

Carters hope to return to U.S. within 10 days

Tim and Michael Carter, sons of a Garden City man, hope to return to the United States in a week to 10 days, Tim Carter said Tuesday in a telephone interview from a Georgetown, Guyana, hotel.

Carter, 30, said he and his brother Michael, 20, thought they would be among 15 Peoples Temple members allowed to leave Guyana on Monday, but when the list was issued their names were not on it.

The two sons of Garden City widower Mike Carter are among survivors of the Nov. 19 mass murder-suicide of 911 cult members in the village of Jonestown.

"It worried us," he said, "because both

official and unofficial sources said we would be allowed to leave after we testified at the inquest" being conducted by the Guyanese government into the Jonestown massacre.

"We gave our testimony last weekend ... but we have been told we still have to stay. We don't know why, because another witness was allowed to go."

He said they probably will be released when the inquest is over. "They are trying to decide if it was murder or suicide," he said.

The Carters told authorities they were

excused from the suicide ritual at Jonestown because they were ordered to take a suitcase full of money to the Soviet embassy in Georgetown as a final bequest from Rev. Jim Jones, a self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist and leader of the cult.

Carter said the U.S. embassy in Georgetown already had issued passports to him and his brother and will pay their bills at the Park Hotel. They have been staying at the hotel since the tragedy, in which both lost their wives and children. Their 24-year-old sister Terri and her family also died.

He expressed surprise that many Peoples Temple survivors released by the Guyanese were being picked up by members of the temple's mother church in San Francisco and were staying at houses the cult owns in the city.

"I don't plan to have anything more to do with Peoples Temple," Carter said angrily. "I can't believe that those people are still depending on it. I'd just like to get back to Boise."

Carter said he was concerned about reports that he and his brother probably would be interrogated by the FBI or other

law enforcement authorities as soon as they landed in the United States.

"I want to come home but I don't know what's going to happen to us back there," he said. "Reporters here say a lot of strange things have been written about us in the press. They've mentioned murder and all sorts of things. But we did nothing wrong."

"The pain is still there," Carter said, referring to the mass murder-suicides. "It still makes no sense. The question about why it happened looms larger in my mind today than it did a month ago when it all happened."

