

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
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PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

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- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 1/24/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (89-4286)

FROM: *2/20* SAC, ALBANY (89-70) (P)

SUBJECT: RYMUR

11/20/92 1048 DKM/ADM

Re Bureau teletypes to all offices dated 11/22/78 and 12/1/78 *(u)*

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy, and for San Francisco are the original and two copies of an FD-302 of CORNELIUS GROOT, father of Peoples Temple member, PAULINE GROOT (deceased). Also enclosed for the Bureau is one copy each of three press releases and for San Francisco are two copies each of three press releases and photographs of Peoples Temple members AGNES JONES, HARRIET RANDOLPH and RAY JONES, and his son, MICHAEL RAY JONES. *(u)*

CORNELIUS GROOT and his wife, ELIZABETH, are unable to provide any first hand knowledge of the Peoples Temple or their leaders; however, their observations and information provided about their daughter may be helpful in the ongoing investigation. *(u)*

- 2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
- 2 - San Francisco (89-250) (Encs. 15)
- 2 - Albany

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(6)

EX-121
REC-80

89-4286-1778

23 JAN 29 1979

[Redacted box]

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11/20/92 1048 DE M/10/10/92

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (89-4286)

FROM: SAC, ALBANY (89-70) (P)

SUBJECT: RYMUR

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of an FD-302 interview with CORNELIUS GROOT and three press releases.



89-4-1778
ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/20/92 BY 1048 DKA/hlm

-1-

Date of transcription January 17, 1979

On 1/8/79, CORNELIUS GROOT and ELIZABETH GROOT, parents of PAULINE GROOT (deceased) were contacted at their home, [redacted] by Special Agent [redacted] Special Agent [redacted] identified himself as a Special Agent with the FBI and explained the nature of the interview. (u)

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Mr. GROOT explained that his daughter, PAULINE, had been a member of the People's Temple and had traveled to Guyana to assume a teaching position at Jonestown in December, 1977. He further states that it has been confirmed that his daughter was among the dead at the Jonestown settlement. (u)

GROOT said that his daughter graduated with a Degree in Chemical Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo, in 1971. He states that PAULINE became enamored with all of the fads of the day and took up causes at a drop of the hat. (u)

"Paulina desired to strike out on her own," and as a result she left home in August or October of 1971, and went to Philadelphia where she took a job with the Aquarian Research Foundation, 562 Morton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, telephone number VI 91259. During this period, she also became heavily involved in an ESP oriented program known as the "Alpha State." (u)

Not long after her arrival in Philadelphia, she apparently had occasion to see JIM JONES speak at a rally in the area while he was touring the country. She immediately became enthralled with JONES' charisma and healing powers, and she joined the People's Temple and traveled on with him to California. (u)

When PAULINE originally arrived in California, she was lodged with AGNES JONES (supposedly adopted daughter of Reverend JIM JONES) in Redwood Valley, California. GROOT states (u)

Investigation on 1/8/79 at Niskayuna, N. Y. File # AL 89-70

by SA [redacted] /jvd Date dictated 1/12/79

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that she later moved in with another People's Temple member, ELLEN KEARNS, also of Redwood Valley. While in the Yucca area, GROOT states his daughter worked at various temporary jobs such as companion to elderly people and tutor, however, he was unable to find a permanent job. (u)

GROOT said he and his wife first visited their daughter in Yucca in 1972. GROOT said they noticed during the first few days of their visit that they never saw their daughter alone. He states that she was always accompanied by other People's Temple members. GROOT noted that many of these people worked for the Mendocino County Juvenile Department. GROOT states that he did not interpret this constant companionship as an attempt by the People's Temple to control his daughter. He emphasized that the People's Temple appeared to him to be a very gregarious group, and in addition to this, he states the congregation was very protective of their women. (u)

On the same topic of constant companionship, GROOT states that in 1973, PAULINE apparently became homesick and somewhat unhappy with her life in California. She had expressed an interest to return to Niskayuna for a visit. GROOT telegraphed money to her, and she purchased a round-trip ticket. When she came east, the People's Temple sent along another member, HARRIET RANDOLPH, as a traveling companion. GROOT states the girls stayed for approximately one week and then returned to California. He states that his daughter returned of her own free will and he does not believe she was coerced in any way. (u)

