



**THEY ESCAPED**—Tim Carter, center, describes how his wife and child died in mass suicide. He

fled with brother Mike, right, and Mike Prokes, left, leaving behind a suitcase full of money.

AP Wirephoto

## TRIO TRIED TO TAKE MONEY

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Mike Carter said that for months before the mass deaths, Jones had been talking about the Soviet Union as "the promised land."

On at least two occasions, Carter said, officials from the Soviet Embassy in Georgetown had spoken in private to Jones in both Jonestown and Georgetown.

"Jim Jones told us that if things got rough here (in Guyana) then the promised land will be the Soviet Union," he said.

The two brothers said Miss Katsaris gave them the suitcase and told them to take it to "the embassy," but did not say which embassy. They said they presumed she meant the U.S. Embassy.

But before leaving, they said, they opened the suitcase and there was a letter addressed to the Soviet Embassy in Georgetown.

Prokes said Miss Katsaris also gave them two guns and told them: "Get the hell out of here. It's getting out of control. Take this and get the hell out of here. Your lives are in danger. Run!"

The Carter brothers, natives of Idaho, each had a wife and child die in the Jonestown suicide-murder. Their sister, Mary Teresa Carter, also is believed to have died. The two Carters and Prokes are white. About 70% of the Jonestown community was black.

Tim Carter said he had returned to Jonestown only three days before the mass deaths from San Francisco and Idaho. In Idaho, he said, his job was to

infiltrate families who were complaining about Jones and the Peoples Temple. He said Jones feared they might be planning to assassinate him.

Asked how he felt now, Carter replied, "I'm dead inside. I wish somebody would shoot me here right now."

Prokes, from Modesto, and the two Carters said they went to the police station at Port Kaituma, about six miles from Jonestown, after they fled from the settlement.

Later, they were taken back to Jonestown by the Guyana Defense Force to help identify bodies.

"We told them where it (the money) was," said Michael Carter.

Did they find it, he was asked.

"Yes," he replied.

(Last Monday night, lawyer Mark Lane, who also escaped the death scene, told The Times he saw three men fleeing Jonestown with a suitcase. Lane said he did not know how much money was in the case, but he said Jones had \$3 million in \$100 bills at the settlement. It was reported earlier in the week that Guyanese police found half a million dollars in the suitcase.)

Prokes and the two Carters said that after helping identify the bodies, they were held at Port Kaituma and three days ago were transferred to the police headquarters at Georgetown.

They said they were released Saturday without having been formally arrested and without being charged with any crime.

"Anyone who has been through this will live in fear the rest of their lives," Tim Carter said. "I understand it is the same in the States, that members and ex-members are afraid. I am afraid and I do not know where to go. I want to go someplace where this can't follow me, but I don't know where or how."

Gerald Parks, whose wife, Patricia, was killed along with Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) at the Port Kaituma airstrip when the Parks family tried to leave Jonestown, said Prokes and the Carters were among Jones' most trusted aides.

"They could come and go as they wanted from Jonestown, when the majority of us were held prisoners," Parks said.

All three, Parks said, knew what was going on at Jonestown, including the beatings.

"They claim now they didn't know what was going on. But you could not belong there without knowing how vicious Jim Jones was," Parks said.

Prokes and the Carters Saturday denied they were a threat to anyone. They admitted they had held good positions at Jonestown, but claimed they did not have so much influence or power as Parks believed. (When the three men were released and taken to a hotel with other survivors, their arrival caused a panic.)

"We ran for our lives like anyone else," Tim Carter said. "They say we are after them. It's ridiculous. We're as scared of them as they are of us."