

Memorandum

TO : MR. STAMES *SN*

DATE: 11/14/79

FROM : C. S. Banner *CB*

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Reymur

SUBJECT: ARTICLE CAPTIONED "AFTER GUYANA: THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN," WHICH APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST NEWSPAPER OF NOVEMBER 11, 1979 BY KENNETH WOODEN

Exec AD Adm.	___
Exec AD Inv.	___
Exec AD LES	___
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	___
Crim. Inv.	___
Ident.	___
Intell.	___
Laboratory	___
Legal Coun.	___
Plan. & Insp.	___
Rec. Mgnt.	___
Tech. Servs.	___
Training	___
Public Affs. Off.	___
Telephone Rm.	___
Director's Sec'y	___

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DATE 4/21/93 BY 9803 RDD/bp

PURPOSE: To comment on captioned article and to advise that a midnight candlelight service is to be held outside the J. Edgar Hoover (JEH) Building next weekend, 11/17-18/79. *(W)*

SYNOPSIS: Article relates that, a year after the Jonestown mass suicide-murder, many of the children involved have not been identified. Efforts by Kenneth Wooden, an author, to have the children identified are set forth and he is quoted as saying, "The FBI told me they didn't have the time or money to identify all the victims, and it wasn't a priority." Article also indicates that Wooden is planning a midnight candlelight service outside the JEH Building next weekend (11/17-18/79) and that "(c)elebrities such as Ed Asner, Otto Preminger and Julian Bond have lent their names to the memorial service." *(W)*

Wooden had contacted the Identification Division on 3/30/79 to inquire on the progress of identifying the children. He was told that very few had been identified by fingerprints because of the lack of available fingerprint records, and that the best sources for identifying them would be dental records and footprints from hospitals where they were born. He asked why the FBI was not out contacting dentists and hospitals to obtain such records. He was advised that the FBI has a policy of confining its efforts to identifying victims through available fingerprint records, leaving it up to the agency which requests the FBI's assistance (in this case the State Department) to obtain dental and other records. It was explained that this policy was adopted because the FBI is not funded to search for such records. It was also pointed out that budget cuts in recent years had forced the FBI to direct its manpower resources to its highest priorities. *(W)*

RECOMMENDATION: None, for information. *(W)*

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Enclosure

1-ENCLOSURE

APPROVED: *[Signature]*
Director _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____

Adm. Serv. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____

- 1 - Mr. Boynton
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Long

- 1 - Mr. Stames
- 1 - Mr.

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CONTINUED - OVER

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NOV 21 1979

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RE: ARTICLE CAPTIONED "AFTER GUYANA: THE
FORGOTTEN CHILDREN," WHICH APPEARED
IN THE WASHINGTON POST NEWSPAPER OF
NOVEMBER 11, 1979

DETAILS: The enclosed article captioned "After Guyana: The Forgotten Children," appeared on page 5 of "The Washington Post Magazine" section of the Sunday, 11/11/79, issue of The Washington Post newspaper. The article states that, "Nearly a year after the horror of the Jonestown, Guyana, mass suicide-murder, 210 of the 276 children who died there are still unidentified." Mr. Kenneth Wooden, who is described as an author, is quoted as saying, "The FBI told me they didn't have the time or money to identify all of the victims, and it wasn't a priority." (u)

The article further relates that, after months of "Washington lobbying" to speed up the identification of the young victims, Wooden is planning a midnight candlelight service outside the JEH Building next weekend (11/17-18/79), which is the first anniversary of the incident, and that "(c)elebrities such as Ed Asner, Otto Preminger, and Julian Bond have lent their names to the memorial service." Mr. Wooden is further quoted as saying that it is crucial that the children be identified "because there are some people in California who share some heavy responsibility for not monitoring those kids" and because the families should be able to give the children a "decent, human burial." The article states that, "Most were buried by bulldozer in a mass grave in Guyana." (u)

After the Jonestown mass suicide-murder took place on 11/18/78, the bodies of all of the victims were flown to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, where the FBI's Disaster Squad and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) processed them for identification purposes. Of the 913 bodies involved, 654 were identified -- 594 by fingerprints or footprints and 60 by other means. Disaster Squad records reflect that there appeared to be 170 children under the age of 16 among the victims. Of that total, 58 were infants from whom only footprints were obtained, 105 were juveniles from whom fingerprints or footprints were obtained, and seven bodies were so decomposed that neither fingerprints nor footprints were obtainable from them. Thirteen of the children were identified by the Disaster Squad -- one infant by footprints and 12 juveniles by fingerprints. Additional children were identified by the AFIP using other identification procedures. (u)

On 3/30/79 Mr. Wooden telephoned me and identified himself as being with "NBC News." He asked about the progress in identifying the children. (u)

