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- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 5/17/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (89-4286)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (89-250) (P) (SQ. 1)

SUBJECT: RYMUR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/16/93 BY 9803 RDD/mdm

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b7c

Enclosed for the Bureau are 2 copies of FD-302 concerning material furnished by [redacted] Investigator, California Department of Justice. (u)

In view of the fact that above enclosed FD-302 identifies numerous bank accounts used by the PT, the Bureau is requested to furnish copy to Civil Division, Department of Justice, handling PT assets. (u)

"ARMED AND DANGEROUS. SUICIDAL TENDENCIES". (u)

ENCLOSURE

1 - Bureau (Encl 2)
2 - San Francisco
DRH:jmr
(4)

89-4286-2195

16 MAY 19 1979

12:00 to 005 by 0-6 on 5-21-79
DES, jhr

241

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

84 JUN 15 '79

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 5/17/79

[redacted] Investigator, Department of Justice, State of California, 2720 Taylor Street, San Francisco, California, furnished agent 28 pages, which reflect rubber stamps identifying numerous banks. [redacted] advised that these rubber stamps currently in possession of the San Francisco People's Temple receiver. (u)

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Copies of the above pages as well as a 2 page newspaper article and 1 page reflecting identification of known People's Temple assets are attached to this report. (u)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/16/93 BY 9803 RDD/ndm

Interviewed on 5/15/79 at San Francisco, California File # SE 89-250

by SA DONALD R. HALE jmr Date dictated 5/17/79

89-4286-2195

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ENCLOSURE

Peoples Temple assets

Foreign bank accounts \$17,234,689

California real estate

San Francisco temple, 1859 Geary Blvd. \$300,000
 Mendocino County:
 Happy Arcea Ranch, 37 acres, including 11 acres of vineyards \$350,000
 Redwood Valley temple, 3 acres including Jones' house and pool \$300,000
 Los Angeles County
 Castaic ranch, 65 acres deeded to Charles Garry law firm, \$50,000
 1435 Alvarado Terrace, Los Angeles \$88,320
 932 E. Santa Barbara Ave, Los Angeles \$9,880

Total \$1,148,200

Cash, gold and jewelry

Cash at San Francisco temple \$100,000
 Cash found at or near Jonestown \$1,039,367.49
 Checks found at Jonestown \$200,000
 Cash, jewelry, gold confiscated by Guyana government \$1,000,000
 Cash returned by Soviet embassy in Guyana \$34,800

Total \$2,374,167.49

California bank accounts

Bank of Montreal, San Francisco \$21,000
 Bank of Montreal, San Francisco \$100,000
 Wells Fargo Bank, Los Angeles Unknown

