

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

89-4286

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# Slain Peoples Temple Defectors Lived With Fear of 'Hit Squads'

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Al and Jeannie Mills knew they might be considered traitors for their defection from the Peoples Temple. They warned of "hit squads" and changed their names in a vain effort to escape the harassment of cult members.

Late Tuesday night their bodies were found in their home here, and other former followers of the Rev. Jim Jones, who led a mass suicide in a South American jungle, feared more death may spring from the ruins of the once-applauded church.

Police declined yesterday to speculate why the couple and their teen-age daughter were shot.

The Mills left the San Francisco-based church four years before 900 people at the temple's Jonestown, Guyana, settlement followed Jones in suicide in November 1978. The deaths came after a California congressman and three newsmen, inves-

tigating reports by the Mills and others of mistreatment and brainwashing at the outpost, were slain at a nearby airstrip.

In the last tape recording he made from the camp, Jones blamed Rep. Leo Ryan's visit in part on Mrs. Mills, and warned: "The people in San Francisco will not take our deaths in vain, you know."

"Our entire family still lived under the conscious awareness that every member of the church would feel justified in killing any of us because we are considered to be traitors," Mrs. Mills said shortly after the death ritual in Guyana.

The body of Mills, 51, shot in the head, was found in his bedroom in the family's cottage near a rest home. The body of his 40-year-old wife, also shot in the head, was discovered in an adjacent bathroom.

See SLAIN, A-6

*File*



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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/22/93 BY 9803 RDD/udn

- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Washington Star-News   A-1
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The Atlanta Constitution \_\_\_\_\_
- The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

Date   2-28-80  

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# Slain Temple Defectors Feared Cult 'Hit Squads'

Continued From A-1

The couple's 15-year-old daughter, Daphne, was in critical condition, and officials said her chances of recovery were slim.

The Alameda County Coroner's office said there were no signs of a struggle and did not rule out the possibility of suicide. Berkeley police questioned the couple's 17-year-old son, Eddie, who told officials he had been watching television in the house and had not heard the shootings. Neighbors also said they heard no disturbance.

Another daughter, Diana, who was not at home at the time of the killings, said the family had received threatening letters and telephone calls.

A member of the San Francisco Police Department's Intelligence detail, which had investigated the possibility of a hit squad, would not say whether findings supported allegations of a death plan. Last November a police spokesman said that the detail had concluded that an assassination team did not exist.

Mills and his wife, then Elmer and Deanna Mertle, joined the church in 1969, before it moved to San Francisco and won praise as a movement that understood the needs of blacks in the congregation.

The family left the cult in 1974 after seeing a daughter, Linda, paddled 75 times — punishment ordered by Jones after Linda apparently embraced a friend Jones deemed a "traitor" to the church.

The cruelty and The Human Freedom Center, a haven the Mills created to give others a chance at life outside the temple, are described in Mrs. Mills' book, "Six

Years With God," published last year.

Angela Miller, editor for A and W, the New York publisher, said the couple "was positive there was going to be some kind of retaliation" against them.

Former church members like Birdie Marable of Ukiah, Calif., reported that as the first anniversary of the suicide neared, members considered loyal telephoned and visited defectors to try to convince them that "those of us who survived, survived for a purpose."

"They're really just beginning. They're really mad now," Marable said after the killings, referring to those whom she and others consider fanatical remnants of the congregation.

(4)