

3 temple survivors back in custody

By John Jacobs
Examiner Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Three Peoples Temple members who were released from jail over the weekend were taken back into custody for questioning in the suicide-murders that left more than 900 persons dead in Jonestown nine days ago.

The three, Michael Prokes and brothers Tim and Mike Carter, were taken from the Park Hotel where they had been detained under house arrest over the weekend.

Police officials did not say whether the three would be charged with any crimes.

Although police do not deny outright that the Rev. Jim Jones was murdered, they still believe he killed himself after his followers ingested Kool-Aid laced with cyanide and tranquilizers.

The murder theory gained credence because Prokes and the Carters were armed with guns when they were picked up and also carried for a time a suitcase containing \$500,000 in cash and a document purportedly addressed to the Soviet Embassy here asking for safe conduct for Jones out of

the country.

It was believed early today that Prokes and the Carters were to be rearrested, but police merely questioned them for about an hour and a half. It was later in the day that they were taken back into custody.

E.K. "Skip" Roberts, assistant commissioner for crime, said autopsies have been performed on Jones and Amy Moore, Jones' personal nurse, who was found in his Jonestown house with a bullet in her head. Also found in that house was Maria Katsaris, allegedly Jones' mistress, who Roberts said had died from poison, not a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Roberts said the bullet that passed through Jones entered the right side of his head, adding that neither it nor the bullet that killed Moore has been recovered. Powder burns were found next to the entry wounds on both bodies, but because he had not received a full autopsy report, Roberts could not say whether there were powder burns on their hands, which could indicate suicide.

The assistant police commissioner said all the guns he knows of from the temple

commune have been recovered and ballistics tests will be done on them.

An official at the Soviet Embassy was asked by a reporter about the possibility that Jones would have requested safe conduct out of the country through his embassy.

"I haven't heard anything about that report," the embassy official said, "but it seems ridiculous."

A survivor of the Jonestown calamity said the weapons at the temple mission were smuggled to Guyana in crates, boxes and temple members' luggage, sometimes without their knowledge.

The survivor, a 25-year-old man who was in the temple off and on for seven years, said officials of the church always knew when and how the guns were being shipped.

They were on hand at the airport to watch for the carton or piece of luggage carrying the weapons, "knowing that if it were discovered, it could jeopardize the project."

The defector said the guns were hidden so well that they went unnoticed even when Guyanese customs officials searched the luggage.