing their recommendation, they make no mention of the extensive mitigating circumstances surrounding the crime.

.RE-HEARING ASSESSMENT

INSTITUTION: FCI Terminal Island
REG. NO.: 20752-053
IN CUSTODY:AS OF:
ELIGIBILITY DATE: 4/1/89
RDS] [STAT.MR]DATE:_4/1/14
ATE: 5/15/911
3

I. PRESENT OFFENSE:

- (a) The prisoner was convicted by trial of: Conspiracy to Kill a Congressman; Aiding and Abetting the Murder of a Congressman; Conspiracy to Kill an Internationally Protected Person; Aiding and Abetting Attempted Murder of an Internationally Protected Person.
- The file material indicates that subject was a member of the People's Temple and had joined this group in the early 70's. He ultimately wound up ion Jonestown, Guyana and was there when Congressman Ryan and other individuals from his office and the media arrived there in November, 1978. On the day of 11/18/78, when Congressman and the other "defectors" were preparing to leave, subject said to Jim Jones, the leader of the group words to the effect "This should have gotten stopped. I love you, you will proud of me." Jones was of the belief that Layton was armed at the time that they last spoke. Subject then boarded the truck going to the airport and made the comment when questioned about feigning his defection, he stated "I hate Jim Jones. I want to get out of Jonestown." After loading one of the two planes with the instructions of killing the pilots after the plane had taken off, thus killing everyone on board to avoid the "defectors from leaving." The "defectors" were allegedly CIA Agents. However, before the plane left the ground, subject pulled out a gun and shot two individuals on the plane and attempted to shoot a third when his weapon misfired. About the same time, other individuals began firing at the Congressman's plane which was the larger of the two.

As a result of the overall behavior, several individuals were murdered. Specifically, Congressman Ryan, three newsmen, one defector and Patty Parks. On the 21st of November, subject made the statement taking full responsibility for all the deaths and injured that took place at the Port Kaituma Air Strip.

(c) The offense behavior is rated as Category eight because you were involved in the murder of several individuals.

II. SALIENT FACTOR SCORE:

- A = [3] Subject has 0 prior convictions.
- B = [2] Subject has 0 prior commitments of more than 30 days that

were imposed prior to the last overt act of the current offense.

- C = [3] Subject was 32 years old at the commencement of the current offense and does not have five or more prior commitments.
 - D = [1] Subject has no prior commitments.
- E = [1] Subject is not aprobation/parole/confinement/escape status
 violator.
 - F = [1] Subject does not have a history of opiate dependence.
 - [10] = TOTAL SCORE
- III. The guideline range is 100+ months.

IV. OTHER SIGNIFICANT PRIOR RECORD/STABILITY FACTORS:

Subject joined the group in the early 70's and the organization, the People's Temple, became the center of his life and basically controlle everything that he did. This, of course, was done by their leader, Ji Jones. He, in his statement to the USPO, attempts to, in this reviewer opinion, characterize himself as a victim who came under the influence of Jones and was unable to do anything other than Jones' beckoning. There is no question that he came under Jones' influence, but in this reviewer opinion, it does not excuse him from what he did.

The panel's attention is called to the USPO's interviews with the surviving victims to get an idea as to some of the psychological are financial impact that this incident had on them.

V. CODEFENDANTS:

Please see the Presentence Report.

VI. FORM USA-792, AO-235, AO-337:

None.

VII. PAROLE ON THE RECORD:

No.

VIII.EVALUATION:

IX. PANEL RECOMMENDATION

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on fine....

Laurence John Layton & Kettadell
Initial Parole Hearing Transcription
June 4, 1991, FCI Terminal Island conchap

Dwyer

Good afternoon.

For the record, are you Mr. Laurence John Layton?

Layton

Yes.

Dwyer

Mr. Layton, I'm Harry Dwyer and to my left is

Mr. Aranda.

Layton

How do you do sir.

Dwyer

We're here to do your initial hearing. I believe

you were notified that you were going to have this

hearing. Is that correct?

Layton

Yes sir.

Dwyer

Did you have an opportunity to read your file?

Layton

Yes sir.

Dwyer

When did you do that?

Layton

I saw it today.

Dwyer

You haven't seen it before then?

Layton

And I've seen it before.

Dwyer

You saw it and read it today?

Layton

I looked it over today. I've read it thoroughly.

Dwyer

When?

Layton

About a month. Yeah I'd say about a month.

Dwyer

Alright, you have the right to read your file 30 days before today's hearing. If you wish to go forward with the hearing and it has not been 30 days, then you have to waive that 30 days or you

leave us no alternative but to continue to the next docket which would be (sound obliterates words) So what's your choice today?

Layton (static obliterates response)

Dwyer I can't...here's where you said you read your file on June 30. Right?

Layton Yes sir.

Now there has been some correspondence between our office and your representative, Mr. Bell. Uh this is your hearing. We're going to permit you to have a representative today speak in your behalf. There are three persons present so you are going to have to choose who is going to be your main representative.

Layton Art Pirelli.

Dwyer Okay, Mr. Pirelli is going to be your main representative but we do want to get the other gentlemen's names for the record. Sir, may I please have your name.

Bell You may. Frank Bell.

Dwyer Okay Mr. Bell. Thank you very much. And your name sir?

Jones I'm Stephan Jones.

Dwyer That's Steph?

Jones a n.

Dwyer a n?

Jones Yes.

Dwyer And what city are you from?

Jones San Rafael, California.

happened.

Dwyer Okay. And you are a friend of Mr. Layton's?

Jones I'd say an acquaintance, yes.

Dwyer Okay. Now, what were you going to talk about today in terms of Mr. Layton so we'll know what ground

rules we need to set and everything today.

Jones History leading up to his conviction and I wanted to shed a little light on the conditions of time spent in Guyana. His prison term in Guyana. And just some experiences that I have that I think are unique and that might explain what led up to what

Dwyer I think you are the son of Jim Jones. Is that correct?

Jones Uh huh.