GROOT states that during the period when his daughter was having difficulty finding employment, he would send her approximately \$200.00 per month for living expenses. He states that when the canceled checks came back to him, they had been endorsed by the People's Temple. He said he does not believe his daughter was turning the money over to the church, and the reason for their endorsement was that it was easier for her to cash an out-of-state check through them. (u)

GROOT continued with his chronology of his daughter's years with the People's Temple stating that in 1974, she moved to Santa Rosa, California, where she lived in a duplex with other People's Temple members. During her stay in Santa Rosa, she tutored college students in science and math. (u)

In 1975, she moved on to San Francisco in an attempt to find a job utilizing her background. Again, she had no success at finding a suitable job, and after serving as a physical therapist for a short period of time, she was again out of work. It was at this time that the People's Temple offered her a teaching position in Guyana which she readily accepted. (u)

In December, 1977, PAULINE GROOT relocated to the People's Temple Agricultural Mission in Jonestown, Guyana. GROOT said that his daughter's final year in Guyana apparently was a very happy and productive one for her. He states that she began to write more frequently, and these letters expressed the satisfaction and joy she found in her new position. GROOT said that these letters never discussed any problems of the church. She never discussed her fellow churchman, Reverend JIM JONES, or church policies or philosophies. (u)

GROOT stated that he and his wife had no idea that there was anything unusual with the church which could lead to such a tragedy. He said that the People's Temple members he had met were extremely friendly and helpful people. He said that the only time he noticed a defensive air about the church was when they visited his daughter in San Francisco. He said he and his wife went to the Temple in San Francisco to locate their daughter. He went on to say that as they entered the front door of the Temple, they were met and detained by two, so-called ushers. GROOT said that they were not invited into the church while the congregation members attempted to locate their daughter, and the People's Temple members appeared to be quite suspicious. GROOT thought that this type of security for the church was quite unusual, however, he added, the church was located in a changing neighborhood and perhaps they had had trouble in the past. (u)

GROOT could not relate any other facts about his daughter or the People's Temple Church which would be instrumental in learning about the organization. (u)

He and his wife recalled the following names of People's Temple members which may be helpful in future investigation: (u)

AL 89-70

-4-

San Francisco

ANN E. SPAIN
LARRY SEACT (deceased)
VANETTA CHRISTIAN
DEBBIE EVANS

Santa Rosa

RICHARD TSAUP

Redwood Valley

RAYMOND JONES
AGNES JONES (believed to be deceased)
HARRIET RANDOLPH
ELLEN KEARNS
EMILY LEONARD

(u)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

11/21/96 7048 DRA/ndm

Mark Lane raps State Department

U.S. laxity cited on Jonestown

By JOHN FUNICIELLO

A nationally known conspiracy investigator and theorist involving the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. suggested Monday that the U.S. State Department may have allowed to occur a series of events which led to the murder-suicides of more than 900 persons in Jonestown, Guyana, last November.

Mark Lane, an attorney who was in Jonestown at the time of the mass murder-suicides in the settlement of the People's Temple, was semantically meticulous in avoiding an assertion that the State Department knew what was going to happen.

Speaking at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, Lane said that he "hoped" that the State Department had not felt that it was preferable that more than 900 men, women and children die in Jonestown, rather than be resettled in the Soviet Union.

He said that the Rev. Jim Jones, the leader of the People's Temple — which had been located in San Francisco and Los Angeles before Jonestown was established — had discussed taking some 1,000 persons to Russia for resettlement in various communities.

That, asserted Lane, would have been embarrassing to the U.S. and the administration of President Carter, who has spoken out on human rights and has made those rights an issue of foreign policy, including criticism of the USSR.

