

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 12/4/78

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[redacted]
Guyana National Police, advised that a gray Samsonite briefcase was found by [redacted]

Guyana National Police, at 41 Lamaha Gardens residence in Georgetown in ROBIN TSCHETTER's room. (u)

The contents of the briefcase were examined and the following attached copies of material were obtained from the Samsonite briefcase. (u)

Interviewed on 12/2/78 at Georgetown, Guyana File No. CAR 89-4

b7C

SA [redacted] EDO/mdh Date 12/4/78

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TOPICS
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The material
for the present
report

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(a)



PEOPLES TEMPLE AGRICULTURAL and MEDICAL PROJECT
P. O. Box 893, Georgetown, Guyana (South America)

Jonestown, North America
GUYANA

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PEOPLES TEMPLE IN PERSPECTIVE
(A Background Sketch)

For twenty-five years in the U.S.A., Jim Jones and Peoples Temple have worked tirelessly for equality, justice, and humanitarian service. We have organized around issues of civil and human rights, inhuman conditions, and the crying need for world peace and international co-operation. We have a solid record of achievement in drug rehabilitation, in providing opportunities for jobs and education for thousands of young people, in helping untold numbers of persons who were destitute, despondent, in need of medical help, counseling, food, clothing, and shelter. One can well understand how a man like Rev. Jones would be the subject of malicious gossip, lies, hate-campaigns, and even conspiracies orchestrating government agencies, the intelligence establishment, the media, and various individuals who may or may not be duped by these schemes. We have been the object of constant, organized harassment, vandalism, violence, smear campaigns, arsonists, racists, even hired assassins.

Political frame-ups are not unfamiliar to us, and truthfully, we are not surprised that there is today an organized effort to destroy us. But the reality of it is no less offensive, just because it was anticipated, even expected. We cannot stand idly by and endure injustice without protest. In fact, Peoples Temple has earned its unpopularity with certain elements in the United States precisely because it has fought actively against injustice for so many years. We do remember history, and we prefer not to repeat it. The efforts that have been mounted against us are indeed part of a shameful heritage of subterfuge that has

claimed many victims over the years: individuals and groups that were pursuing progressive directions in American life, to bring together oppressed people, overcome racism, and economic and social justice.

Though we have not gotten to the bottom of the attempt to destroy Peoples Temple, we are certain of enough facts to alarm just-minded individuals, and those who wish the democratic system in the United States to survive. Some of these facts have been presented to the press. However, the mass media has been distinguished by its reluctance (if not refusal) to publish any reports that would point to what is really happening. An exception to this is the black press, which has recognized the attempts to destroy us, and has been most supportive of our work.

The story began years ago when certain individuals joined Peoples Temple who had prior experience working with U.S. intelligence establishment and ultra-right wing organizations. The hard facts came to light beginning in late 1976 when two military officers connected with an influential U.S. Senator were caught trespassing near our church while a black woman mayor from Mississippi was speaking to our congregation about her trip to the Peoples Republic of China (We have always attempted to keep informed about alternative forms of government and their accomplishments). The very fact that we pursued these agents and published our startling findings about their spying mission no doubt intensified the determination of those wishing to harm us. Would it have been proper, or more to remain silent about this threat to our rights? We think not. Democracy depends upon the people knowing what is happening to them. What happens to Peoples Temple is only an example, in some instances a harbinger, of what is planned for other minority groups.

The full picture includes a group of people who specifically organized over the last year and a half, at least. They first met secretly to plot a smear and slander campaign in the sensationalist press (they even hired a prominent, expensive public relations firm to help), then conspired to pressure and recruit people who would join them in lies and subterfuges, then went further to harm innocent people, using government officials of the United States.

Some of the devices that have been used in the attempt to destroy us include the following:

--Government agents who have conspired directly with members of the group of 'concerned relatives' (aka Human Freedom Center, Inc.) that have pushed the campaign have offered bribes and blackmail to various people to lie about and denounce Jim Jones and Peoples Temple. American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks was pressured to do this and was offered help with his own serious legal problems as an enticement.

--Our mail and other communications have been monitored and regularly sabotaged. One large batch of mail, including important legal documents, was doused with a wine-smelling substance. There have been many similar instances.

--Shipments of vital medical supplies and food have been interfered with by U.S. Customs agents. Some have never been delivered.

--News articles, letters, and other communications designed to slander our organization and sow confusion have been planted in various publications on the 'left' and circulated widely in Guyana in the modus operandi that COINTELPRO has used against progressive and civil rights groups in the United States.

--Other 'dirty tricks' have included making phone calls to law-enforcement officials and media representatives of an harassing nature, impersonating members of Peoples Temple to create hostility against the Temple. There have been numerous innuendoes and charges to the effect that Peoples Temple has been guilty of break-ins, bomb threats, vandalism, rape, and even murder...without a shred of evidence.