Dwyer

And that figure is gonna play a role in today's hearing as a result of this offense. Now I don't want to go...let me explain because Mr. Pirelli, he already knows because he's acted as a representative before. I don't want you going back and going over things that we've already covered unless there is some real specific reason because I'm going to tell all you gentlemen here today that Mr. Aranda and I last week, last Thursday and Friday spent hours

going over this material and I'm going to give the representatives an opportunity to make a brief statement, a brief statement, and I know with attorneys how that brief is but I'm gonna determine if it's brief or not but I'm going to give you an opportunity because as you gentlemen know there are other people out there waiting and they are going to get their day today just as Mr. Layton. We're not going to shorten it any. We're not going to take his time from him and then not give it to somebody else. Okay, so just keep your comments as brief as you can. Just say what you need to say and if you get to running over a little bit I'll caution you.

Pirelli

Can I quickly do one bookkeeping thing, sir. There was one letter I believe was delivered to the Commission on June 1 and I don't know whether you have that or not from a Grace Jones?

Aranda

No the letter was not delivered, Mr. Pirelli, _____ may have the original one.

Dwyer

We've got one the 30th.

Pirelli

Okay, that had time to get there. Apparently, there was another letter that...

Dwyer

You might want Mr. Aranda to look at that for a moment.

Okay, so what we're going to do today Mr. Layton,

we're going to interview you. We'll hear towards the end of your hearing from your representatives then I'll ask you to step out and call you back in again and give you our recommendations. I want to advise you up front though, we may, we may, recommend to the Commissioner that your case be designated as original jurisdiction. Do you understand original jurisdiction?

Layton

Yes. sir.

Dwyer

And if you are made an original jurisdiction case, you will get the decision back in 3 to 4 weeks, it will say that your case has been referred to the National Commission. It will go to the National Commission as they will make the decision. will send you back the decision and you can then appeal to the Parole Commission. There will be instructions how to appeal. If your case is not made original jurisdiction, they you'll get your hear back in 3 to 4 weeks just like anybody else. There's two reasons for looking at your case for original jurisdiction. One is the unusual publicity that your case received, this thing was in the papers for a long period of time plus the fact that you serve a term of forty-five years or more. it falls under two criteria. So it may well be that the Commission may decide to make your case original

jurisdiction. Okay.

Now let's go back a little bit. Basically, you became involved with the Jim Jones Church...

Layton

Yes.

Dwyer

basically and you were involved with them for several years. I think your mother and your sister were also members of the congregation, right.

Layton

Yes, sir.

Dwyer

And you were involved with the group when it was up in Northern California including San Francisco and when it went to French Guyana. Right.

Layton

British Guyana. Yes sir.

Dwyer

British? Is it British?

Layton

Well it's an independent country.

Dwyer

Okay. Well anyhow you were with him for a period of years.

Layton

Yes sir.

Dwyer

The People's Temple, right?

Layton

Yes sir.

Dwyer

And then I think just before the most recent thing happened down there when Congressman Ryan and all were there, you had lost your mother just a short time before that.

Layton

That is correct.

Dwyer

Not only was your sister down there but also your wife?

Layton

Yes, sir.

Dwyer

And you had been involved with the Church for a considerable period of time and then the Church was receiving considerable negative publicity. As a result, Congressman Ryan, the Ambassador, a number of people went to, I guess the lack of a better word, investigate the People's Temple.

Layton

Yes, sir.

Dwyer

To see what was going on down there because they had had complaints from family members in the United I think that somewhere between 800 and States. 1,000 people lived down there. Is that correct? And the crucial thing comes into where when the Congressman and all were getting ready to say leave and everything the compound And there were several incidents which and all. bear directly on you. Now, there were two planes if I remember correctly. One of them Congressman Ryan and all and another plane in which you were on the plane and there were some other persons on the plane including some press people.

Layton

Just former People's Temple members.

Dwyer

There was no press people on the plane?

Layton

No.

Dwyer

I thought there were some strangers or something on the plane.

Layton

No, sir.

Dwyer

Okay. Well, in any event, there was some shooting in that plane that you were on and there was shooting over here at this other plane where Congressman Ryan was at and others were killed there.

Layton

Yes, sir.

Dwyer

Now, how far are we talking where these two planes are. How far away are we talking? Were they a matter of yards, a considerable distance or how far?

Layton

I'd say a football field.

Dwyer

100 yards?

Layton

Give or take.

Dwyer

Okay. You had brought a gun on the plane.

Layton

That is correct, sir.

Dwyer

What were your instructions to use the gun?

Layton

To shoot the pilot, sir.

Dwyer

Shoot the pilot when? When you were in the air?

Layton

When I was in the air, sir.

Dwyer

Okay, who gave you those instructions?

Layton

Jim Jones through his people and then I verified it from him that that is what he wanted done.

Dwyer

Okay. Now, when you started shooting the plane had...were the engines running or was the plane just sitting on the ground?

Layton

It was taxiing.

Dwyer It was in the process of taking off when you started

shooting?

Layton Yes.

Dwyer Okay. How many guns did you have on the plane?

Layton Just one.

Dwyer And who gave you that gun?

Layton One of Jones' security people, a person named Poncho

Johnson

Dwyer Was is a revolver or what?

Layton It was a revolver.

Dwyer Was it fully loaded? Did it have six or five? Do

you recall?

Layton I'm not sure.

Dwyer How many shots did you fire.

Layton I don't recall but the evidence, which I accept as

factual, showed that, I think four shots and 1

misfire.

Dwyer Okay, and then I think one of the pilots helped

subdue you. Who subdued you? Do you recall?

Layton I don't have a clear recollection. I accept that

I was subdued. I would imagine that Mr. Parks ...

Dwyer Okay, the plane never left the ground or got in the

air and flew any distance or anything. It was right

there.

Layton Yes, that is correct.

Dwyer Now I believe that you eventually escaped into the

jungle.

Layton No, no. I stayed there and I was arrested by what

they call a Supernumeric Constable by the name of...

Dwyer That's okay. Now when you were told to kill people

in the air taking off, did you have any idea what

was happening over here?

Layton No I didn't. I was not aware...

Dwyer What was going to happen to the Congressman and his

group?

Layton No, no.

Dwyer I do know that there were some tense moments as the

group was leaving the compound and all regarding

the people who wanted to, ah, the members who wanted

to, leave down there and there was some tenseness

that went on and everything. When all that was

happening, did you know what was supposed to go on

over here with Congressman Ryan's plane?