Investment at Jonestown

Improvements, equipment, supplies

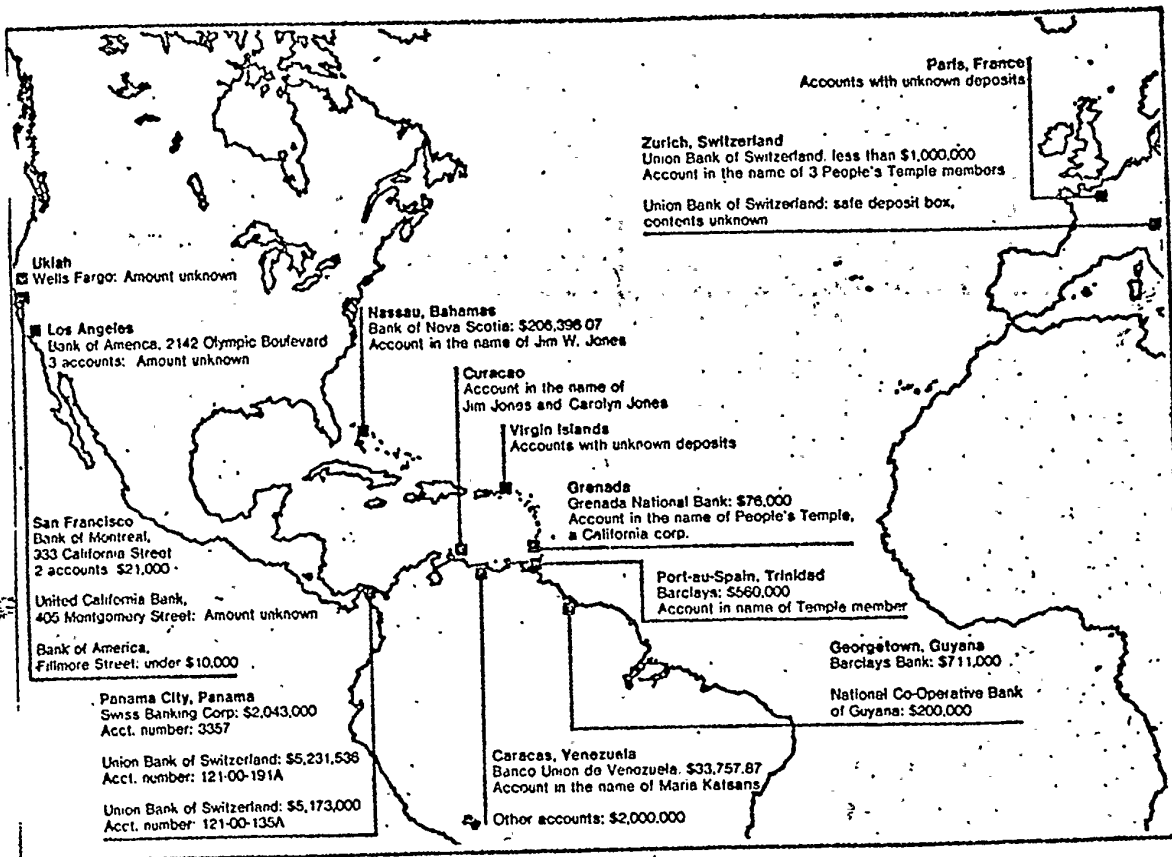
Total \$5,000,000

Total known Peoples Temple assets \$26,056,956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

4/16/93 BY 9803 RDD/NA



(u)

Peoples Temple's \$26 million financial empire

All the while preaching socialism, the Rev. Jim Jones skillfully wielded the tools of capitalism to build an international financial empire now estimated to be worth at least \$26 million.

That fortune was amassed through a myriad of techniques ranging from selling locks of his own hair to milking the life savings and property of even his poorest parishioners. Jones sent aides on continent-hopping trips to seek out banks with the highest interest rates and to protect church funds from possible seizure by U.S. authorities.

At the end, Jones had his aides shuttling Peoples Temple millions from bank to bank like a seasoned financial wizard. The empire was so extensive and so cleverly camouflaged that American investigators have not been able to uncover all the assets. In fact, they haven't been able to determine the value of half a dozen reported Peoples Temple bank accounts that could push the total holdings higher.

The financial picture — drawn by The Examiner from public records and from interviews with investigators, attorneys and former temple members — shows the temple held far more property, cash and other assets than has been disclosed.

The Examiner has learned:

- The temple held three numbered Swiss bank accounts in Panama worth more than \$12 million and accounts in at least 10 other countries worth an additional \$5 million-plus.

- Although most of the temple's California real estate holdings were liquidated before the exodus to Guyana in the summer of 1977, property worth almost \$1.5 million was sold after that. And real estate worth more than \$1 million still is held by the church.

- The temple invested an estimated \$5 million in its jungle settlement near Port Kaituma, Guyana. And at the time of the mass poisoning there Nov. 18, more than \$2 million in cash, jewelry, gold and government checks were on hand there.

"What he was doing all those years was making a name and building an empire of

money and power," says Richard Cordell, a former assistant minister who followed Jones for 20 years and who has filed a \$51 million damage claim against the church.

"It was like the appetite of a starving dog. He was always scheming. Anything you can imagine to raise money he did. He'd swindle; he'd take money, and he had people threatening others... to sell their property or they'd die.

"I thought he was a prophet of God... He took the best people in the world, and he used them — raped them is more like it."

During the temple's humble beginnings in Indiana a quarter-century ago, Jones sold monkeys to raise money and set up non-profit religious corporations to guard his assets. Raking in thousands from the collection plate and the sale of members' property, Jones became a millionaire by the time he immigrated to California in 1969.

