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FOR AND BY
BLACK PEOPLE

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"NOW IS THE TIME"

Sept./Oct., 1981

**Jonestown, Guyana
Was It Mind Control?**

Remember back on November 11, 1978 when more than seven-hundred Black people lost their lives in the so-called "Jonestown, Guyana suicides"? Was it really suicide or genocide or was it mind-control experimentation gone haywire by the CIA? Lately information has surfaced (some circumstantial) to support more of the latter. Both questions of genocide and mind-control need to be studied, particularly by people of Afrikan descent, to get to the truth of Jonestown.

Let us analyze the genocide question from the Jonestown perspective. The United Nations Convention on Genocide defines genocide as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- a) Killing members of the group;
- b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Part a) is indisputable. Since the initial processes of the Afrikan Slave Trade the European system that brought us to this country, tens of millions of our ancestors were viciously killed. In the Middle Passage alone, twenty times more Afrikan people lost their lives than in the so-called holocaust of the Jews in Nazi

Germany. Now include the Black lives lost in over 250 years of forced, inhumane servitude, and the question of genocide becomes a little more obvious.

Let us move on from slavery through the so-called "reconstruction" period and the early decades in the 20th century to the present day. Analysis of

(Continued on Page 2)



"IF THEY BELIEVE THIS WAS SUICIDE THEY'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING!"

**WANTED: BLACK TEACHERS
IN BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD
SCHOOLS**

(Continued from Page 1)

this period will cover the remaining parts of the definition of the U. N. Convention on Genocide. The lynchings and systematic denial of basic human needs such as; decent housing, adequate education and nutritious foods to eat during this period, further corroborates the genocide contention. Disproportionate police killings, suppression of cultural expression, psychologically manipulated to embrace other people's history, values and characteristics and taught to look negatively upon one's own, all give credence to the genocide question.

Evidence of Black destruction is abound and the processes used yesterday to mentally, physically and spiritually destroy Black people are still practiced today (see Chancellor Williams' The Destruction of Black Civilization, Third World Press, 1976). Never in the history of this earth has a group of people (us) been constantly under siege. From African antiquity to present times, the attacks on the Black masses have been relentless. Jonestown only serves as another reminder. We ask, can you recall in recent history the killing of so many Black people at one time, DURING ONE SINGULAR EVENT? Why have we virtually forgotten such an event? Was Jonestown a CIA mind-control experiment and, if so, does the mind games go on? What significance does CIA involvement in Jonestown have to Black communities across this country?

The following is an interview done by a Washington, DC commentator with Congressman Leo Ryan's (killed in Jonestown) Administrative Assistant, Joseph Holsinger, who says there is evidence of CIA complicity in Jonestown. The text in parenthesis is that of The Advocate. We simply ask you to read the interview and reflect upon the above raised questions. Hopefully, it will serve as an impetus for you to join the struggle to find some answers that will raise the truth that has been crushed to earth.

COMMENTATOR: The CIA is the rumor, how much involvement and how true is the rumor?

HOLSINGER: Well, there is at least some truth to it, we have determined. The first element I had, something I kept quiet for a year. The afternoon that it happened I had a call from first the State Department and then the White House, about the tragedy and the stories conflicted. They had called me up from the White House to get identification for the newsmen that were killed there. They did not know their names and I was able to supply them. But at the time when it was a conflict between the two stories that I had gotten from the State Department and the White House, I was pretty much in shock and I mentioned that to a friend who called me from the White House and he said, "Joe, our information is correct, we have a CIA report from the scene." I have not said anything publicly about that for over a year because I recognize that we have intelligence gathering information everywhere and that is a legitimate and reasonable analysis, but I had no idea we had a covert operation there, because Leo Ryan had served on the Oversight Committee. Matter of fact, he