Layton No, I thought that originally I thought that

Congressman Ryan was staying behind. When I was

finally told that I was supposed to go up in this

plane and die with it, I...

Dwyer His plane or the other plane?

Layton The other plane.

Dwyer The other plane, okay.

Layton I was told to get on the plane with the defectors

and shoot the pilot. I was shaking and, ah, was

not... I was basically saying okay I've got to do this I've got to do this and I wasn't thinking a lot about anything else but trying to keep my courage to do what I was told...

Dwyer Then you got arrested like you said.

Layton Yes, sir.

Dwyer Then you stayed down there until what '81?

Layton I think that's right

Dwyer And then they decided what? You never went to trial or anything.

Layton Yes, sir. I was acquitted in Guyana of two charges but by Guyanese law once you are acquitted of the two charges which they base the other charges on. your're finished.

Dwyer Okay, then you came back. You came in the United States. Did they deport you or did you voluntarily return to the United States.

Layton I returned to the United States with Federal Marshals. I didn't...there was no legal procedure.

Dwyer You made bail later on. And I think that you finally went to trial. Your case went to the 9th Circuit and there was a retrial on it right?

Layton That is correct. There was a hung jury the first trial and then, evidence that had been thrown out was later introduced and there was a retrial five years later.

Dwyer And at the retrial the judge gave you a life

sentence but he did not use the thing of giving you

a (b)(1).

Layton Yes, sir.

Dwyer Now, you've had an opportunity to look at the

guidelines right?

Layton Yes, I've seen the guidelines.

Dwyer Category 8, Salient Factor Score of 10.

Layton Yes, sir.

Dwyer Where is the Salient Factor Score, is there

something I don't know or do you have any

convictions anywhere.

Layton No convictions.

Dwyer Okay, you were over 26 when this happened, right?

Layton Yes, sir.

Dwyer Okay. Now I know you were a devoted member of the

People's Temple and everything and I do know that

at various times you had problems getting along with

the hierarchy in People's Temple. You had problems

getting along with your sister, you had problems

getting along with your mother.

Layton Not with my mother. It was my sister.

Dwyer There were some other things about money too wasn't

there. That you and your mother and sister were

all arguing over.

Layton Well it was more, to be perfectly candid with you,

and there's no reason not to be, the People's Temple whipped up, you know, basically a lie that my sister had stolen money and they did this sort of thing to people that

Dwyer

So they could bring people in line and keep people in line.

Layton

Basically. And they used my name and I don't have a recollection of actually being involved in a thing but if somebody had told me to, and I'm sure that they did, you say such and such, I was weak enough at that time and I'd say what I was told to say. And I accept theoretically that that's probably what happened. I don't have a clear recollection of it and yet, I have a hazy recollection of it.

Dwyer

Do you remember shooting the people?

Layton

No, I don't have a clear recollection but I remember being angry and I accept completely, accept completely, uh...

Dwyer

Do you remember being in the plane?

Layton

Yes.

Dwyer

Do you remember the plane taxing?

Layton

I do. I remember the plane taxing and I remember not getting off the ground and there was a struggle and I accept, I accept what the PSI says completely. I, I, I don't take issue with it. But I don't have a...

Dwyer

Do you remember making a commitment to do this before you got on the plane?

Layton

I remember making a commitment to shoot the pilot.

Dwyer

To shoot the pilot and bring the plane down.

Layton

Yes, sir.

Dwyer

Now, going back a little bit before then. Did you know what was going to happen? Did anybody tell you what was going to happen to Congressman Ryan?

Layton

No, I thought Congressman Ryan was staying.

Dwyer

Was staying back. But I'm talking about... Let me rephrase the question. Did you know what was going to happen at the airfield regarding the other plane.

Layton

No I didn't, I didn't. I thought there was basically a war between People's Temple and the defectors and I was told that if the defectors left we would be stuck in this particular location in the jungle, which is horrendously horrible, and if we had time we'd be able to move to a better location and that's what I knew. My impression and the impression of the people that I was around was that Congressman Ryan was favorable to People's Temple and he wasn't a problem to People's Temple. To the degree I saw him I thought he was a nice kindly man and I...

Dwyer

Okay, let me ask you this. Did this kind of really pop off when the defectors, when they told the

defectors they were going to take them out. An Ambassador and a Congressman and all. Did this kind of really explode the situation. You said you thought everything went fairly well with Congressman Ryan.

Layton

Yes.

Dwyer

When the defectors got ready to leave, is that when this thing kind of exploded as to, you know, you were told to bring the plane down and then as we know what happened at the other plane.

Layton

Yes, there is a time period there where I don't remember...I guess a father was taking some of the mothers' children back and there was a screaming and that's when things, it blew up.

Dwyer

That's when it blew up.

Layton

That's right.

Dwyer

Okay, now the whole issue of today's hearing, you've served 7 years and 2 months at this point. There was an unusual tragedy that occurred all around this thing. Not only what happened at the airfield but what happened later on. The bottom line is why do you think you personally, we're going to hear from your representative later on, why do you think we ought to ever parole you?

Layton

Well, my statement would be this... I want to express my sincere sorrow to what happened and the

person that I was then, I am not now. I was a really weak, easily pushed around person and I had entered People's Temple because I wanted to help people basically but I knew I was a weak person even then. Unfortunately, this was the worst place to go to find any kind of therapeutic situation and I became like everybody else at People's Temple that committed suicide, just an automoton for People's Temple and I think I've changed. I think I have become rather strong in my ability to deal with people and you can ask around the institution.

Dwyer

We did do that.

Layton

I invite you to talk with my counselor and other members. My actions at the time were terrible and I'm terribly sorry.

Dwyer

You were bound to People's Temple for a number of years. From what I read, you spent a great deal of time attending services, doing work for the Temple and everything.

Layton

Yes.

Dwyer

Besides working at your own job and basically contributing everything that you were making to the Church.

Layton

That's true. I usually would work double shifts and just turn everything over.