While the faithful shopped in thrift stores and turned over their salaries and worldly goods, the temple's treasure chest in Redwood Valley, Mendocino County, climbed to \$11 million by 1974, according to former Jones aide Terri Buford. The sale of prayer cloths, apricot pits and pictures of Jones helped.

By 1977 the temple had gone international, with its commune in Guyana and its fortune snaking its way into banks around the globe.

Temple funds in San Francisco bank accounts, with balances ranging from a few thousand dollars to \$1 million, began to move out of the country during 1977. In some cases, Barclays and other banks with branches here transferred temple money overseas by wire.

Temple members immigrating to Guyana also were instructed to carry up to \$5,000 — the legal limit on the amount cash that can be taken out of the United States — and once at Jonestown they turned the money over to the temple. Half the 900 Jonestown settlers done this, it would account for \$4.5 million.

Temple money moved from the United States to foreign countries in a variety of ways — some exotic, others ordinary, according to Buford.

Some funds were transferred from one branch of an international bank here to a branch in a foreign country. Other funds were stuffed into suitcases or taped to the bodies of trusted temple members leaving the country.

Debbie Blakey, former temple financial secretary, said money in temple savings accounts would be transferred from San Francisco to Guyana when the balances grew to between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

"Jim kept yelling that we needed all that money down there," Blakey said in an interview. "He

always wanted the excess sent down because he was afraid the government would catch on and freeze all the assets."

Upper echelon temple members opened bank accounts, often in their own names, in foreign cities in amounts ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Through their contacts with bankers, they arranged to make deposits and transfers to other banks by mail.

Soon millions of dollars were moving among banks in Caracas, Paris, Zurich, Panama City, Port-au-Prince, Georgetown and other cities.

Blakey said she traveled from country to country with Buford on a mysterious financial mission. They went to Panama and then to London, where they spent two days doing library research on banking in socialist and communist countries. After flying to France, they entered Switzerland late one night, so their passports would not be stamped, and then spent the night at a convent.

"We went into this Swiss bank

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and went upstairs and sat in a big, dark room," Blakey said. "He (a bank official) checked our I.D. Terri said, 'We don't need to discuss anything. Let's sign the paper.'

"He said something about \$2 million in an account. Then she said again, 'We don't need to discuss anything.'"

Once the money was out of the United States, Jones played the world of international banking like a chess game, employing top aides to shuttle money from continent to continent, usually through wire transfers.

The church sought to keep its overseas millions in accounts that would pay at least 10 percent. It shopped around for time deposits that would pay high interest rates on million-dollar deposits; some were 90-day time deposits; others were for six months. As temple money was drawn to the highest interest rates, bank balances rose and fell like tides.

A million-dollar account in the Bank of Nova Scotia branch here was closed out. Personal accounts of Jones and his wife, Marceline, at a Bank of America Branch on Fillmore Street dwindled from several hundred thousand dollars to a few thousand dollars each.

Accounts were held in the name of the temple itself; in Jones' name; in the names of dummy corporations such as Bridget S.A. and Angelique, or in the names of temple leaders such as Buford, Carolyn Layton and Maria Katsaris. Two accounts in Panama were held in the name of elderly temple cook Annie McGowan.

Accounts were opened for a variety of reasons. For instance, a Trinidad account of \$500,000 to \$600,000 was used to buy supplies for Jonestown. And in 1977 Jones opened a \$200,000 account in Grenada to impress Prime Minister Eric Garry and to pave the way for a possible colony there, according to former temple attorney Tim Stoen.

Some former members have said Jones was obsessed with acquiring a fortune as a form of security and power. Others said he planned to use it to move his flock to Cuba or the Soviet Union.

Even in the isolation of Jonestown, the church continued to enrich itself at its members' expense by taking their jewelry, controlling their government checks and bank accounts, disposing of their property and sending them begging in Georgetown. While being paid menial salaries, members produced numerous arti-

cles for sale — quilts, stuffed animals, doll and packets of corn and wheat from the "Promised Land."

According to Blakey, members were given tape-decks and radios when they departed for Guyana and were required to turn them in upon arrival at Jonestown. She said the temple then sold them on the Guyanese black market, mainly through temple women known as the "hucksters."

Through donations by temple members — some allegedly made under death threat and others under extreme peer pressure — the church acquired dozens of homes and other real estate in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Ukiah.