was the author of the Hughes-Ryan Amendment that provided for oversight. (The Hughes-Ryan Amendment, strongly opposed by the CIA, required the CIA to give prior notification of any covert operation.) In that capacity, he would have gotten any report the CIA had made to the Oversight Committee about involvement in Guyana. There was not any of these, not even to the Senate or the House. So I just kept quiet because I did not think it would serve any purpose just to point out that they had a CIA report from the scene. It was not until December of 1979, over a year later, that a news story broke in the San Mateo Times to the effect that the Deputy Chief of Missions in Guyana, Richard Deyer, had not only been the CIA's station chief there, but had gone back to Jonestown after Leo was killed at Port Kaituma and the FBI had the tape with Jones shouting during the killing there, it was killing, murder, not suicide. "Get Deyer out of here. Get Deyer out of here." COMMENTATOR: We are not talking rumor here, that is fact?!

HOLSINGER: Fact again. In checking back and following up on this then, we find a publication in Berlin in 1968, Who's Who in the CIA, it is in the Library of Congress, on the page alphabetically under "D's", we find Richard Deyer, this is 1968 mind you. He joined the State Department in 1967, CIA since '69 with all the stations he has been at. Fact again. Then the question comes up, why he goes back into Jonestown after Leo was killed. To what purpose? That puzzles me and needs to be checked into. Now fact again, the FBI tried to question him. The Guyanese officials would not let them in. He has since come back to this country, the Justice Department has yet to question him. The House Foreign Affairs Committee staff investigators admits that they never questioned Deyer about this incident because they said on their own that they did not believe it, so they saw no reason to question him about it. Why? It is on the tape. They say it must be some mistake. They say Deyer was wounded there. I have information here I got the day afterwards that he was slightly wounded. How? He did the unbadging. We also have information that he was very ambulatory and he was gone more than half the time that afternoon and evening and he was missing from the Port Kaituma airstrip. So we think that needs to be investigated. There is another tie-in to the Central Intelligence Agency. I want to state here that I am not opposed to the CIA. They perform a necessary function and even the covert operations are necessary, but they have to be monitored closely so we won't have these aberrations occur that cost us so much that I think the security angle tends to cover up very grave errors. The final CIA thing that I have to bring out is that from the other side, one of Jones' chief lieutenants, a man name Phillip Blakey. He was the man who arranged for the lease of the land down there, the land that was leased from the Guyanese government (Phillip Blakey is the husband of Deborah Layton

Blakey, a Jonestown defector, the sister of Larry Layton who was one of Jones' closest aides and commander of the Jonestown security forces. Deborah and Larry are both children of Dr. Lawrence Layton who once served as Chief of Chemical Warfare for the U.S. Army and is now a top researcher for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the San Francisco Bay Area, he was the man who arranged for the lease of the land down there, the land that was leased from the Guyanese government. In early 1974, Phillip Blakey with a \$600,000 check from the Barclays Bank in Canada, was the payment, was the way he leased the land. He happens to be the brother-in-law of Larry Layton, who was recently acquitted in Guyana. And Phillip Blakey we have in 1975 with the CIA recruiting mercenaries for the CIA in Angola in 1975, then back down to Jonestown in late '78 out on one of Jones' boats while all the killing was going on.

COMMENTATOR: What are you saying there?

HOLSINGER: I am saying we have involvement on Jones' top staff who is CIA plus Deyer on the other side. And the indications we have are that our government had a long standing relationship with Jones and the People's Temple.

COMMENTATOR: Are we saying that Blakey was involved with Jones?

HOLSINGER: Yes, he was the man who arranged for the lease of the land down there.

COMMENTATOR: Fact or rumor? The CIA was involved in mind-control experiments in Jonestown?

HOLSINGER: After I appeared here in Washington in late February I started getting information, I started getting calls and people started getting information to me. I had heard the mind-control rumors from almost the time it happened. I discounted those and dismissed them because I simply did not believe them. But information was brought to me after my appearance here in February that caused me to believe that it probably is the case. That Jonestown was a center for mind-control experiments following through with the MKUltra program of the CIA which they had for twenty-five years and exercised in the VA hospitals, in the federal prisons, state prisons, and some state hospitals. And Helms (Richard Helms, former CIA director) said in '74 that they had discontinued it because the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) had put pressure on. But now the charge is that they transferred it to private cults for continuing their experimentation and Jonestown apparently was one of those cults.