Dwyer

Well you know it's just like anything else, we all

may feel that we have a righteous indignation at what happens at certain times although we might feel that we got a right to do certain things because of the situation but that it doesn't always work out. And sometimes we find ourselves in a situation that we have some real serious difficulty with. Okay, we've covered a lot of territory within a short period of time. Let's talk a little bit about what's been happening to you since you've been serving your sentence. I believe that you were committed to this institution from court.

Layton

Basically.

Dwyer

Basically, yes. And I know you've worked with mechanical services and think you've worked over in education. Are you still in education.

Layton

Well, I, I worked education...primarily my two, three major jobs here have been education, training center and psych services, psychology services.

Dwyer

Okay, where are you now?

Layton

Psychology services.

Dwyer

What do you do there.

Layton

I'm the orderly.

Dwyer

Okay. Been involved with a number of different courses.

Layton

Yes, I spent a lot of time with the VT.

Dwyer

Do you plan to finish that VT?

Layton

Well they keep bringing on new programs and I also volunteer to help out training some of the people in the programs I've already been through.

Dwyer

No misconduct reports of any kind. You get along well with everybody. And your release you plan to go to Piedmont and live with your sister and brother-in-law. I believe you were active in the real estate field and all why you want appeal bond and everything...

Layton

Yes, sir.

Dwyer

And there was no arrest or anything. Your former employer as read in the presentence report spoke highly of you. Okay. Is there anything not in the progress report that you would like to bring to our attention or does it pretty well cover what has happened to you since you've been here.

Layton

The only thing I want to add is that I have tremendous regret and sorrow at what happened and I do think that I have gained especially from some of the harsher experiences I've been through and the ability to work with people that are having difficulties and I think that at some point in the future I'll probably go into a field where I can deal with people that are maybe critically ill or with people that are having problems.

Dwyer

Alright. Do you have any questions at this point Mr.

Aranda?

Aranda Just one thing I just want to go over and make sure

I understand. You had indicated that you had a

weapon and you were aboard the plane and your task

was to shoot the pilot once it was in the air.

Layton Yes, sir.

Aranda The Presentence Report indicates that you had talked

to Jones prior to this incident and you said words

to the affect this shit has to stop, I love you and

you'll be proud of me.

Layton That's, that's what Jones' attorney said John said

that.

Aranda I didn't say that. I think at that point Jones

wanted to make sure that the Layton family, he was

at war with my little sister, was terrible with

after he was long gone. I don't recall saying that.

Aranda Now, whose, your instruction was to kill the pilot

right?

Layton Right.

Aranda And on the other plane, what was to happen with the

other plane.

Layton I was not aware anything was to happen with the

other plane. Obviously...

Aranda Nobody said anything would happen to the other

plane?

Layton No.

Aranda

It didn't enter your mind if you were on one and you were to shoot the pilot what was to happen to the other.

Layton

No, because I was suppose to go on that plane with the defectors and I did not know about what they were going to do.

Aranda

That's all I have.

Dwyer

Why don't we ask Mr. Jones to make his comments at this point. Mr. Jones pull your chair up a little bit. Okay Mr. Jones.

Jones

Okay, I'm trying to think how to do this so I can say it as briefly as possible. You've got my letter so I won't go over what I've already written in my letter. Um, I think the best way that I can get it across is that first of all I fought my father as strongly as anybody throughout the time that I was with the Temple which was all of my life and I had a natural rebellion to my father and I saw a lot that Larry wasn't privy to and a lot of people weren't privy to about how he deceived and used people and I've struggled with this for a lot of years and I know that with all that I fought him on and all the times that I went against him, had I been there, I would have died there. And I can't tell you I wouldn't have been at the airstrip.

Dwyer

Now repeat that for me, I didn't catch all of it.

Jones

If I had been there, I know I would have died there and I can't tell you that I wouldn't have been at the air strip. And, uh, that's very hard for me to say. Because looking back at thinking how crazy that was...

Dwyer

Were you back in the states?

Jones

I was playing basketball in Jonestown. believe it or not, that's actually what we were A lot of people have speculated that doing. something else was up and it wasn't. That's not how it worked. As a matter of fact, they had to drag me in there to play because I was a pitiful player. As a matter of fact, we were asked, we were told, ordered to come back and I told him that I wasn't going to do that but anyway that's beside the point. And the only thing that I'd like to, that I can best equate the experience in Jonestown People's Temple, the best way I can describe it and briefly is to prison because I spent nearly 3 months in a Guyanese prison and I'm sure you may have an idea but it is a hell hole. And when I walked in there with everything else that had happened knowing that I had nobody to come out to or thinking that I had nobody to come out to, I thought I'll never make it a day. I won't make it. And within a week because I had no alternative, I had learned to function in that prison and that's how best I can describe for you what happens in a place like People's Temple. When you believe what's crammed down your throat about what's in the outside world and what you'll be faced with if you leave the Temple and you have a dream and when you first come to the Temple you see a beautiful thing, there's integration and people that seem to be living in harmony so you buy into that dream and you commit to that dream and once you've done that, it's a very powerful thing that commitment. And you learn to function and you do things that you...looking back I can't imagine some of the things that I looked the other way for and went along with. And, it's impossible for you to understand unless you have experienced it, but I equate it best to prison. You Human beings are resilient learn to function. creatures and my goodness, I had much more control over my life than Larry did and I can't tell you that I would have, I know that I wouldn't have stopped anything that happened down there and I probably would have participated in it. only other thing I want to point out is that Larry spent two years in a prison that words can't describe and in addition to the conditions down there and I know that in the three months that I

spent there I stayed up much of the night killing vermin and was not allowed a blanket because they said I would kill myself and worse than that I was in prison with a bunch of black... [tape flipped at this point] The worst part of prison for me and I saw little of Larry when we were in there but I know that he was kept in the same, we were kept in what was called the strong man cells and the worst part of it was that we were in prison with a bunch of black men whose... the newspaper that they were reading, which was government controlled, was saying that white people took black people into the jungle and pretty much exterminated them. And that made it a worse hell than I can describe and had I been there another month, I had decided that I was going to take my life. I cling to life with a vigor and I couldn't have taken anymore so I can't imagine being there two years and I wouldn't equate two years in a Guyanese prison to two years in any prison in the United States.

Dwyer

Okay, thank you very much. Appreciate your comment. Okay, Mr. Pirelli why don't we have your comments at this point.