Investigators say it is unlikely that the total value ever will be determined because the temple used an elaborate technique to hide many of these donations. Title to many homes was signed over to temple leaders for sale and the proceeds then went to the temple.

The temple disposed of much of its property before

the mass migration to Jonestown in the summer of 1977, after The Examiner and other publications reported the allegations of former temple members who claimed they were beaten, psychologically abused and bilked out of property.

According to documents seized by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, 50 pieces of property deeded to the temple since Aug. 31, 1976, have been sold, for a total of almost \$1.5 million.

Eight pieces of property in the Ukiah area netted \$606,000; eight in the Bay Area, \$115,000, and 34 in Los Angeles, \$750,000, according to checks to the temple.

According to assessors' estimates and records, the temple currently holds more than \$1 million in property in California — roughly \$650,000 in Mendocino, \$300,000 in San Francisco and \$150,000 in Los Angeles.

While the assets of Peoples Temple have climbed to more than \$26 million, much of the capital investment and money left at Jonestown will never be recovered. The Guyanese government will try to confiscate both U.S. currency and Guyanese currency found there, on the ground that both were brought into the country illegally.

Because the commune at Jonestown sits in the midst of dense jungle, much of the machinery and many of the buildings may simply go to waste.

One investigator said litigation spawned by claims on temple assets could extend into the next century.

The legal battle will be joined at a Superior Court hearing here Jan. 23. Temple attorney Charles Garry has asked the court to dissolve the Peoples Temple corporation. The state attorney general will ask the court at the same hearing to appoint a receiver for the assets.

Once all claims and lawsuits against the temple are settled, the attorney general's office says, the law requires that the balance of the assets be distributed to "a charitable corporation with goals and aims like the Peoples Temple."

271 - Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY

PEOPLE'S TEMPLE OF
THE DISCIPLES OF
CHRIST
P.O. Box 15384
San Francisco, CA 94115
2719-2862

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ISSUED FOR FEES THAN TWENTY DOLLARS
AMOUNT
ISSUED FOR LESS THAN \$20.00 DOLLARS

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
11-24 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 11-24
0001-105998

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FOR DEPOSIT ONLY

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
128 BANK OF AMERICA 128
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
RELICS & THINGS
0128S - 00501

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11-27 FOR DEPOSIT ONLY 11-27
CALIFORNIA CANADIAN BANK
0001-022250

(16)

PAY TO THE ORDER OF PEOPLES TEMPLE
OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, A
CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. I ACKNOWLEDGE
RECEIPT IN CASH OF THE FULL FACE
AMOUNT OF THIS CHECK:

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Bank of America
(California)
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
PEOPLES TEMPLE ACCOUNT
R20
00-70310-7

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271 Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
PEOPLE'S TEMPLE
ACCOUNT #27
02719-00047

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For Deposit Only
Pay to the order of
Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ
Bank of Montreal
California
333 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94104
By Jim Jones

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
UNITED CALIFORNIA BANK
621 FOR DEPOSIT ONLY 621
PEOPLE'S TEMPLE OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
621522456

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Bank of Montreal
(California)
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY

PEOPLES TEMPLE OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

00-10330-6
Bank of Montreal
California
333 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

By Jim Jones

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Bank of Montreal
(California)
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
CHECK CASHING AND
MONEY ORDER SERVICES
COMPANY
00-10352-4

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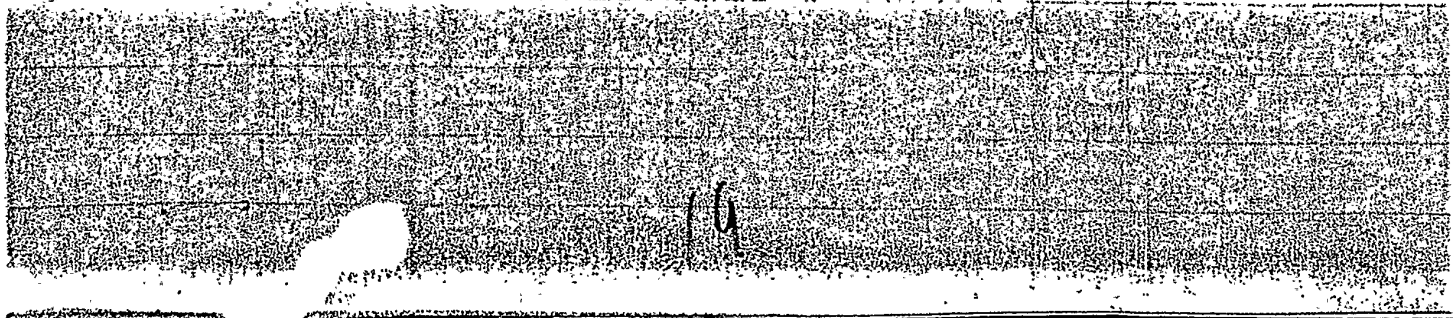
EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPT. 065
203 Mason Street P. O. Box 209
Ukiah, CA 95432

