

AMONG the documents discovered at Jonestown was one in which People's Temple leader Jim Jones answered questions about his past, his philosophy and his plans for the future. Only ten pages were found, but they present an interesting insight into the personality of the enigmatic figure.

The Q and A session was apparently conducted sometime in 1974, but it is impossible to identify the in-

# Jones speaks his mind

terviewer since the first part of the document is missing.

Jones said that he came to Guyana "with no feeling of the future, but because it was the right thing to do.... If I didn't come here, our movement was finished, we would be destroyed in the US."

However, he expressed frustrations at "being a

foreigner in a country that can't be openly Marxist-Leninist" and indicated that he had approached the Soviet Union about taking in his group.

But charging that "character, spine" is gone in the Soviet Union, the self-styled Bishop declared himself "disillusioned when I hear people telling me they wouldn't consider under any circumstances taking six hundred, or eight hundred meanly people who want to escape oppression."

Documents found at Jonestown, however, reveal that officials of the sect had recently been making representations through the Russian embassy in Georgetown about moving their settlement there.

Describing himself as a "communist" Rev. Jones explained how he "wandered" into the Church.

The interview, rambling at times, begins in the midst of a lengthy reply.

Where in the hell that was.

But when Mao turned

against the Soviets, I had troubles with that. Even though I idolized him for what he did in the Long March, I thought that was tremendous; but I had real trouble. Because Mao at first was a lover of the Soviets, he loved Stalin and I loved Stalin. I never would accept that Stalin was all that bad as he was portrayed. Well actually that's when I leaned more heavily and followed the Maoist line for some time. Because when they did

TURN TO PAGE 18



REV. JIM JONES

## CHRONICLE SPECIAL

Price \$1.00

# SATURDAY NIGHT HORROR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1978

By Neville Annibourne

## CHRONICLE SPECIAL

Price \$1.00

WHEN I was assigned to accompany US Congressman Leo Ryan and his party of "Concerned Relatives" and curious journalists to Jonestown I looked upon the 126-mile trip to Port Kaituma as a pleasant interlude from the hurly-burly of the day. But it turned out to be the most deathly and nightmarish experience in my life.... the scenario played out on a remote blood-spattered airstrip amidst whistling bullets, shrieking voices and falling bodies as twilight engulfed the surrounding jungle.

The party had left Timor early on the afternoon of Friday, November 14, aboard a chartered Guyana Airways Twin Otter for the one-hour trip to Jonestown the 3,000-acre settlement established on the Guyana-Venezuela border by the semi-religious American sect, People's Temple, and named after its charismatic and controversial leader, Rev. Jim Jones.

Congressman Ryan had come to Guyana to investigate reports of maltreatment and coercion at

the agricultural community the majority of whose approximately 1,000 residents have come from the California constituency which he had represented in Congress for the last six years.

Of course, Temple officials had originally raised all manner of objections to Ryan and the others going in, but on that Friday morning after a meeting with sect lawyers - well known radicals Mark Lane and Charles Garry - the Congressman announced that the greenlight had been given and that a representative few would be travelling later in the day.

The concerned relatives had spoken of large quantities of arms and ammunition. Ryan was aware of this as well as the oft-repeated assertions of Temple spokesmen that should his visit bring the organisation into dispute (as Jones and his lieutenants feared it would) members had taken a collective decision to die rather than be harassed from continent to continent.

But at no stage did Ryan or any of those selected go in fear for their lives. There was more of an air of expectancy as relatives were anxious to see or receive word about their loved ones.

So at around 2.15 p.m. the Twin Otter began its ill-fated

journey to Jonestown. Some of those on board would not return... alive.

About an hour later we were over Port Kaituma. Eager anticipation, excited, chattering. But their spirits dipped as the pilot announced he had been informed that the airstrip was bad and therefore he would not be able to land.

Disengagelate, "concerned relatives," disappointment clearly evident on their faces and in their voices, requested the pilot to fly over Jonestown. Suddenly it appears. A tiny speck of civilisation in the dense forests. Necks crane. Cameras click. And perhaps sensing the mood, the pilot decided to take another look at the airstrip and after zooming in low decided to land and does.

Dismembering, the passengers were told by police corporal Rudder that he was instructed by his superior not to allow anyone to go into Jonestown unless they had permission to do so from Rev. Jim Jones, head of the People's Temple. Failing this they would have to get back on the plane and return to the city.

