

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
78 STATE 312926

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 310926

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TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO) GY
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ENTITLED "JONES' TAP ENDS
OF 'WHITE NIGHT' REVEALS DISSENT TO SUICIDES"
FOLLOWING IS TEXT WASHINGTON POST DECEMBER 9 STORY
BY LEONARD DOWNIE, JR.:
BEGIN QUOTE: ARGUING IN A PLAINTIVE VOICE THAT "THERE
NO WAY WE CAN SURVIVE" BECAUSE "WE'VE BEEN SO BETRAYED"
BY DEFECTORS WHO MADE IT SAFELY OUT OF JONESTOWN, CULT
LEADER JIM JONES HAD TO SUMMON ALL HIS ORATORICAL POWER
TO SHOUT DOWN DISSENTERS AND FORCE HIS 900 REMAINING
FOLLOWERS TO COMMIT MASS SUICIDE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY TAPE RECORDING OF THE FIRST 45 MINUTES
OF THE "WHITE NIGHT" OF SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 -- WHICH IS
FILLED WITH CHILDREN'S SCREAMS, JONES' AMPLIFIED EX-
HORTATIONS AND SHOUTED ARGUMENTS AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS --
SHOWS THAT MANY OF THEM WERE VERY RELUCTANT TO FOLLOW
HIS ORDERS TO DRINK POISON.

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 310926

BUT JONES TOLD THEM THAT JONESTOWN DEFECTORS WHO HAD
SURVIVED AN ARMED AMBUSH OF THE FACT-FINDING MISSION OF
REP. LEO J. RYAN (D-CALIF.) AT THE NEARBY PORT KAITUMA
AIRSTRIIP WOULD "GET BACK TO THE STATES AND CRITICIZE
JONESTOWN. THEY'LL MAKE OUR LIVES LIKE HELL...
"WE ARE SITTING ON A POWDER KEG," JONES SHOUTED TO HIS
FOLLOWERS, WHO HAD BEEN MASSED AROUND HIM BY JONESTOWN
GUARDS ARMED WITH GUNS AND CROSSBOWS. "IF WE CAN'T LIVE
IN PEACE, LET'S DIE IN PEACE."
THE TAPE, WHICH WAS RECORDED ON A MACHINE JONES KEPT NEXT
TO HIS WOODEN THRONE CHAIR ON THE STAGE OF JONESTOWN'S
OPEN-AIR PAVILION TO RECORD HIS ALMOST NIGHTLY HARANGUES
THERE, PROVIDES U.S. AND GUYANESE INVESTIGATORS WITH THE
BEST EVIDENCE YET OF JUST HOW THE FORCED MASS SUICIDE WAS
CARRIED OUT.

FBI TECHNICIANS IN WASHINGTON AND POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE
GUYANESE CAPITAL OF GEORGETOWN ARE NOW STUDYING COPIES
OF THE TAPE AND MAKING TRANSCRIPTS. THE TAPE WAS FOUND
BY A STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE ON A TOUR OF JONES-
TOWN A DAY OR TWO AFTER THE MASSED DEAD WERE DISCOVERED

UNCLASSIFIED

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
72 STATE 310906

UNCLASSIFIED

THERE, ACCORDING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT SOURCES WHO PROVIDED THE WASHINGTON POST WITH A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE TAPE'S CONTENTS.

U.S. AND GUYANESE INVESTIGATORS ALSO FOUND "MOUNTAINS OF OTHER TAPE RECORDINGS" AND MORE THAN 5,000 PAGES OF PEOPLES TEMPLE CHURCH POLITICAL, FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL DOCUMENTS, IN JONESTOWN, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE. MOST OF THIS EVIDENCE REPORTEDLY IS STILL IN THE HANDS OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 23 STATE 310906

GUYANESE AUTHORITIES, WHO ALSO RECOVERED AN ESTIMATED DOLLARS 1 MILLION IN U.S. AND GUYANESE CURRENCY IN AND AROUND JONESTOWN.

ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE 45-MINUTE TAPE RECORDING OF JONES URGING HIS FOLLOWERS TO TAKE THE POISON, JONES HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY PERSUADING ALL 900 TO JOIN HIM IN DEATH. SOUNDS OF CONTINUED ARGUING MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE KILLING WAS FAR FROM FINISHED WHEN THE TAPE APPARENTLY RAN OUT.

THE TAPE BEGAN, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, WITH THE SOUNDS OF CHURCH MUSIC AND CHILDREN TALKING AND CRYING. THIS APPARENTLY WAS WHEN THE RESIDENTS OF JONESTOWN WERE HERDED AROUND JONES AND ENCIRCLED BY THE ARMED GUARDS AT ONE END OF THE PAVILION, AS WITNESSES HAVE ALREADY REPORTED. JONES' EXHORTATIONS AND THE SCOUTED REJOINDERS AND ARGUMENTS FROM VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS IN THE CROWD WERE PUNCTUATED FREQUENTLY BY LOUD BURSTS OF APPLAUSE.

ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES' ACCOUNT OF THE TAPE.

"I TRIED TO GIVE YOU A GOOD LIFE," JONES BEGAN. "IN SPITE OF ALL I TRIED TO DO, A HANDFUL OF OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE ALIVE HAVE MADE OUR LIVES IMPOSSIBLE.

HE APPARENTLY WAS REFERRING TO THE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO HAD LEFT JONESTOWN WITH RYAN'S PARTY THAT AFTERNOON AND HAD SURVIVED THE AMBUSH BY THE GUNMEN JONES SENT TO KILL THEM ALL. RYAN, ONE OF THE JONESTOWN DEFECTORS AND THREE JOURNALISTS WERE KILLED IN THE GUNFIRE AT THE PORT KAITUMA AIR STRIP. BUT THE REST OF THE GROUP OF ABOUT 30 U.S. AND GUYANESE OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS AND JONESTOWN DEFECTORS SURVIVED, AND JONES HAD JUST LEARNED THAT FROM THE GUNMEN ON THEIR RETURN TO JONESTOWN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 24 STATE 310906

"THERE'S NO WAY TO DETACH OURSELVES FROM WHAT'S HAPPENED TODAY," JONES TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS. LATER, IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A VERY ANGUISHED TONE OF VOICE, HE ADDED: "WE'VE BEEN SO BETRAYED."

AFTER EXPLAINING THAT THE SURVIVING DEFECTORS WOULD MAKE TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR JONESTOWN AFTER THEY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AND TOLD THEIR STORY, JONES SAID, "I PROPOSE THAT WE NOT COMMIT SUICIDE BUT A REVOLUTIONARY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 2

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
79 STATE 318986

UNCLASSIFIED

ACT BY TAKING THE POISON.
IN "WHITE NIGHT" REHEARSALS IN PREVIOUS MONTHS, JONES
HAD TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS THAT SUICIDE WOULD BE THE ONLY
WAY THEY COULD DENY ULTIMATE VICTORY TO ENEMIES WHO
WOULD INVADE THEM FROM THE SURROUNDING JUNGLE.
"SO MY OPINION IS TO BE GOOD TO THE CHILDREN AND
SENIORS," JONES SAID, AS HE URGED THAT THE BABIES AND
ELDERLY BE ADMINISTERED THE POISON FIRST BY THE ABLE-
BODIED ADULTS.
WHEN MANY OF THE CHILDREN BEGAN SCREAMING, JONES
REPEATEDLY ASKED THE ADULTS TO SETTLE THEM DOWN AND
KEEP THEM QUIET. HE TOLD THE ADULTS TO ADMINISTER
THE POISON TO THE CHILDREN BY SPRAYING IT DOWN THE BACKS
OF THEIR THROATS, APPARENTLY WITH THE SYRINGES FOUND
LATER AT THE DEATH SCENE.

MANY OF THE ADULTS ALSO SHOUTED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE
MASS SUICIDE. ONE WOMAN SAID SHE DID NOT MIND DYING
IF HER SON COULD LIVE. OTHERS ARGUED THAT THE BEST WAY

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 25 STATE 318986
WAS TO STAY ALIVE AND FIGHT
BUT JONES WAS JOINED BY OTHERS IN THE CROWD IN SHOOTING
DOWN THESE DISSENTERS.