Pirelli

Okay. I would like to submit Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Aranda that we have an offense here that's less serious than the rated offense. I base that on the

fact that Larry, in terms of the overall conduct, that happened here was somewhat peripherally involved and certainly did not contemplate what the overall conduct was or the final result would be. I think that's evidenced by Judge Peckham's comments where he states that Larry was minor relative to other conspirators and that he did not shoot at this Congressman's plane or plan the attack. that it's evidenced by the victims' comments who state that Larry himself was a victim and a follower and that this incident would have happened with or without Larry Layton. And finally by the jurors' comments, some of whom clearly indicated that they felt they had to find him technically guilty but that he was really a victim and that the punishment should reflect that. I believe that the second criteria would be diminished capacity and recognize that under the regulations that generally speaks of age and intelligence level but I do think that it can be extended in this particular situation in terms of the individual's ability to formulate any independent thought, which again was reflected in Judge Peckham's comments when he indicated that the whole situation here was the elimination of individual will and thought process. The most important area I believe that allows any departure downward from the guidelines would be duress. I submit that there is confirmed evidence this duress was overtly exercised to force him to commit the offense. This again is evidenced by statements from victims, other members and jurors. We're talking brainwashing as to the threat to the only known world and brainwashing as to the manipulation in thing that all of general. The one psychiatrists who were involved in this case agree on is that there was duress and coercion. And even the government's main psychiatrist said, and I quote him, "the evidence is strong that the defendant was subjected to coercive persuasion". I further point out as Larry and you, Mr. Dwyer, covered earlier that in Guyana where the law allowed consideration of duress and psychological implications to a more broad degree in terms of mental competency and mental competency not being the legal issue, that Larry was in fact acquitted and the finding was that could not be held responsible in I think there was also extreme environment. provocation and again I'm not talking about one on one provocation but rather the psychological process that took place relative to the brainwashing and what these people were afraid was going to happen as a result of defectors or interference from the

outside. I'd also submit that Larry is a better parole risk than the guidelines indicate and again I recognize that that's generally based on that the Salient Factor Score is not properly reflected and obviously Larry has the best score. But I think that we can take it again a step further and extend that philosophy and say that not only has Larry got a lack of record but this incident was a horrendous incident that was situational in nature, it is never going to occur again and for that reason I think it's a throw back to assaults and crimes of this nature that use to happen in the past and recidivism of such offenses was the lowest of any type of crime that was committed. I'd also point out that I think that the two years of confinement that he went through under deplorable conditions in Guyana should be given not a day-for-day qualification but that he should be given extra credit for that and I'm not going to be pretentious enough to speak about that, you heard from Stephan about that. But the judge again said that that should be factored in and that is one of the reasons I believe he set the parole eligibility at 5 years and I again believe that he meant real time served and that it could possibly be done on better than on a day-for-day basis. think that you're dealing with two considerations

here. Mainly a danger to the community and I don't believe that a lot of time has to be spent on that because Larry was free on bail for a period of 5 years and the offense occurred 13 years ago and again was very situational. There were never any incidents when Larry was out on bail interestingly and importantly enough there was no adverse community reaction when he was out on bail. I'd submit that there is no dispute and in fact that there wasn't any dispute at the time of sentencing as to whether or not Larry was a danger to society. This again is evidenced by the psychiatrist, by the judge, by the victims, by the jurors and most significantly Loren Buddress, the Probation Officer said "Mr. Layton poses no threat to anyone and is not in need of further rehabilitation." That's also the unanimous opinion, as I understand it, with the staff here at Terminal Island who have come in contact with Larry while he's been here trying to straighten himself around emotionally in terms of employability. I think, Mr. Dwyer, you are correct, you indicated that what do we do now and what is an appropriate sentence? And again we have a very serious offense but I think that it has to be taken in the context in which it occurred. Larry's conspiracy was to keep the Jonestown secret and as

a result he is legally responsible for the totality This is what the jurors, I of what happened. believe, refer to when they say that they were limited in terms of the conviction but several of them sent letters and prayed for leniency in his sentencing. He neither participated and planned or had any control over the total harm or conduct which again was pointed out by Judge Peckham, and I think is the other reason Judge Peckham set the 5 year parole eligibility. Larry's conduct was aimed at the defectors and it was through he brainwashing, mind control, and coercive persuasion process that he believed, truly, that that was a threat to a life that he wrongly believed was positive for himself and all the other members of the Temple. any longer sentence necessary in this case to satisfy society and the need for justice? Normally, as we all well know, that is a very very difficult determination for your gentlemen to make because it is basically subjective, but in this particular case we have the sentencing judge, the jurors, in excess letters and most importantly, victims themselves that have asked for leniency in this Judge Peckham again set the 5 year case. eligibility and made statements that he was not convinced that Larry was an active leader in planning the murders. All psychiatrists agreed on the domination of Mr. Jones, pointing out that the whole concept was the destruction of individual will and that's demonstrated by the fact that we tragically had 900 suicides, some of which even occurred in a different physical location, just demonstrating the power of the man that was controlling the situation. Then we have the jurors...

Dwyer

We're covering the same ground over and over. Tell me something new.

Pirelli

Well let me get to the most significant, to the actual bottom line. We have the victims here who have come forth on Larry's behalf. There is Tom Boque who was a shooting victim and said Larry should never have been tried, he was as much a victim as anyone, I would have done the same thing. And there is most significantly the two victims that Larry is involved in directly who he shot at. first one is Vernon Gosney who says Layton was subject to a great deal of pressure and this should be taken into account. He needed Rev. Jones' approval, he is a totally destroyed person and presents no threat to anyone and Monika Bagby who was the other direct victim says that she has no animosity for Mr. Layton and she says "I guess if

the saying every applies, you had to be there to understand." That's the crux of this thing. you had to be there to understand and the people that were there and the people that were involved have come forth and have asked for leniency. don't think there's ever probably been a case where two direct victims in an incident like this have come forward and asked for leniency. And if the victims feel that way then certainly society as a whole feels that way and if they don't, I submit it's only because, again, you had to be there to understand what was happening and how it relates to responsibility and appropriate culpability, What we're asking for here today by sentence. asking that Larry be paroled with the time that he has already served, is, I believe, what everyone who has been connected with this case and been connected with Larry and who most importantly understood the situation as it exists has asked for, and I would ask you gentlemen to please close the book on this situation and let everyone go on. Thank you very much.