Meanwhile lawyers of the People's Temple, Mark Lane and Charles Garry, who came on the same plane

were holding discussions with a small group from the commune. The lawyer later informed the Congressman that they were going into Jonestown to discuss the matter with Jones.

However, five minutes later the dump truck reappeared and we were informed that only Congressman Ryan, his aides, Deputy US Embassy Chief of Mission Richard Dwyer and myself (after I had indicated that I was from the Ministry of Information) would be permitted to enter Jonestown.

They then informed the journalists and the "concerned relatives" that they would have to remain at the airstrip until permission was granted for them to proceed to Jonestown.

After a five-minute drive we reached the entrance of Jonestown. At the gate there was a big sign "People's Temple Agricultural Settlement." The chain across the entrance was removed as the unarmed guards received a signal from a female member of the cult to board the dump truck in which we were travelling.

On arrival at Jonestown itself we were met by the wife of Mr. Stoen along with other members of the organisation. She informed

the Congressman that Rev. Jones who was not in the best of health, would be with us in a short while.

We were then escorted to the main auditorium after which the Congressman on a tour conducted tour of the settlement by Mrs. Jones.

On our return to the auditorium Rev. Jones was there to greet us. After a brief introduction we all sat around a large table with Jones and the Congressman sitting at the head.

Congressman Ryan wasted no time in informing Jones that journalists and "concerned relatives" were at the airstrip awaiting his permission to enter Jonestown.

Jones said that he was perturbed over the fact that the Congressman did not bring along with him journalists from Third World countries.

He said he was not keen on permitting journalists from the US to enter Jonestown because they had been writing "a lot of lies about the place" and he was "fed up" with what they wrote.

Ryan then told Jones that "this place is much too important much too alive to be jeopardised by misinformation." He then pleaded with Jones to allow the journalists in. His plea was reinforced by Garry, one

of Jones' lawyers, who was of the opinion that the publicity would do the Temple more good than harm.

Jones succumbed to the plea and gave permission not only for the journalists to come into Jonestown but also the concerned relatives.

Ryan then began discussions with Jones on the reasons for his visit to Jonestown.

Ryan gave Jones a list of names of residents he would like to interview and told Jones that "you have been accused of having a totally closed shop where no one can leave."

Jones countered by alleging that a lot of lies were being peddled about the place and he invited the Congressman "to see what you want to see. Talk to whom you want talk. I am sick and tired of all the lies. We have come here to build a peaceful community because it is more comfortable than in San Francisco."

He added: "Guyana is one of the friendliest non-aligned countries. The Guyana people are not anti-American and we have seen no evidence that Guyana is a threat to the US."

Ryan who said he was impressed by the agricultural activities while coming in

TURN TO PAGE 14

# I'D DIE FOR MY SON —

## JOHN STOEN



John -- paternity in dispute.

He was accused of having abducted the child of Mr. and Mrs. Stoen and brought him to Jonestown.

"Some years ago one of the

District Attorneys of California who was a member of our church and who is now himself viciously under attack, asked me to respond to his wife's many sexual overtures to me, because he feared that she was capable of the most insidious treason to both the organisation and the socialist cause, if she met with further rebuff. I cannot describe how much I was repulsed by the idea, but



GRACE STOEN  
John's Mother.

met with utter hostility — not simply to myself, that would have been of no consequence — but to the collective as well.

Out of this unlikely union came a beautiful son. The conception was totally unexpected, as I had used preventatives, and so, supposedly had she. She had resisted all suggestions of abortion, and went so far as to threaten subversion against socialism unless she were allowed to keep the child. It was a nightmare. The boy is undoubtedly my child; the resemblance is absolutely convincing. That is why she gave me no difficulty when I requested that he go to Guyana. She signed legal authorisation for him to come to this country. Her husband also signed such authorisation. In addition, he stated under penalty of perjury, that he had asked me to sire a child for him to rear, thinking that if the

TURN TO PAGE 14

case became more frantic.

Here are some of the views expressed by Jim Jones himself in various letters to Ministers:

On the Stoen Case in which



# Jim Jones: Seen through the eyes of Mrs. Jones.

By Stephan Jones

Hawthorne, New Jersey

**J**IM JONES IS SEEN through the eyes of his wife, Mrs. Jones, in this series of photographs taken by Stephan Jones, Jim's son. The pictures show Jim in his element, at home, at work, and in his community. They provide a rare glimpse into the life of one of the most controversial figures of our time.