"DAD," SOMEONE SHOUTED, REFERRING TO JONES, "HAS BROUGHT
US THIS FAR. MY VOTE IS TO GO WITH DAD.

JONES ALSO APPEARED FROM THE TAPE TO BE ARGUING WITH HIS
WIFE, MARCELINE, ABOUT THE MASS SUICIDE. ACCORDING TO
THE SOURCES, THOSE WHO HAVE LISTENED TO THE TAPE CLOSELY
BELIEVE JONES WAS SHOUTING AT HER SCOLDINGLY WHEN HE
KEPT REPEATING THE WORDS, "MOTHER, MOTHER, MOTHER..."

"MOTHER" IS WHAT JONES AND OTHERS IN JONESTOWN CALLED
MARCELINE, JUST AS EVERYONE REFERRED TO JONES HIMSELF
AS "FATHER" OR "DAD."

EARLIER, OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS HAD THEORIZED THAT
JONES WAS CALLING OUT TO HIS OWN MOTHER, WHO HAD DIED AT
JONESTOWN A YEAR EARLIER AND WAS BURIED THERE.

AS THE TAPE RAN OUT, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, IT
APPEARED FROM THE CACOPHONY OF SCREAMING THAT MANY
PEOPLE HAD DRUNK THE POISON, OR HAD IT FORCED DOWN THEM.
WHILE JONES STILL COULD BE HEARD ARGUING WITH OTHERS TO
TAKE IT.

SOME LISTENERS ALSO CAN HEARD WHAT SOUNDED LIKE GUNFIRE,
ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, BUT THEY ARE NOT CERTAIN AFTER
REPEATED HEARINGS OF THE TAPE WHETHER IT WAS GUNFIRE
OR OTHER SOUNDS REVERBERATING IN THE PAVILION. SOUNDS
ARE SOMEWHAT GARBLED AT VARIOUS PLACES ON THE TAPE.
ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, ALTHOUGH ITS OVERALL QUALITY
IS CONSIDERED REMARKABLY GOOD.

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 26 STATE 318986
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 3

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
79 STATE 310926

UNCLASSIFIED

JONES DIED ON THE STEPS OF HIS THRONE ON THE PAVILION STAGE OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS. ALTHOUGH A HANDGUN WAS FOUND NEAR HIM, AUTHORITIES ARE NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.

TWO OTHER JONESTOWN RESIDENTS WERE FOUND DEAD OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS ELSEWHERE IN THE ENCAMPMENT. THE REST OF THE MORE THAN 900 VICTIMS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE POISON, INCLUDING THE SECURITY GUARDS, WHOSE WEAPONS WERE FOUND ALONGSIDE THEM.

BESIDES THE TAPE RECORDER, JONES HAD FILLED JONESTOWN WITH SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC DEVICES. THERE WAS A CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEM, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING VIDEO TAPING CAPABILITIES, ALTHOUGH NO VIDEOTAPES SET HAVE BEEN REPORTED AMONG THE POSSESSIONS FOUND IN JONESTOWN.

MOST OF THIS EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN LEFT UNTOUCHED GUYANA AND U.S. SOLDIERS, GUYANESE WHO LIVED NEAR JONESTOWN AND JOURNALISTS. SOME OF THE VISITORS, INCLUDING SOLDIERS AND JOURNALISTS, LOOTED THE SITE OF CLOTHES, LETTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS BEFORE GUYANESE SOLDIERS FINALLY SEALED IT OFF.

GUYANESE AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY HAVE DECIDED TO CONFISCATE ALL OF JONESTOWN'S FACILITIES AND SOME, IF NOT ALL, OF THE CASH FOUND THERE.

NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE YET ON WHAT USE TO MAKE OF JONESTOWN. GUYANESE OFFICIALS HAVE DISCUSSED VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FROM LEAVING IT AS MUSEUM OR TOURIST ATTRACTION TO USING IT FOR A MILITARY ENCAMPMENT OR GOVERNMENT-RUN AGRICULTURAL INSTALLATION. CERISTOPEER

UNCLASSIFIED
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PAGE 27
UNCLASSIFIED

STATE 310926