State Department officials who had anything to do with the People's Temple settlement in Guyana, located on the north coast of South America, Lane indicated, knew they were dealing with an unstable personality in Jim Jones, but they never warned Rep. Leo Ryan, who was killed by followers of Jones at an airstrip near Jonestown.

"He walked into a trap that had been set for him by the State Department," said Lane of Ryan, who, he added, was only told by the State Department that the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Times-Union

Albany, N.Y.

P. 3

(m)

Date: 1/23/79
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or

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89-70-40 Albany

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



MARK LANE

food and lodging at Jonestown would not be good.

Previous interviews with Jonestown residents, said Lane, were charades, in that Jones was given weeks to prepare those whose names were on a list for interview. In Ryan's case, said Lane, he went in and asked to speak with persons whose identities were not known before he arrived.

This kind of investigation, said Lane, was a proper investigation and was seen as very threatening to the existence of Jonestown in the eyes of Jones, who Lane described as "deteriorating" and "paranoid." Also, he said, Jones felt that, if just one person left Jonestown with Rep. Ryan and the television crews, "it'll destroy us."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Times Union

Albany, N.Y.

P. 3

(M)

Date: 11/23/79
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or

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Submitting Office: Albany

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Peoples Temple attorney speaks at RPI Monday

Talk closed to public

TROY — Controversial Peoples Temple attorney Mark Lane is scheduled to lecture on "The Horrors of Jonestown" Monday at 8:30 p.m. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Lane's lecture is open only to RPI students, school officials and.

Lane was present in Jonestown during the bizarre events in November and, according to an article which appeared Wednesday in RPI's student newspaper, Lane will be lecturing on "how he escaped death in Guyana, how he prevented a knife-wielding cult member from killing (California Congressman Leo) Ryan just before the fatal attack and his opinions on the Peoples Temple and other cults."

Lane, who represented the late Rev. Jim Jones who headed the Peoples Temple, asked the U. S. State Department to stop Rep. Ryan from going to Guyana. However, he did accompany Ryan on the trip, and some claim he could have warned Ryan and prevented the assassination of the congressman and some members of his party. He has also been criticized for allegedly not revealing all he knew about what was going on in Jonestown prior to the assassination and the mass suicides that resulted.

Lane has had some resistance to his lecture tour; the University of Vermont decided not to let him speak because students said they did not want to take part in sensationalizing the Jonestown atrocities. But his agent has claimed Lane is booked solid through March 15.

An editorial which expressed negative feeling about RPI's student union's hiring Lane ran in the student newspaper Wednesday. Lane commands a lecture fee of \$2,750.

The editorial questioned the concept of "free" speech in light of Lane's fee.

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name of newspaper, city and state.)

Times Record

TROY, N.Y.

Pg 17

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Date: *1/18/79*
Edition:

Title:

Character:
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: *ALBANY*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



MARK LANE

(Indicate page, name of newspaper; city and state.)

Date:

Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

(u)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jonestown tragedy touches area family

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Knickerbocker News

ALBANY, N.Y.

pg 3A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/29/82 BY 1048 DCM/pulm



Pauline Groot
...in 1967 Niskayuna High School year-
book.

• Related story on Page 11-A.

By VICKI ZELDIN

NISKAYUNA — Pauline Groot "was trying very hard to do something good for the world" when she joined the People's Temple. She died trying:

Pauline, 29, a 1967 graduate of Niskayuna High School and a 1971 graduate of State University at Buffalo, died along with 900 other men, women and children in the temple's jungle settlement in Jonestown, Guyana, last November.

It is with difficulty that Pauline's parents, Cornelius Groot, a scientist at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory here, and Elizabeth Groot, a librarian, speak of their daughter's tragic death.

Her father said Pauline joined the temple group soon after she had graduated with a degree in chemical engineering from Buffalo in 1971. She moved to California

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toward the end of that year and left for Guyana in December 1977 to teach high school math and science.

The Groots went to visit their daughter in California several times. They first saw her in Ukiah, where the temple had a large church and a solid following. Later, she moved to San Francisco, where the temple also had a church, and her parents visited her there as well.