## How the Temple came to Guyana

By Bishop Jim Jones

Bishop Jim Jones is shown in record

as remarkable, that his interest in getting us to build a temple in Guyana was to be done by himself and his wife, Jim and Marceline Jones, in their capacity as leaders of the Peoples Temple here in America. And when he and his wife applied to the Guyanese Government for a permit to do so, they were granted it.

AS DEPUTY PRIME Minister Red said during his recent interview in the Guyana House of Assembly:

"The land development was to be done by myself and my wife, Jim and Marceline Jones, in their capacity as leaders of the Peoples Temple here in America."

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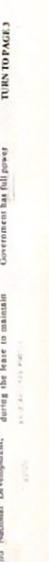
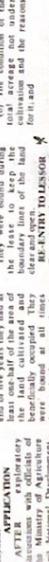
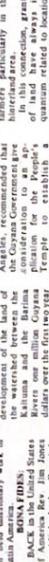
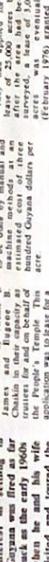
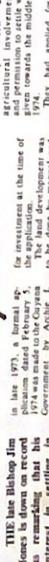
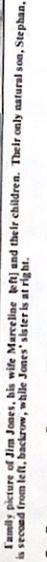
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## From a bark cottage to a 100-

## Jonestown—how successful an experiment?

BY STEPHAN JONES

Hawthorne, New Jersey

Stephan Jones

is the son of Jim Jones.

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## THE NIGHT A



Jim Jones lies dead from a shot through the head by a shotgun. Below him, his wife Marceline, 38, grieves over him.



The mass of bodies at Jonestown, they lived, together they died.

## CULT DIED



## People's Temple planned

### mass exodus to U.S.S.R.

EVEN while the Jonesites were not working out, they blamed the failure of the People's Temple Mission of the People's Temple was falling down on a map of the capital city of Sacramento. The leadership of the Jonesites had come to the conclusion that their Guyana experiment was

Guyana Jim Jones himself chose in March 1971, and written privately to the C.I.A. and SIS, the British equivalent of a Russian agent, that he was no longer a communist. Our movement was not a cult, he said. We were not a religion. We were a social organization. And other movement leaders, such as socialist experiment with all the setbacks of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, thought that the U.S.S.R. was the best possible

TURN TO PAGE 26



TWO female members of the cult dead from poison in Jones' house.

Scene of the Jonestown drab.

COLD bloodedly shot down as she attempted to escape Jonestown, Patricia Parker lies dead on the floor Kaliuna airport

AN American serviceman moves and grasps at some of the 314 bodies which lie and contortures and goes to Jonestown to prepare for airlift back to US



It was the last assignment for San Francisco Examiner photographer Greg Robinson.



BODIES of Jonestown residents sprawled next to some of the arms discovered by security forces at command.

PAPER cups some still containing the poison brew, and injection needles used to administer the deadly liquid.

















BY  
MOHAMED  
HAMALUDIN

It still hurts Tim Carter very much to recall the final moments he spent with his young wife and baby son two weeks ago.

His voice would falter, he would pause and be visibly fighting to hold back tears.

"When I saw my wife, she was kneeling on the ground and she was holding our son and I saw tears flowing down her cheeks.

"I don't know, I can't imagine, what was going through her head. I came up to her and looked down and said, 'my son is dead'.

"I leaned over and hugged her and said to her I love you so much. I love you. I love you. I love you. I love you", he said.

Seconds later, Gloria Carter went into convulsions and toppled over to lie next to the body of their 18-month-old child.

They were two more victims of the madness that was Jonestown on the night of November 18, last, when 909 members of the People's Temple Christian Church perished in a mass suicide pact, shortly after American Congressman Leo Ryan, three American newsmen and a woman Temple follower were shot dead at the Port Kaituma airstrip a short distance away.

**JUNGLE JAUNT**  
Mr. Ryan led a fact-finding mission to probe charges against the probe led by Jim Jones, who died with his followers.

Tim Carter 30, was at the Jonestown settlement, 120 miles from here, when the macabre death plan was executed, as was his brother Mike 20, and another Temple survivor, Mike Prokes 31.

The bespectacled Mike Carter lost his wife Jocelyn 20, and their 15-month-old daughter, and the Carters lost their sister Terry.

Prokes lost his adopted son Randy, aged 3.

The three men were destined to be linked in the final moments of the tragedy, having been asked, according to them to take the communes estimated half million dollars (US) with "two to three" notes to the Soviet Embassy in Georgetown.

