

Mass suicide planned

BY MOHAMED
HAMALUDIN WHO
VISITED JONESTOWN —

The mass suicide of 400 People's Temple devotees in this agricultural commune last Saturday evening was planned down to the last milligram of the drugs they took.

Part of the horror of the whole tragedy was the meticulous precision with which the suicide pact was planned apparently over a long period.

Some of the drugs used were flown into Guyana since September this year, according to the airline ticket label on a case.

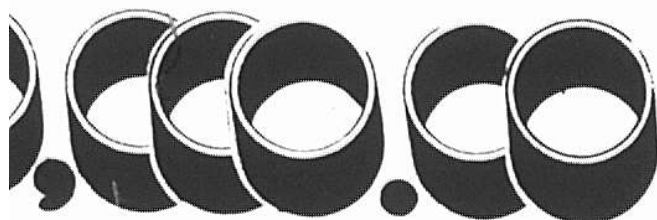
Doctors investigating the deaths said that at least six types of tranquillisers and similar drugs were used, as well as two types of poison, evidently mixed into a cocktail.

The medical investigators have taken possession of a detailed chart, prepared apparently by Temple doctor Larry Schacht, which they said sets out dosages and dosage variations for the various categories of persons.

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to the last milligram of drugs ...

The doctors have so far identified the drugs as: Thorazine (a sedative), Demerol (a pain killer) Pherengan (an anti-histamine which dilates the veins), Valium (a tranquilliser), Haloperidol (an anti-psychotic sedative normally used to calm down violent people), and Largactil (another sedative).

The two poisons used are Potassium Cyanide, which affects the respiratory system, and Potassium Chloride (which affects the heart).

For the main part, the drugs were mixed in a half-drum with a soft drink and taken by the cupful.

Some of it was however injected as shown by the large quantities of hypodermic needles now strewn around in the settlement.

The doctors have found 50 empty vials of Valium, each containing 50 milligrams, 20 vials of Potassium Chloride, each containing 20

milligrams, and large jars of the same poison.

There were vials of haloperidol, but so far the doctors have not found evidence that it was actually used. At least one empty bottle of Largactil was also found, they said.

The deadly brew was evidently so concocted that pain, usually associated with Cyanide, was minimised. Few of the dead lying in the open for more than 60 hours showed any sign of rictus.

Many of them had a peaceful look as if they were sleeping. The impression was reinforced by the fact that for the most part they were lying down in family groups, in many cases mothers with their children, couples with their arms around each other, and several with bedsheets pulled over them as in slumber. Most were lying face down.

Ironically, a few yards away, a sign on several rows of newly planted farmland in the commune warned people to beware of "insecticide".

The doctor believed to have executed the death plan, Larry Schacht, only 10 months ago, made himself famous by using the Marco World Medical radio network to communicate with a Maryland, United States doctor, 2,000 miles away, to get instructions to perform his first Caesarean section, almost certainly saving the life of a mother and her twins.

The two girls and their mother are believed to have died with the others.

(Cana)