

CULT GUN SHIPMENTS HAD BEEN REPORTED

Treasury Agents Were Informed of Illegal Movements of Arms and Cash to Guyana Site

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 2 — Treasury Department agents here were being told 18 months before the murder of Representative Leo J. Ryan that members of the People's Temple sect were illegally shipping large quantities of guns and cash from this country to their settlement in Jonestown, Guyana, according to some of those knowledgeable about the shipments.

Representative Ryan, three newsmen and a disaffected woman member of the cult were shot to death on a fact-finding trip to Guyana two weeks ago today. Cult members are being held by the Guyanese authorities in connection with the murders.

About 40 firearms, including some of those apparently used in last month's murders, have been recovered by American agents in Guyana.

Law enforcement sources said that a preliminary check of the serial numbers on the weapons indicated that they had come from the United States.

According to knowledgeable sources, neither the Rev. Jim Jones, the founder of the People's Temple, nor anyone else connected with it obtained export licenses for the firearms or signed the declarations that are required for the overseas transfer of more than \$5,000.

Several former members of the People's Temple have described in interviews how the guns were hidden beneath the false bottoms of crates that were then filled with hoes and other farm implements and marked "agricultural supplies."

They said the crates were put on trucks belonging to the Temple and driven to either Houston or Miami, where they were loaded aboard boats for the trip to the South American coast. The boats used were also the property of the Temple.

Jeannie Mills, from 1969 until September 1975 a member of the Temple and of its executive body, said that shortly before she resigned she observed "maybe a dozen" long guns being loaded into such a crate at the Temple's headquarters in Redwood Valley, Calif.

Cult Moves to Guyana

At the time, Mr. Jones's sect was based in California and had fewer than 100 adherents at the Jonestown settlement. He moved most of his organization there last year where they remained until he and more than 900 of his followers were killed or committed suicide a few hours after the murder of Mr. Ryan and the others.

Mrs. Mills said that in early 1977 she finally gained the courage to get in touch with Customs investigators in San Francisco to tell what she knew of the illegal shipments.

Mrs. Mills said that she had a number of subsequent conversations with agents of the Customs Bureau, which is part of the Treasury Department, in which she supplied additional information. She said that the information was coming to her in large part from some of those still inside the Temple who had become disenchanted with Mr. Jones.

On one occasion, she said, she and some others provided the agents with a detailed description of a weapons shipment and the precise moment that it was to leave San Francisco.

But nothing ever happened, Mrs. Mills said. "My impression was that they weren't very interested," she said.

Tom Boyd, chief of investigations for the Customs Bureau here, declined to comment on questions about what had been done with Mrs. Mills's information.

Dennis Orphan, a Customs spokesman, did acknowledge, however, that his agency had "received information that guns and ammunition were going" to Guyana. "We looked into it and were unable to substantiate it," he said, adding that the matter was still under investigation.

According to former Temple members, the guns in question were not purchased by Mr. Jones but were collected by him as "contributions" from his congregation.

The guns were said to have included rifles, handguns and shotguns, but no automatic weapons.

Between \$5 million and \$10 million in cash is also believed to have been shipped by Mr. Jones from this country to points abroad, but some of that money appears to have followed different routes to banks in a number of countries besides Guyana.

Federal law enforcement sources said that, until the murder of Congressman Ryan, the Treasury Department, which monitors the overseas shipment of guns and money, was the only Federal agency with investigative jurisdiction over any of the known activities of the People's Temple.

The Justice Department, which is responsible for enforcing criminal statutes, declined several requests, including one from Representative Ryan himself, to investigate allegations that Temple members were being subjected to physical abuse and brainwashing.

Justice officials have said that neither these allegations nor any others brought to their attention appeared to involve violations of Federal law, and that even potentially abusive practices would have been protected by Constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion.

Since the murder, however, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been carrying out a broad inquiry into the possibility that the Congressman's death resulted from a conspiracy of cult members and that some of the conspirators are still alive, possibly in this country.

Arms Discovery Linked to Temple

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 2 (UPI) — About 200 rounds of ammunition, a dummy time bomb and instructions for making bombs were found by investigators searching a real estate office linked to the Rev. Jim Jones's People's Temple, the district attorney's office said.

Also confiscated in two raids in the past week were documents showing the temple expected to make a \$2 million profit on real estate obtained by "fraud and extortion" from members of the temple, according to statements made by the district attorney's office on Friday.

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Jones' aides used trickery to smuggle guns into Guyana

By PETER ARNETT
AP Special Correspondent

JONESTOWN, Guyana (AP) — The young aides of Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones smuggled weapons into tightly controlled, socialist Guyana by romancing customs officers, distracting attention with old people in wheelchairs and lying with practiced expertise, according to memos found in Jones' personal papers.

Police searching Jonestown after the mass murder-suicide of more than 900 people discovered 45 weapons, only four of which had been licensed. These findings led to speculation about local government complicity in allowing them into Guyana.

However, a memo found among Jones' papers and made available to The Associated Press shows his aides spirited the guns through customs with the kind of amateur enthusiasm that might characterize efforts by returning vacationers to hide a few extra bottles of whisky.

The Jones people added some

slick innovations and fast footwork.

In an undated memo to Jones, his public relations director in Georgetown — Sharon Amos — gave an account of one gun shipment's arrival. The previous evening cult members in the Guyanese capital of Georgetown had thrown a party.

"Two men from customs came and danced with Karen and me (they dance very close) and were absolutely obnoxious. But we were friendly to them and one of them was there when the stuff came through from customs," Mrs. Amos wrote.

Mrs. Amos was slain along with her three children at the cult's building in Georgetown the night of the mass murder-suicides at Jonestown. An American, Charles Beikman, is charged with the murders.

Weapons, according to Mrs. Amos' memos, were hidden in crates containing the personal effects of newly arriving cult members to Guyana. She wrote of a close call when a woman named

Edith arrived with a crate secretly marked to indicate six weapons were in it.

"I told Edith to say personal items but when it came her turn she said, 'All I have in my crate is arms and other things,'" Mrs. Amos wrote.

"I was there and Verne Gosney and we both covered up for it. I said she's very ill and looks like she's going to have a heart attack. I had told her to act ill anyway. ... I told them she's just got crotch stuff and clothes in there and they let it go by," she wrote.

That same time, "We had Joe Helly Beam fall out of his wheelchair, and pushed him up near the front (it's good to have someone occasionally in a wheelchair)," she wrote.

Other points she noticed about customs: crates were checked much more closely than duffle bags, medical supplies passed through more easily when women's sanitary napkins were placed on top "as they seem embarrassed when they see Kotex," and that it was necessary to speak

with the customs men "in a matter-of-fact voice."

Always ready for a challenge, Mrs. Amos noticed one customs man "was more friendly to men and ignored women pretty much, so I had a couple of attractive men go up to Him and say hello and thank him for being so courteous to us. He warmed up toward the end of the evening."

According to police reports, the Peoples Temple successfully smuggled into Jonestown at least 35 handguns, five M16 semi-automatic rifles and a communist AK47 automatic rifle. The four licensed weapons were shotguns.

Jones apparently required the utmost candor of his aides, and the sexual theme reoccurs in his papers. In an undated memo from "Patricia, Joan and Tommy," they recount their experiences with two senior officials — Stanford Jackson, senior superintendent of works and transport, and Barry Ward, head of the ruling Peoples National Congress Party.