Dwyer

Okay. Mr. Layton you're the one who has to serve the sentence and not Mr. Aranda or myself or your representatives today. This is your hearing, what did we miss that you wanted to say. Layton

I think you've covered absolutely everything and I just want to say that I'm making a commitment when I do leave here to do things to help other people to make up for the tragedy that I was involved in

Aranda

I'm looking at the reports here...what are the names of the two people you killed.

Layton

They are alive.

Pirelli

It was attempted murder.

Layton

That was Vern Gosney and Monica Bagbey.

Dwyer

The deaths occurred at the other plane.

Pirelli

And again, I repeat those are the two people that I just referred to.

Dwyer

Okay if you gentlemen will step out we'll call you back.

Jones

I wanted to answer a question that I didn't know would come up, to this gentleman, I'm sorry I've forgotten your name. You asked about my father saying that he said to the lawyer, I never knew about that statement ever and I just want to tell you that I've heard him many times do that. He never accepted responsibility for what he initiated, he made it sound like it was just this strength of loyalty that made people do things and they volunteered to do these things for him. And I wanted to offer that as an explanation. He didn't

accept responsibility for what he did. He always said somebody else had the idea.

[everyone left and now came back in]

Dwyer

Have a seat. Okay, as I indicated at the beginning of the hearing we were going to advise you whether or not we're going to refer your case to the Regional Commissioner for original jurisdiction (sound obscures the voices) and our basis of that is the length of sentence, 45 years or more and the unusual media attention that your case has received. Not just the media attention but also the attention focussed around the victims. So, as I indicated earlier, if you're designated original jurisdiction, you'll hear back within 3 weeks that it's been designated then it will take another couple of weeks, about 3 weeks before you hear back for the final decision and, of course, you can appeal that to the entire Commission. We went over your Guidelines, they're 100 plus months, you've served Mr. Layton, we've very carefully 86 months. considered the information that your representatives have sent in your behalf, we've considered Mr. Jones' statement here, we've gone back over the presentence report. We find this case to be of unusual magnitude. We do not believe we should recommend parole at this time. We're going to recommend a maximum continuance. The maximum continuance is a 15 year reconsideration hearing in June 2000. Now, your guidelines are 100 plus months and we believe we should exceed your guideline range by more than 48 months. The Commission says if you have a category 8 offense if you go more than 48 months above the minimum, in other words 149 months or 150 months or whatever you go, if you go 48 months above that minimum, we have to give specific The reason we're going more than that is reasons. that there were multiple victims who were murdered in this entire incident and there were an attempt of multiple murders of others, especially by you. So we believe this case is of unusual magnitude so that's the reason we're giving you the maximum continuance that can be given by the Commission per its regulations at this time. Now, whatever comes back cannot be anymore than that. It could be less than that. We will see you again in two years. You've done extremely well, we have no quarrels with your institutional adjustment. It's just that we do not feel that we can parole you after such a short period of time. Now, whatever comes back, if you feel that were treated unfairly or an error has been made, by all means exercise your appeal rights. Thank you very much for coming in.

Layton Thank you.

INITIAL HEARING SUMMARY

1

	Cassette Number: 86347	
Name: LAYTON, Laurence John	Severity Category: 8 SFS: 10	
Reg. Number: 20752-053	Guideline Range: 100+	
Institution: FCI Terminal Island	Recommended Release: 15 Yr Recon.Hrg	
Hearing Date: 6/4/91	_ After service of Months.	
	Hearing Panel: Dwyer/Aranda pcm 6/12/91	

I. The panel has discussed the prisoner's severity rating, salient factor score and guidelines with the prisoner. The prisoner admits to the description of the offense behavior, salient factor score items and the guideline range.

Subject indicates that he has difficulty recalling some of the events occurring and does remember being given a firearm and being told that once the plane was in the air that he was to kill the pilot. Subject states that he was told by one of the Jim Jones' trusted lieutenants to kill the pilot to cause the plane to crash and to kill the defectors that were on the plane. Subject states that he does not remember shooting the people on the plane, but does not deny that he shot them. He believes that it has been well established that he did in fact shoot them, but he is unable to recall the shooting. Subject states that he was not aware that Congressman Ryan and his party were to be ambushed by Jones' followers and that he had no way participated in the shooting at the other plane. Subject states that he was not aware that any harm was to come to Congressman Ryan and others in that he thought the visit with Congressman Ryan had gone rather well. Subject states that he was blindly following the instructions given to him and he thought the instructions had come from Jim Jones.

Subject states that he had been an avid follower of Jim Jones for a number of years working full time, devoting considerable time and monies to the Peoples Temple and eventually traveling to South America to be with Jim Jones. Subject states that he is very remorseful for having participated in the instant offense and realizes his actions were completely wrong. Subject indicates that because of the passage of time and the way that he has conducted himself in recent years, he believes that he can be a contributing member to society and requests that he be released at this time.

II. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS FROM PREHEARING ASSESSMENT:

None.

III. INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS:

(a) Discipline:

Subject has maintained a clear conduct record.

(b) Program Achievement:

Subject has worked in the Education Department, Mechanical Services, and is currently assigned to Psychology Services as an orderly. Subject has been very active in the Academic Program taking Stress Management courses, Chemical Dependency, Compulsive Addiction Behavior and Disfunctional Family courses, Vocational Training in Construction and Hearing and Air Conditioning and Intellectual Pursuits. Subject also has been involved in an Apprentice Printing Program and subject volunteers to print posters for the Recreation Department. Subject gets along well with staff and has not presented any problems.

IV. FINES/RESTITUTION:

N/A

V. RELEASE PLANS:

Subject proposes to return to Piedmont, Calif. where he will reside with his sister and brother-in-law. Subject was involved in the real estate field previously and also has participated in computer science and art classes. Subject hopes to be employed in the computer field when he is released.

VI. REPRESENTATIVE:

Subject had two representatives.