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
BANK OF AMERICA
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
AMERICAN EXPRESS
PEOPLE'S TEMPLE #1
1289 GEARY BLVD.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94115
00004-09280

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
333 CALIFORNIA STREET
BANK OF MONTREAL
PEOPLES TEMPLE
OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST 00103306
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY

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271 Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
02713-00002

W

Box #79

1. Adult documents (7's, 9's)
2. Children's documents (5's, 6's, & 8's)
3. Letters of Guardianship (copy)
4. Birth certificate (copy)
5. Marriage license (copy)
6. Immigration forms (copy)
7. Authorization to represent for SSA
8. Copy of information on client

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(W)
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Name _____ # _____

Address _____ Ph _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____ M _____ F _____ Child _____

(Guardian or parent: _____)

Employed _____

Position _____

SS# _____ Dr License # _____

Tax info rec'd: 75 _____ 76 _____ 77 _____

Taxes filed: 75 _____ 76 _____ 77 _____

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271 Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
02713-00002

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
333 CALIFORNIA STREET
BANK OF MONTREAL
PEOPLES TEMPLE
OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, 00103306
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY.

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
BANK OF AMERICA
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
AMERICAN EXPRESS
PEOPLES TEMPLE #1
1859 GERRY BLVD.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94115
00664-06280

(4)

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPT. 065
208 Mason Street P. O. Box 209
Ukiah, CA 95482

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Bank of Montreal
(California)
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
CHECK CASHING AND
MONEY ORDER SERVICES
COMPANY
00-10352-4

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Bank of Montreal

(California)
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY

PEOPLES TEMPLE OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

00-10330-6

Bank of Montreal
California
333 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

By Jim Jones

(u)

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
UNITED CALIFORNIA BANK
621 FOR DEPOSIT ONLY 621
PEOPLE'S TEMPLE OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
621522456

(u)

For Deposit Only
Pay to the order of
Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ
Bank of Montreal
California
333 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94104
By Jim Jones

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(u)
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3rd drawer - 4th CA Div 488

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
128 BANK OF AMERICA 128
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
EUGENE CHAIKIN
Rental Trust Account
1285 - 06071

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
128 BANK OF AMERICA 128
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
PEOPLES TEMPLE
CO-OP ACCOUNT
1280-00109

271 Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
SMITH'S
REFRIGERATION
2321 Bush St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
02717-02023

271 Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
VALLEY ENTERPRISES
P. O. Box 15384
San Francisco, Calif. 94115
02716-01000

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
128 BANK OF AMERICA 128
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
PEOPLES TEMPLE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1280-05611

271 Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
QUALITY PAINTING
2321 Bush St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
02710-00216

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
128 BANK OF AMERICA 128
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
TRUTH ENTERPRISES, INC.
1287 - 02671

271 Pay to the order of 271
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
TRUTH ENTERPRISES
c/a 02710-00032

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
SAVINGS BANK OF MENDOCINO COUNTY
90-406 UKIAH, CALIF. 90-405
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
EUGENE B. CHAIKIN
01-7360-3

REDWOOD VALLEY, CA 95470
P. O. BOX 192
VALLEY ENTERPRISES CONST.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
128 BANK OF AMERICA 128
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
PEOPLES TEMPLE BUS GARAGE
01281 - 05729

VALLEY ENTERPRISES CONST.
P. O. BOX 192
REDWOOD VALLEY, CA 95470