Thus, the people in the so-called "Human Freedom Center" are only the front line of a conspiracy. They have spend tens of thousands of dollars to pursue their schemes. We are currently investigating the source of their funding. They have brazenly masqueraded as pious, outraged, morally-offended people who are seeking honest redress of grievances. But what lies behind that mask?

Most of the people who have decided to collaborate in these maneuvers (some, evidently, after much pressure), are operating out of personal resentments against Peoples Temple and Jim Jones.

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They did not want to follow the path of human service, except on a very superficial level. While they fancied themselves humanitarians, they were only posturing. Eventually, they couldn't go on in the contradiction, yet they could not simply leave goodness alone. They became eager to destroy Jim Jones, who represented to them the kind of human commitment that they were incapable of.

This is a familiar syndrome, and made many of these people susceptible to being used by others who were interested in destroying Peoples Temple for many years: people with strong right-wing, reactionary impulses, who could not stand to see persons of all races and backgrounds co-operating and pursuing their rightful share of rights and opportunities in life. Such people are typified by the followers of McCarthy in the 1950's and the neo-McCarthyites gathering prominence on the current American political scene.

Another group of individuals, not part of Peoples Temple, were furious that their (grown) relatives chose to spend their lives in service to humanitarian goals and the ideals of Peoples Temple rather than to fulfill others' expectations of them. They, too, have a personal grudge against Jim Jones and Peoples Temple, and have joined the efforts to harm us. (u)

Thousands of people all over California and the nation -- progressive leaders, civil rights and community activists, government officials, private citizens, people who have worked with Jim Jones and who have seen his consistent devotion to justice and the struggle for human liberation, are quite aware that we are just another target in a long history of what amounts to a form of treason against ordinary people trying to secure a life for themselves. We are unusual, perhaps, because we are actively demonstrating (in Jonestown) a successful alternative for people oppressed by racism, and we sense a deep responsibility to keep alive the hope and opportunity we express to others.

Among us there are people who would have been dead, in prison, in street gangs, in organized crime, involved in drugs, prostitution; who would today be swelling the welfare rolls, who would be a drain on an already overburdened economy, who would have had nowhere to turn, who would have been abandoned in their later years in squalid hotel rooms, who would have been victimized by rapists, thieves, and muggers -- and would have victimized others -- had it not been for Peoples Temple and Jim Jones. Many were caught in that vicious cycle of poverty, crime, and despair. We are predominantly people who have had very little, if anything of our own: lousy neighborhoods to live in, terrible educational facilities, unsafe working conditions. Many of us are children of broken homes, and some of us have even been sold into human slavery, right in the twentieth century, in the United States. Today, thanks to our people's collective and our community organizations, built on care and concern for the individual, as exemplified by a most principled and self-sacrificing leader of men, we have been able to achieve a measure of security and well being that we never before have had.

We have painstakingly built this community, this movement, and it has not been easy. We have gone through all kinds of harassment; our buildings have been burned, our animals killed, our children's lives threatened. We have carved out of the virgin forests here a model of human co-operation and love, where people who were once at each others' throats in an environment that fostered violence and gave people no creative outlet for their feelings, are now working together, building a solid foundation and a bright future for our children.

We are determined that it will not be taken away from us.

8 November 1978

Memo in re: Arrival of the Party of Congressman Ryan and others

To: Carolyn Layton, Georgetown
From: Sarah Tropp, Jonestown

As you know, our information has it that U. S. Congressman Leo Ryan is to come to Guyana early next week for the express purpose of "investigating" the Jonestown community, as a part of a larger plan to use Peoples Temple as a vehicle to embarrass the government of Guyana. He will be accompanied by U. S. representatives and certain members of the "Concerned Relatives," and perhaps certain relatives of residents of Jonestown.

As you also know, when he asked to come, our community's response was that we would be willing to see him if he came in the company of other persons we feel are sympathetic to, or at least not hostile to, our community so that a fair view of our community might be anticipated.

His reply to our reasonable request is that he is coming anyway. He has resolved not to permit the party to enter Jonestown under those conditions. Accordingly, and in the hope of preventing a serious incident, we ask that you see Minister Vibert Mingo, and make the following requests on our behalf:

- 1) That, if there is any way possible to do so, he make arrangements to notify us if the party is coming in on a plane from the U. S.
- 2) That he ask an appropriate official of the Guyanese Government, on our behalf, to serve the Congressman, upon his arrival at Georgetown, with several documents, including a NOTICE, STATEMENT and PERMISSION, copies of which we are transmitting with this memo. If arrangements cannot be made to effect this service at the airport, then arrangements should be made to do so at his hotel on the day of his arrival.
- 3) To refuse the assistance of the Guyanese Government in facilitating a visit of the party to the M. W. R., including the use of government airplanes and ground transportation, and rest facilities.
- 4) To provide police protection for the boundaries of Jonestown (The Peoples Temple Lease of State Land for Mixed Farming Purposes) in order to prevent trespasses. This is in order that should any attempt to physically enter the area we will not be obliged to use self-help methods to restrain them. In this situation, it will be of the utmost importance that we have advance notice of the instructions that are given local police, and that we meet with them in advance, so that the matter is clearly understood by all, and that there is no chance of any confusion or mis-understanding.