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I responded that very few of the children had been identified by fingerprints to date because of the lack of available fingerprint records relating to them, pointing out that the usual sources of fingerprints are criminal, employment, and licensing records. I explained to Mr. Wooden that, consequently, the best sources for identifying children would be from dental records and hospital records where the children were footprinted at birth. (u)

Mr. Wooden stated that insufficient efforts were being made to identify the children and he asked why the FBI was not out contacting dentists and hospitals to obtain the needed records. I replied that it is FBI policy (established by SAC Letter 69-76 dated 12/23/69) to confine its efforts in disaster situations to conducting fingerprint comparisons using available fingerprint records and that it is left up to the authorities requesting the FBI's assistance to obtain dental and other records. I explained that the requesting agency in this case was the State Department and that they had advised me that they were asking surviving relatives to acquire the needed dental and footprint records. I added that the FBI would perform comparisons on any footprints furnished to it. Mr. Wooden asked what the basis was for the FBI's policy. I replied that the basis is budgetary in that the FBI is not funded to expend manpower to search for dental and footprint records, and that considerable manpower effort would be involved if the FBI undertook this responsibility in this instance. I pointed out that, because of budgetary cutbacks in recent years, the FBI had been forced to direct its manpower resources toward its highest investigative priorities. (u)

Mr. Wooden advised that, if the Government would not mount the effort which was needed, he was prepared to do so. He said that another employee of NBC had already obtained a set of footprints. He suggested that he bring them to the Identification Division and personally assist in making the comparisons since he had acquired knowledge of fingerprint matters while previously affiliated with New Jersey law enforcement authorities. I advised him that the FBI would be pleased to conduct comparisons on any fingerprints or footprints submitted by him or others, but that the FBI would not need his assistance in conducting the comparisons. (u)

Subsequently, on 4/6/79, I received a copy of a set of footprints from Ms. Catherine Porter of NBC. It was quickly determined that the submitted footprints did not contain sufficient ridge detail to make an identification and I telephonically advised her of that fact the same day. No further footprints have been received from either Mr. Wooden or persons acting on his behalf. (u)

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89-4286-2365
ENCLOSURE

After Guyana: The Forgotten Children

Nearly a year after the horror of the Jonestown, Guyana, mass suicide-murder, 210 of the 276 children who died there are still unidentified. Some of the children were wards of the state of California. No one has yet explained why government officials overlooked the fact that the state wards wound up living in the jungles of Guyana while federal payments, earmarked for their care fattened the coffers of Jim Jones' cult.

"The FBI told me they didn't have the time or money to identify all the victims, and it wasn't a priority," says author Kenneth Wooden.

"And that's in keeping with the way kids are treated around the country. Those with the lack of power are at the bottom of the list."

Wooden, a 44-year-old writer who lives in Bucks County, Pa., knows about forgotten children. His 1976 book, *Weeping in the Playtime of Others*, was a highly acclaimed account of institutionalized violence against youngsters in reform schools and detention centers. In recent years he has worked with CBS' "60 Minutes" on reports of child pornography, child neglect and interstate commerce of children.

Last spring a tip led him to investigate the role children played in Jones' hellish empire. The Chicago Sun-Times published his findings in a



By Joel Richardson

seven-part series that detailed in wrenching fashion the financial boon children represented to Jones; the use of children as prostitutes to curry favor with at least one politician; and the value of children in keeping parents under Jones' rule.

Now, after months of Washington lobbying to speed up the identification of the young victims of Jonestown, Wooden is planning a midnight candlelight service outside the J. Edgar Hoover Building next weekend, the first anniversary of the Jonestown deaths. Celebrities such as Ed Asner, Otto Preminger and Julian Bond have lent their names to the memorial service.

"It's crucial for the identification process to be carried out," argues Wooden, "because there are some people in

California who share some heavy responsibility for not monitoring those kids—to say nothing of the fact that parents would like the bodies of their children, and grandparents the bodies of their grandchildren, back for a decent, human burial." Most were buried by bulldozer in a mass grave in Guyana.

Before burial, however, government officials did fingerprint, X-ray and photograph the bodies, and Wooden is working through California courts to become legal guardian of the unknown victims in order to gain access to those documents.

Wooden's efforts are a labor of love borne out of his childhood in Burlington, N.J. He was a punk and arsonist who graduated from high school unable to read. Drafted to fight in Korea, Wooden was introduced to classical music and books by fellow soldiers with college educations. He married the woman who tutored him through Glassboro State College. After four years of teaching high school history and a few years of political organizing, he was appointed by former New Jersey governor William Cahill to help study the state's penal system.

"I came full circle," he remembers. "I saw kids locked up and it reminded me of Ken Wooden, a real high school vandal. There but for the grace of God..."

And then the rebel knew he had a cause.