

'It looks insane' to a top Jones aide

Special to The Examiner

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Jonestown was "a nightmare" and will "live in memories forever," Tim Carter, a top aide of Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones, said before leaving here for New York.

"The people of Guyana must not judge all Americans by Jim Jones' standards," Carter said, adding:

"The more I think about it, the more it looks insane to me. Jonestown was a waste of beautiful human lives. The tragedy cannot be explained. It will live in many memories forever."

Tim Carter and his brother, Mike, were among eight temple members who left Georgetown yesterday on a Pan American Airways plane. Another, Odell Rhodes, left on a Surinam Airlines plane.

They're expected to be detained by the FBI on arrival in the United States. Tim Carter said before he

left Georgetown that he expects "to be charged with some sort of an offense related to the deaths" of U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan and others slain at Port Kaituma Nov. 18.

Observers here noted that Tim Carter could be a link to any such conspiracy because Jones had sent him to infiltrate the "concerned relatives" whose apprehension was a principal reason for Ryan's fact-finding mission.

The Carter brothers and Michael Prokes escaped Jonestown with a bagful of money that reportedly was destined for the Soviet Embassy here.

Prokes slipped out of the country nearly a week ago and has since contacted the FBI in the United States. He has been ordered to appear before a federal grand jury in San Francisco Jan. 17.

Also leaving Georgetown yesterday with the Carter brothers were Herbert Newell, Eugene Smith, Aurora Rodriguez (Tim Carter's mother-in-law), Henry Cannon,

John Persley and Maryanne Cassanova.

"I do not know what is in store for me when I return home," said Carter, 28, of Boise, Idaho.

The U.S. Embassy has applied for the death certificates of the 914 men, women and children who died in Jonestown. Some 599 certificates have been processed. The 315 others will be processed by Wednesday at Dover Air Force Base, Del., where the certificates are being sent.

Meantime, a preliminary hearing on murder charges against Peoples Temple survivor Larry Layton will continue here Tuesday. Layton is charged in the murders of Ryan, Examiner photographer Greg Robinson and three others at the Port Kaituma airstrip.

So far, 21 witnesses have testified for the prosecution. Two more witnesses will be called, a policeman and a government pathologist, Dr. Leslie Mootoo.