COMMENTATOR: Apparently! Can you prove that?

HOLSINGER: Well, I will give you this, the circumstantial evidence. A vast amount of drugs was found at Jonestown. They were never specified as to what they were. We heard there were a lot of drugs, and we thought they were in drug running. All of those drugs were

(Continued on Page 5)

JONESTOWN (Continued from Page 2)
mind-control drugs; thiorazine...all the kinds of drugs the CIA used for twenty-five years in their mind-control experiments.

COMMENTATOR: Could they have been brought in by Jones himself?

HOLSINGER: They smuggled in a large number of guns and a vast supply of drugs and you can not smuggle those in from the United States to Guyana without the complicit consent of both governments. You take people off, now let me point this out, you take people off into a isolated area away from everything, Jones had been doing this for some ten years, checking out down there, getting everything set. They had a very modern hospital, for a thousand people, they had one of the most modern hospitals in South America. They had daily medical check-ups for almost everyone and Jones kept records of everything including his relationships with the Russians, everything. But it seems now that all the medical records have disappeared or never existed for these daily medical check-ups and all of this, just gone. Then the last point, and this is the key issue in all of this, is the body count. It happened on November 18, 1978. For the next four days we had Americans in there and we had Guyanese officials in there.

COMMENTATOR: November 18, 1978?

HOLSINGER: Right. The next day, one of the young men who had been in there who had wandered away to get a stethoscope and kept on walking?

COMMENTATOR: Yes.

HOLSINGER: I talked to him in San Francisco and he helped with the body count the next day. By identifying the people...he was one of the few people who knew the people who could identify them. They had a body count the next day of men, women, and children and they toe-tag them under their identities, helped by this young man. When they turned them over to identify them there were no bodies underneath. For four days the count went from 382 to 400, it was in that general area. Suddenly on the fifth day it rose to 700 and the sixth day it rose to 915.

(Continued on Page 20)

REV. DAUGHTRY
(Continued from Page 4)

Black Studies, Black Elected Officials, Black Caucuses in white churches, Black theologians, there were Black conferences--the Black Power Conference in Newark, New Jersey and Philadelphia, and there was Black literature--unnumbered volumes, and Black papers, Black magazines, and Black everything. But significantly, white folks still were writing about Black Power. It was a very interesting development that here we were talking about Black Power, and the country pretended it did not know what was happening. And if you look at the volumes which were written, you will know that white folks did more talking about Black Power than Black folks. Then the apparel changed, remember Dashikis and Afrikan dress; originals and American-made became the thing... Afros and naturals -anything Afrikan was in. We were singing, "I'm Black and I'm Proud." Thus they became Black...and Afrikan. Nobody could question their Blackness. They even developed a handshake, and a special vocabulary to round out the Black Power Days. "Negroes" would have fought you to the death just a year before.

(Continued on Page 15)

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JONESTOWN(Continued from Page 5)
 During this period of time we had reports of helicopters scouring the area looking for the missing 500. We had reports of columns heading toward Venezuela. All of a sudden, by the fifth day it's 700, by the sixth day it's 915 and the only explanation for that has been that they were underneath the original bodies, which they were not. Why? What happened? And all I can conjecture and it is conjecture, is that the mass suicide drills that they carried out in San Francisco, tried and so on, that somebody in the line of this mind-control experiment decided that with Leo Ryan there and all of the powers of the United States government there that this was the time to pull the plug and try it. And some of the people did not go for it because we have the word of the medical examiner from Guyana that over 700 to 900 people there were murdered and did not commit suicide. (Dr. Leslie Mootoo, Chief Medical Examiner of Guyana, found that the majority of the victims bore the puncture marks of hypodermic needles on their backs or upper arms where they could not have reached themselves.)