They made their way to Port Kaituma, through the jungle trail, as hundreds were dying back in the settlement carved out of the forest in four years of hard toil.

There they were met by a policeman and taken into custody, and the following day they were helping the authorities identify the bodies of 900 of their co-religionists.

The three men are now lodged together in a hotel room in Georgetown assisting, with other survivors, in the unravelling of the enigma that was Jonestown.

It all began for Tim Carter 1973, when he quit the life of a "Hippie" to join the Temple in San Francisco.

"I was looking for something that was socially progressive, something constructive, and People's Temple seemed to be the answer", he said. He came to Guyana and was Customs and Community Relations Officer.

His brother, Mike, was in the state of Idaho with his father, and going to school, while his wife and child were already members of the Temple. He eventually convinced his dad to let him join and later moved to Guyana.

He was radio operator and electronics expert at the commune.



Crime Chief Skip Roberts interviewing Tim Carter left, and his brother Mike at Jonestown. The Carters were given a substantial sum of money by Jones' Mistress and told to take it to the Embassy. Documents found indicate that she meant the Russian Embassy in Georgetown.

## Role as money-runners saved them

Prokes set out originally to do an expose on the Temple during his work as a reporter with Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) station in California, and ended up quitting his job to join the sect because he had found "something good".

He moved to Guyana and became Press Secretary and Supplies Officer.

Clean shaven, apparently refreshed, and relaxing in their hotel room when not besieged by newsmen and television cameras, the Carter brothers and Prokes continue to ponder over the organisation of which they were members.

"I don't know how history will judge Jim Jones. What happened was grotesque, totally unnecessary and a waste", Tim Carter said.

But the story of People's Temple is such a complex one, so many different variables involved, leading to this final act of insanity", he added.

Prokes felt that the Temple genuinely tried to create an egalitarian community, but that Jim Jones was pushed by a "conspiracy" to destroy him and his organisation.

Communication with the outside was not good, and the life-line with the world was the radio set into which sometimes people had to shout above heavy static, he said.

It was this "Isolation of Jonestown" that was one of the main weaknesses of Jim Jones jungle utopia, said Mike Carter.

This agreed that they had heard of the "sensory deprivation" treatment of a few Temple members, but had not witnessed any example of it.

"Jones so isolated himself that he lost his perspective", added Tim Carter.

But there was a time when the commune was a thriving bustling settlement of active people, none of whom expected to die, the three men said.

It was this "structure" of the commune, and violence was the last and not the first resort, he said.

All physical violence in the commune however, ceased about four months ago, Mike Carter added.

They agreed that they had heard of the "sensory deprivation" treatment of a few Temple members, but had not witnessed any example of it.

This practice involved putting a "violent" person in a huge box in the ground, so as to deprive him of sensory perception and so to "reprogramme" him out of it.

"It is a form of

psychotherapy.

When it is used in mental institutions, it is called psychotherapy.

"There is 60,000 board feet of lumber now lying on the Port Kaituma dock. You don't order 60,000 feet of lumber if you are going to die", Tim Carter said.

The commune had 50 cottages, each housing seven couples, and the plan was to build enough cottages so that there could be two couples to each, starting with another 150 new buildings.

The three men are unanimous in their defense of the Temple against charges of malpractices, such as extortion and beatings.

**VIOLENCE**  
"Many of them were fabrications, others were exaggerations" said Prokes, of the allegations.

Tim Carter said there had been beatings but even Jones allowed himself to be whipped, while on other occasions he prevented beatings when others demanded such.

This was part of the "structure" of the commune, and violence was the last and not the first resort, he said.

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When it is used in mental institutions, it is called psychotherapy.

When it is used in Jonestown, it is called an underground prison and a horror chamber", Tim Carter said.

The three men argued over whether "brainwashing" can be used to describe what took place at the commune, in the sense that, according to Tim Carter, "even the American media goes in for brainwashing".

Tim Carter is convinced that it was brainwashing for an evil purpose, looking back on it.

"Look what happened in the end", he said.

Prokes agreed that the commune members could have been pushed to the point where they were willing to kill themselves as a final act of defiance.

"That's what they did, the ones who did it voluntarily", he said.

"I won't call it mass suicide. I would call it mass murder", Tim Carter said.

"I wouldn't have let my son die. I wouldn't have had to shoot me, put a bullet through my head. They would have had to force me, hold me down.

"You don't spend 7 million dollars (US) on a project, a model community, and then kill yourself. There's nothing in the world that would justify it", he added.