"We visited her in May 1972. We went down to visit because she clearly was not coming to visit us . . . She was helping the people of the temple with their jobs and trying to find a job of her own," her father said of his first visit to California.

He said the temple group appeared to be very service-oriented, and its members were very willing to help people. "They never turned anyone down," he said.

Why did his daughter go there?

"She did have trouble getting along with people . . . She felt welcomed there. In many places before she hadn't felt

welcomed. She was very intelligent. Very knowledgeable about things, but not about people," Groot said.

He said that during his first week-long visit to Ukiah his daughter found a job as a companion for a 90-year-old woman. "I felt it was the start of her making her own living and starting her own life," he said.

Groot said he found the temple members to be "able, competent people." In fact, Groot and his wife were put to work driving a nurse to a night-shift job and an 80-year-old blind woman to the doctor. He said the temple group was "very protective of the women and wouldn't let them out to travel after dark alone."

Groot said he left his daughter after that first visit feeling "reasonably secure." His concern was not so much about the people she was working and staying with, but rather a question of "divided loyalty."

Continued on Page 4-A

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Jonestown tragedy touches...

Continued

"If you saw a member of your family with a different loyalty about to leave the family, you would be perturbed," he said.

During that first visit, the Groots attended a People's Temple church service. He said there was much audience participation in the service, reminiscent of some Southern church sessions. "They made powerful appeals for money. . . . It was the most powerful appeal I've seen," Groot said.

After their return to their 2512 Whamer Lane home in Niskayuna, Groot said, his daughter wrote "spasmodically." She held a succession of small jobs during her years with the temple.

"She liked it because she was doing good. She was trying very hard to do some good for the world," he said.

Groot said his daughter saw the People's Temple as something akin to the Peace Corps. The group operated a senior citizens home, a home for the retarded and even an animal shelter, he said.

"She could see that by all the temple members working together things could be accomplished that were not possible for an individual to do," Groot said.

Pauline visited her Niskayuna home in 1973, and the Groots traveled to California in 1975 and 1977 to see their daughter. Over the years she had worked as a tutor, a nursing home aide and a physical therapist.

"She had trouble keeping jobs. She never really found a job that used her technical training. She did enjoy tutoring in San Francisco. She worked as a nurse's aide. Again she was trying to do good.

"The people responded to her. She would smile at them and they would smile back," her father said.

It was when the funding for her job as a physical therapist ran out that Pauline elected to travel to Guyana. Her father said the temple had offered her a math and science teaching job in Jonestown, something she wanted to tackle.

"We were startled when she left the country

without stopping by to see us," Groot said. "We were notified just before she left."

Groot said he hadn't realized how many people had gone to Jonestown until the tragedy there began to unravel. He said his daughter told them the Jonestown settlement was a temple agricultural mission.

Groot said his daughter seemed very happy in Guyana. She wrote more often and to members of the family to whom she hadn't written before. "We thought all was well," he said.

Groot was in Chicago when the Jonestown horror story began to unfold in late November. It wasn't until Dec. 8 that officials at Dover (Del.) Air Force Base, using dental records the Groots provided, were able to identify Pauline's body.

"When I read about Ryan (the slain U.S. congressman), I realized something was very wrong," Groot said. "Then when I read about the large number of dead, I wondered if she was among the survivors or the dead. By Thursday of that week, it was clear there were very few survivors."

A call from the U.S. State Department on Dec. 8 confirmed that Pauline was not one of the survivors.

The recounting of their daughter's story was plainly a difficult process for the Groots. Mrs. Groot spoke little, and wept through much of the discussion. She termed the whole incident "inexplicable."

Groot explained that "we gladly share our joys, but we dislike to share our tragedies." But he added: "This tragedy is much bigger than us."

Why was Groot willing to speak?

"I'm a scientist, and I feel things are better known than hidden," he said.

Groot also bears no ill will toward the People's Temple's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, who apparently ordered his followers to drink the poison that left all but a handful dead in the jungles of Guyana.

First in Latin, and then in English, Groot said: "Of the dead say nothing but good."

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