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Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
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Plan. & Insp.	_____
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Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

P 211932Z MAY 80

MAY 22 1980

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2540

WESTERN UNION

INFO DIRECTOR FBI ATTN SA FBI SAN FRANCISCO WASHDC

GEORGETOWN 2358

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/19/01 BY 60322/UC/STP/STP**

b6
b7C per FBI

E.O. 12065: NA

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

TAGS: CARR, GY (LAYTON, LAWRENCE)

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF US CITIZEN LAWRENCE LAYTON FOR ATTEMPTED
MURDER

OKY MUR

GUYANA

1. ON THE ELEVENTH DAY IN THE TRIAL OF US CITIZEN

AND FORMER PEOPLE' TEMPLE MEMBER LAWRENCE LAYTON

FOR THE ATTEMPTED MURDERS OF VERNON GOSNEY AND MONICA

BAGEY ON NOVEMBER 16, 1978, AT THE PORT KAITUMA

AIRSTRIIP, SENIOR DEFENSE COUNSEL REX MCKAY RESTED

HIS CASE AND ADDRESSED THE JURY.

2. IN HIS THREE HOUR SUMMATION, MCKAY CLAIMED THAT

LAYTON HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER MERELY

BECAUSE THE STATE SOUGHT TO MAKE SOMEONE RESPONSIBLE

FOR THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY WHICH HAD "BESMIRCHED"

THE NAME OF GUYANA ALL OVER THE WORLD. MCKAY CHARGED

THAT THE PROSECTUTION HAD BEEN IMCOMPETENT AND

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WOEFULLY INCOMPLETE IN ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE
EVENTS AT THE AIR TRIP. THE POLICE HAD, ACCORDING
TO MCKAY, FAILED TO PRODUCE ANY EVIDENCE AGAINST
LAYTON, SO THEY HAD KEPT HIM WITHOUT FOOD, WATER,
AND LEGAL COUNSEL FOR NEARLY FIVE DAYS UNTIL HE
HAD SIGNED A CONFESSION. ONLY AFTER LAYTON HAD
SIGNED DID THE POLICE CHARGE HIM.

3. MCKAY CLAIMED THAT CHIEF PROSECUTION WITNESS
US CITIZEN VERNON GOSNEY WAS UNRELIABLE. GOSNEY
WAS A SELF-PROCLAIMED ATHEIST WHO HAD REFUSED TO
SWEAR BY "OUR HOLY BOOKS". FURTHERMORE, ALLEGED
MCKAY, GOSNEY COULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED THE WOUNDS
THAT HE CLAIMED HE HAD FROM A .38 CALIBER REVOLVER
FIRED AT POINT BLANK RANGE. A .38 WOULD HAVE,
ACCORDING TO MCKAY, CAUSED MUCH MORE GREIVIOUS WOUNDS.

4. MCKAY CLAIMED THAT LAYTON'S DEFENSE HAD BEEN
HAMPERED BY THE STATE'S "REFUSAL" TO BRING FROM
THE USA OTHER EYEWITNESSES SUCH AS DALE PARKS, TRACY
PARKS, MONICA BAGBY, AND PILOT TOMMY FERNANDES.
IN ADDITION, THE DEFENSE OF LAYTON HAD BEEN HINDERED
BY THE COOPERATION THE STATE HAD RECEIVED FROM "THE
FBI AND THE CIA". THE FBI, CLAIMED MCKAY, WAS ONLY
INTERESTED IN CONVICTING LAYTON, AND THE FACT
THAT FBI AGENT [REDACTED] HAD LEFT GUYANA BEFORE THE
DEFENSE PRESENTED ITS CASE WAS CITED BY MCKAY AS
EVIDENCE OF THIS.

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b7C per FBI

5. IN CONCLUDING, MCKAY APPEALED TO THE JURORS TO
PUT JONESTOWN BEHIND THEM AND NOT ALLOW LAYTON TO
BE MADE THE SCAPEGOAT FOR THE EVENTS OF NOVEMBER 18, 1978.

6. THE PROSECUTION WILL ADDRESS THE JURY ON MAY 22.

ROBERTS

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