The first representative was the son of Jim Jones, Stephen Jones of San Rafael, Calif. Mr. Jones referred to his letter and stated that he fought with his father as strongly as anyone and his father deceived and used others. If he had been on the scene he would have died like the others and may have been involved in the airfield incident. At the time, Mr. Jones was involved in the sporting match in Georgetown and was later arrested, but released.

He describes his life in the Peoples Temple like being in a prison and that he learned to function within the Temple. Initially, the Peoples Temple looked like a great dream, but he went along with it, but things were not as they were made to believe. He specifically noted that subject has spent 2 years in prison in Ghana under very horrible conditions and was in prison with black men whose Government newspaper reported that the group had taken blacks into the jungle and killed them.

Mr. Jones indicates that prior to his being released from prison in Ghana, he seriously thought of taking his life and it is quite obvious that Mr. Jones believes that subject should be considered for early release.

The second representative was Art Perrilli, Attorney, San Francisco, Calif. Mr. Perilli pointed out that he and Mr. Bell have presented considerable material for the Commission to consider in this case. Mr.

Perilli believes that this is an offense which is less serious than as rated. He does not believe that subject contemplated the seriousness of the offense and the incident would have happened whether subject was there or not. He believes that subject was suffering from diminshed mental capacity due to the elimination of will by Jim Jones over subject and others. Subject's behavior was subjected to stress as pointed out by statements of witnesses, Juarez, etc. and there was cursiveness and that subject was acquitted by the Ghana Government on the basis of brain-washing. He believes that subject is a better risk than indicated by the salient factor score in that he has a complete lack of prior record and that the offense was situational.

Subject spent 2 years in prison in another country which should be viewed as extra credit to release subject earlier. He notes that the Judge gave subject a parole eligibility date after the service of 5 years. The offense occurred some 13 years ago and the subject presented no problems whatsoever while on bail for the instant offense. There is no dispute as to the subject being a threat to the community and quite to the contrary, according to quotes by the USPO in the PSI. Subject has performed extremely well during this commitment and the jurors prayed for leniency for subject and subject's conduct towards the defectors.

Mr. Perrilli does not believe that more time in custody is necessary and the victim (shooting victims of subject) have come forward and asked for leniency for subject. They have written in in subject's behalf and one stated that "you have to be there to understand". At this time, Mr. Perrilli is asking that subject be considered for immediate release.

There was another representative present, Frank Bell, but he did not make any statements during the hearing.

VII. EVALUATION:

Subject is serving a Life sentence for a most serious offense that occurred outside the continental U.S. and in a foreign country. Subject claims to have been given orders by the head of the Peoples Temple through a lieutenant to board an aircraft that was taking defectors from the Peoples Temple and subject was to kill the pilot in flight and cause the plane to crash killing all on board. Subject was quite willing to give up his life for Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple and subject did in fact begin to shoot passengers on board the aircraft prior to its taking off.

In addition to the shooting by subject, a U.S. Congressman and numerous others were fired upon resulting in a large number of deaths. Later, members of the Peoples Temple at the direction of its leader committed suicide. This is an extremely serious offense and subject had been a blind follower of Jim Jones for a number of years despite his having been humiliated by Jim Jones, subject remained faithful.

This case is being referred to the Regional Commissioner for Original Jurisdiction consideration based on the unusual media attention the case is receiving, including the assassination of a Congressman, numerous victims

dying and subject serving a lengthy term of more than 45 years. Subject has now served slightly more than 7 years in custody and the panel does not believe that accountability has been fulfilled in this case and is recommending that subject be given the maximum continuance.

VIII.PANEL RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Refer to Regional Commissioner for Original Jurisdiction consideration.
- 2. Continue for a 15 year Reconsideration Hearing in June, 2006.

Name Lawre John	Due Date 4/2 5/91
Reg. No. 20752-053	Institution TT
Hearing Type: Initial SIH Revocatio	
Special Reconsideration Other	
COMMENTS BY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:	21 Jun 91
There :	(Name)
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ACTION BY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER: (Name of the commission of the c	me)
Agree with: (1)	(3)
(The Panel) (RA)	(Examiner—by Name)
Refer to National Commissioners 28 CFR §2.24 (a)	
Designate Original Jurisdiction 28 CFR §2.17	
Modification: 28 CFR §2.24 (b)(1) Modification: 28 CFR §2.24 (b)(2)	
Remand for rehearing: 28 CFR §2.24 (b)(3)	•
Other	
COMMENTS BY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER:	
	

remained. Further, I are tothe deferment this came compared to the alliest who is to the about of the bearing for his habit and we (user) doesn't excure his behind and we (user) doesn't excure his behind the cause he was not in control of his life.

This man with the worker with with the philosophy and unberguently committed the cine. Had the shooting not broken out before the plane, in which subject were riding. took off, the would have shot the piolet killing all on board, in choling him self.

I sont feel that 22 plus your is somewine for his involvement in the instant offense.

H1/6/21/F11

Memorandum



Subject

Date

Layton, Laurence John Req. No. 20752-053 FCI Terminal Island

6/27/91

To

Victor M.F. Reyes

National Commissioners Acting Commissioner Western Regional Office

- This case is referred pursuant to 28 C.F.R. 2.17(b)(3) and (4) unusual notoriety and life sentence case.
- В. Regional Commissioner's Evaluation, Order and Vote:

Subject received a 4205(B)(1) life sentence, with a minimum term of 5 years for Aiding and Abetting the Murder of a Congressman. He also received three additional 15 year (b)(1) sentences, with a minimum of 5 years, for Conspiracy to Kill a Congressman; Conspiracy to Kill an Internationally Protected Person; and Aiding and Abetting the Attempted Murder of an Internationally Protected Person. The 15 year sentences were to run concurrent with each other and with the life sentence. At the time of his initial hearing at FCI Terminal Island, subject had been in federal custody for a total of 86 months.