It is our conviction that when this arrangement is firmly established and when it is understood by all that the government will support the normal rights of the residents of Guyana to be safe in their homes from unwanted intrusions, that our communication of same to the Embassy of the U. S. A. will be sufficient to dissuade the Congressman from his foolish, (or politically inspired) enterprise. This format will also minimize the possibility of adverse press coverage of the situation in the U. S. because there will be no actual events or incidents to cover.

filtrated their group. Jim Cobb's sister told us that Jim came to their house to kidnap the children and but no-one was there so they ransacked the house. Several of these people had advocated violence and it was for this reason we expelled them from Peoples Temple in the first place. Now they are trying to get even by being revengeful. MOne can not forget that Tim Stoen was the one that visited East Berlin and claimed that there were no freedoms under the socialist government and made news ~~xxxxxx~~ pointing out everything negative about socialism he could point out. He is very capable of doing this same kind of thing about Guyana.

RECEPTION PLANNED FOR LEO RYAN

We understand that there is a reception planned for Leo Ryan a man who has spit on Guyana--we wonder about this as we have given our loyalty to death and yet he is ~~xxxxxx~~ treated as a special guest.

(u)

The Honorable Jimmy Carter
The President of the United States
February 27, 1978
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I had the pleasure of attending a testimonial dinner on behalf of Rev. Jones, at which he was presented well-deserved certificates of commendation from both the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and the State Senate, the latter of which was initiated by my Republican colleague, Senator Milton Marks. The dimension of Rev. Jim Jones humanitarian goals and accomplishments is such that he has been uniquely able to transcend surface political considerations to promote concrete, humane and better conditions of life for all our citizens.

I am advised that Rev. Jones decision to remain in Guyana for the time being. I understand that decision. I respect it and I am sure that Rev. Jones will return to this country when he deems it wisest to do so.

From the news stories about Rev. Jones absence from the country, it is clear that many persons opposed to Rev. Jones are attempting to exploit the absence for their political purposes. I am frankly appalled at such efforts. I hope that you will not be persuaded to assist in their efforts.

Jim Jones is truly an American asset!

Sincerely,


WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.

WLB/jk

February 28, 1978

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to commend to you highly the work of Reverend Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple. I first became acquainted with Jim Jones when he and his church came out early on behalf of my defense when I was in prison on charges for which I was later vindicated. This was at great risk to himself and his church, because my cause was not a popular one in church circles at that time. But I found on later personal contact with him, and to this day, that he is an ardent spokesman for justice who will speak out whenever he sees individuals or groups unjustly harassed or persecuted, whatever their race, background, or political persuasion. He is a humanitarian in the broadest sense of the word, who renders assistance often at great personal sacrifice, never concerned about what people think of his actions, but only that he is following the right course. He is a great champion of the poor and oppressed of our country, who has been able to organize and mobilize people to struggle for the racial equality and social justice which is our only insurance of freedom in the days to come.

You cannot realize how fortunate you are to have Rev. Jones spearhead his agricultural project in the Third World. He communicates with great sensitivity to Third World peoples, and his commitment to alleviating human suffering can hardly be matched. I am certain his intentions are of the best, and he will be a potent influence for good in strengthening America's relationship with that area of the hemisphere. (u)

I understand efforts are underway to influence Congressmen to exert pressure on the State Department to intervene in a court matter under local Guyanese jurisdiction. This would be a foolhardy move, both from the standpoint of the best interests of the United States, and would surely antagonize the Guyanese, who are very competent to handle the matter, and the many thousands of Peoples Temple members and supporters here in the United States who are prepared to stand by Rev. Jones.

I urge you to give this matter your utmost consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Angela Y. Davis
Angela Y. Davis

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GEOU CO UWNX 037
TMMU NEW ORLEANS LA 37/36 14 0227A EST

JAMU GURVICH PEOPLES TEMPLE AGRICULTURAL MISSION PO BOX 893
GEORGETOWN

ELSIE FELL NOVEMBER 4TH AND BROKE HER HIP SHE IS NOT DOING WELL C
YOU POSSIBLE COME TO HER BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE LOVE
NON

COL 893 4TH

GUYANA
OVERSEAS TELEGRAM

TO

Sanna Gurruch
Peopl Temple agricultural
Mission
PO Box 893 6/7

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