Tim Carter is one of four Vietnam veterans who belonged to the Temple. He, Odel Rhodes, and Robert Paul survived. Don Fitch died, he said.

He agreed that his military training may have helped him survive the disaster at Jonestown.

Like most survivors of the

tragedy, the Carters and Prokes agreed that the visit of Congressman Ryan marked the beginning of the end.

A message reached the commune on the Friday, November 17, that Mr. Ryan and his party were at the airport and would be going to the settlement whether Jonestown liked it or not, Tim Carter said.

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volved. People were standing there in shock hardly believing. There was a very heavy emotional current running through Jonestown that afternoon", he said.

Secondly, an unusually heavy storm gathered over the area, kicking up dust everywhere, even inside the pavilion, our main meeting place (around which the bodies of the suicide victims were later found).

"The storm contributed to a kind of weird vibrations", Tim Carter said.

Thirdly, an attempt was made on the life of Congressman Ryan who was planning to spend a second night in the commune. The assailant was identified by the Carters and Prokes, and others, as Don Sly, a Temple member for a dozen years, and known to be reserved.

Tim Carter felt he "may have been ordered" to act, while Prokes felt that he might have acted on his own.

### RESCUE

Some two dozen persons jumped to rescue the Congressman who was shouting "get the knife from him, get the knife from him". It was decided that Mr. Ryan should leave immediately, and an American embassy official would remain.

Even with the attack on Ryan's life, the Carters and Prokes felt Jonestown could have survived. According to them, the Congressman was pleased at what he saw and would have been satisfied even if half the members wanted to leave.

After the attack and the departure of the visitors for the airstrip, Mrs. Jones got on the loudspeaker and asked everyone to go to their cottages.

"By this time people were in quite a state of shock. People were not even talking. It was very quiet. I went back to my cottage and was with my husband when he died.

"While we were there, they called everybody to report to the pavilion. They didn't say, alert, alert!"

"Everybody went to the pavilion. I don't think people knew they were going to die. When I left, my wife went to the nursery to get some diapers for our son.

"If you know you are going to die, you are not going to get diapers", Tim Carter said.

Before the meeting at the pavilion began, a girl, Shirley Smith, had "flipped out", dancing and screaming "I'm gonna be a freedom fighter", Tim Carter said.

"She had totally lost her mind. I could hardly recognise her at all, her whole face had changed.

### FEAR

"At that point I think you could have cut the fear" he said.

Jones held a conference with his wife, Temple lawyers Mark Lane and Charles Garry (who stayed after the Congressman's visit), and at this point the three men said that they found themselves out of the picture because they were directed to take the money out of the commune.

The Carters felt they were selected because they happened to be the first ones noticed, while Prokes felt that with his media background, he was never really regarded as an insider and so would not be expected to die.

But they still had some time to get a feel of the atmosphere in the commune in its dying minutes.

"People cried, I had the feeling that the place was falling apart. I saw two lines of people, mothers holding their babies who were crying. There were bodies on the ground, children crying", Tim Carter said.

Then he saw his wife, and after that his one thought was to get away.

Not many made it like him.

## Link with the Russians

Timofeyev said that he feels that the risk for Jim's life if he came to town might only be 10%, but it is not worth taking; he felt verbal assurances are not enough, regarding negative press, he said that if former members have turned against the church, he would like to know why they have changed - he has the never seen anything like our **punk paper** in Capitalist society, it is totally correct/ often papers have something wrong in their politics but not this one.

it would help if we had material showing concrete support of people like Angela Davis, (they already have Kahn's letter, Carlton Goodlett's etc, Vivian Holloman) - regarding the need for exodus, quick transference of money/ he doesn't see the need for such a situation developing right away, not within a year at least - regarding a possible delegation going to the USSR, he said it was a possibility that could help, no problem getting visas at any time, but when asked if it would be possible to arrange meetings with officials, he said that would have to be coordinated and might take a little bit of time / he is waiting for response back from Moscow to the letter he sent to Moscow a week ago with our requests - he said that it was a difficult thing to arrange (exodus), but when I cried and said "it would be very painful for the door to be shut against children", we adults don't much matter so much but we need safety for our children, he said that the USSR had taken in 5000 Spanish children (from Spain) and had been taken care of and then returned later to Spain/ so he felt it was worth pursuing.

This extract from a report of a visit by top executives of People's Temple to the USSR Embassy in Georgetown was found at Jonestown after the disaster.