COMMENTATOR: If what you are saying is true...

HOLSINGER: I hope it's not.

COMMENTATOR: ...and the CIA was involved, then the ambush on Congressman Ryan and the rest would have been known by the CIA.

HOLSINGER: Yes.

COMMENTATOR: In other words, the CIA could have warned the congressman and the rest of the people coming that there was going to be some kind of activity or an ambush?

HOLSINGER: Yes. One of my questions to the Congressional Committee in February before I knew about the mind-control thing was, because of everything else that I had found out, was Leo Ryan set up for murder by his own government?

COMMENTATOR: These are serious charges and you have proposed a special house committee besides...

HOLSINGER: What they have had so far was a Subcommittee on House Foreign Affairs and they were gracious enough to do that, Bill Royer who is serving now his place in Congress, has pushed for it. He convinced at least some members of that Committee that there

was enough there so instead of ruling on it they passed it on to the House Select Committee on Intelligence which is like passing on oversight on the Armed Forces to the Armed Forces Committee. It is the most friendliest committee to them and I do not know what they are going to do with it. They say they are going to put a report out but they have been studying the matter...but since they are my charges I want to point out that they have never once contacted me.

COMMENTATOR: Have you contacted them?

HOLSINGER: No, because they are doing the investigating. I just came to Washington for a few days on other business and found out that they are about ready to issue a report on their findings and I did not know there had been an investigation. I think that in itself is simply designed to say we have investigated and there is nothing to it and if anything else ever comes up again they can say we have already checked into it, and that there is nothing to it.

COMMENTATOR: With the charges you have just made, why haven't you gone to the CIA and say 'Boom, here they are' or, you know, 'what's the story?'

HOLSINGER: I have given those to Congressman Bill Royer who has in his files and is passing it on, who is asking for more hearings on the matter. Bill Royer has been magnificent on this and I want to support him. I'm trying to do things the House way but I want to point this out to you, to the public at large, there really is not too much that the House in the present circumstances will do. And until the public itself becomes more aware of the mythology of Jonestown...they put the story out deliberately and it is a cover story that these people were crazy people and that you should not care about them, that they were just an aberration so lets forget them. The public has to know before the House will move.

COMMENTATOR: We have seen documentaries, I have seen a television movie...

HOLSINGER: All phony...all phony...

COMMENTATOR: ...we have seen all sorts of things produced...

HOLSINGER: ...all phony.

COMMENTATOR: ...and you are saying that the whole story has been rewritten?

HOLSINGER: It is a mythology. What they did and the way they got us of this tract, and it took us six days to get us off, was to paint the picture of a bunch of unstable people who rejected our society, they were mostly Black, and that they turned their backs on this country, went down there and killed themselves...good riddance and forget about it. And I point out that that is a pretty racist interpretation. If there had been 900 white people murdered down there, you would have the crys all over the place, but they are different, let it go and forget about it. That is the myth that has been put out.

COMMENTATOR: And you are saying that is a myth. The story is different and it should be investigated?

HOLSINGER: Absolutely. What I am trying to do, I can not do it full-time and make a life-long advocacy of this. Simply as information gets in to me, I'm trying to understand it, make some logic out of it and I know that it is a lot there, far too much there that has not been told, that has not been looked into and I don't think Congress is in a position to do it yet. They are concerned about more immediate work.

COMMENTATOR: What are you going to do?

HOLSINGER: What I am doing today. I am being contacted constantly now by people who add bits and pieces to this. I don't have the whole story by far. There is a lot more to be found out, but I am going to keep trying.

COMMENTATOR: Mr. Holsinger, I thank you very much. If the story that you portray is true, it is one that is unfolding and if it does unfold in the way you say I hope you come back here and share it with us.

HOLSINGER: There is more and perhaps sometimes I can tell you a little more about it.

COMMENTATOR: I thank you sir.

28

NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT SUPPORTS THE CAMPAIGN TO
WEAR A GREEN RIBBON
FOR THE CHILDREN OF ATLANTA