The instant offense occurred on 11/18/78. Material would reflect that subject was a member of the People's Temple headed by Jim Jones and had traveled to Jonestown, Guyana, and was there when Congressman Ryan and other individuals from his office and the news media arrived in November 1978. 11/18/78, when Congressman Ryan and other "defectors" were preparing to leave subject said to Jim Jones "This should have gotten stopped. I love you, you will be proud of me." Subject then boarded one of the two aircraft and when questioned about his defection, he stated "I hate Jim Jones. I want to get out of Jonestown." The plan was to kill the pilot after the plane had taken off thus causing it to crash, killing everyone onboard. However, prior to take off, other individuals began firing at the second plane on which the Congressman was to board. The Congressman, along with several others, was killed. Subsequently, he began shooting at individuals on the plane on which he was riding, prior to take off, wounding two of them and was subsequently disarmed before he could fire a third time.

As a result of the overall behavior, several individuals were murdered. Specifically, Congressman Ryan, three newsmen, one defector, and Patti Parks. On 11/21/78, subject made the statement taking full responsibility for all the deaths and injuried that took place at the Port Kaituma airstrip.

Subject received his initial hearing at FCI Terminal Island on 6/4/91. The examiners recommended that he be continued for a 15 year reconsideration hearing in June 2006 and referred the case for Original Jurisdiction consideration.

The case has drawn a great deal of news media coverage and is still very much the interest of the sentencing judge, Judge Robert F. Peckham. There is a letter dated 6/14/91 from Judge Peckham which goes into great detail pertaining to the fact that subject was totally under the influence of Jim Jones and because of the total influence Jones had over subject and others, that subject should be released at or near his parole eligibility date.

There is no question that subject was under the influence and very possibly under the control of Jim Jones to the extent of being completely brain washed by Jones. However, an analogy to the present situation would be to compare this case with the circumstances surrounding Adolph Hitler and the circumstances that lead to World War II, Hitler's influence over millions of people which lead to the war and heinous behavior including the massacre of millions of Jews. individuals were subsequently prosecuted at the Nuremberg trials and were found guilty and sentenced. These individuals were obviously influenced to commit the crimes they did by their leadership but they were subsequently held accountable. In my opinion, there is little difference between this case and that of the one described above and see no reason why subject should not be held accountable. His adjustment in the institution has been impeccable. Due to the seriousness of the original offense, I believe subject should be held totally accountable for his behavior.

My order and vote are as follows:

- 1. Refer to the National Commissioners for Original Jurisdiction consider pursuant to 28 C.F.R. 2.17(b)(3) and (4).
- 2. Continue for a 15 year reconsideration hearing in June 2006.

C. Reasons:

Your offense behavior is rated as Category Eight because it involved conspiracy to kill a Congressman. Your salient factor score is 10. You have been in federal confinement as a result of your behavior for a total of 86 months. Guidelines established by the Commission indicate a range of 100+ months to be served for cases with a good institutional adjustment and program achievement.

A decision more than 48 months above the minimum guideline range is warranted because there were multiple victims who were murdered and there was attempted murder of others.

As required by law, you have been scheduled for a statutory interim hearing in June 1993.

VMFR/NS/hj

FINDINGS

LAYTON, Lawrence John Reg. No. 20752-053

This case has been returned to my desk along with documents submitted by Attorney Frank Bell for my review a second time, because I did not have the Frank Bell information before me when I first decided on the case. Additionally himse my extremine of the hearing has been received.

I have again thoroughly reviewed this case along with the comments of the victims contained in the PSI, as well as the letters from the victims, jurors, and other information in the original file, as well as that submitted by Attorney Frank Bell.

I originally voted with Commissioner Reyes and the panel for a 15-year reconsideration hearing in the year 2006. I am modifying my vote this date believing that the service of 20 years, a determinate parole date, is a minimally acceptable date for the purposes of accountability and punishment.

This is a highly unusual case. What significantly distinguishes this case from others wherein a murder was attempted is that there overwhelming mitigating circumstances presented by the victims, jurors, and others who have been very close to this offense by personal experience, or by extensively being involved in the trial proceedings.

There are many arguments presented in this case regarding diminished mental capacity, subject being "brainwashed," and so forth. I do not totally "buy-in" to those arguments, and my view is similar to that of Commissioner Reyes.

I do, however, accept the views of those who have been deeply involved in the offense and as victims and observers of the trial, that Mr. Layton should not be held for the maximum that the law would allow his sentence to require, and I believe that consistency with other votes of the Commission would mandate a vote for the service of not more than 20 years.

It is conceivable that on appeal, having the benefit and opportunity of an open discussion with the other Parole Commissioners, that I would vote for a lesser date. Due to the related events surrounding Mr. Layton's specific acts (the death and suffering of many other persons), I cannot at this time find a justification for the service of less than 20 years.

COMMISSIONER: Simi Full DATE: 8-22-91

Ps.

U.S. Department of Justice United States Parole Commission Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Notice of Act? 1

Name

LAYTON, Lawrence

Register Number

20752-053

Institution

Terminal Island

In the case of the above-named parole action was ordered:

Continue for a presumptive parole after the service of 240 months on April 4, 2004.

REASONS:

Your offense behavior has been rated as Category Eight severity because it involved a conspiracy to kill a congressman. Your salient factor score is 10. You have been in federal confinement as a result of your behavior for a total of 86 months. Guidelines established by the Commission which consider the above factors indicate a guideline range of 100+ months to be served before release for cases with good institutional adjustment and program achievement. After review of all relevant factors and information presented, a decision outside the guidelines at this consideration is not found warranted.

SALIENT FACTOR SCORE (SFS-81): Your salient factor score items have been computed as shown below. For an explanation of the salient factor score items, see the reverse side of this form.

TEM A[3]; B[2]; C[2+] (); D[1]; E[1]; F[1]; Total[10]

*If five or more prior commitments, place an 'x' in the parenthesis in Item C.

After review of all relevant factors and information presented, a decision more than 48 months above the minimum guideline range is warranted because there were multiple victims who were murdered and there were attempted murders of others.

As required by law, you have also been scheduled for a statutory interim hearing during June 1993.

Appeals Procedure:

The above decision is appealable to the National Appeals Board under 28 C.F.R. 2.26;

The above is an original jurisdiction decision, and is appealable to the Commission under 28 C.F.R. 2.27;

THE ABOVE DECISION IS NOT APPEALABLE.

August 29, 1991 (Date of Notice)

(Region)

(National Commissioners)

yh Du (Dogket Clerk)

U.S. Probation Officer . (Commission

() FOIA