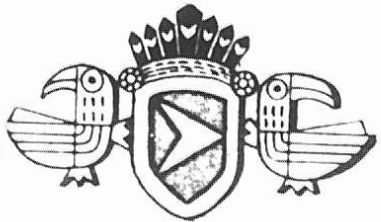


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SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO PEOPLES OF U.S.A. AND RELATIVES OF DECEASED

Dr. REID REPORTS TO NATION ON JONESTOWN DISASTER ...



DEPUTY Prime Minister Cde. P.A. Reid reads out his statement in Parliament yesterday. On his right is Economic Development Minister Desmond Hoyte

GOVERNMENT recognises the "unprecedented magnitude" of the Jonestown tragedy and will continue to do everything possible to carry out its obvious responsibilities, Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Ptolemy Reid has said:

He was at the time reporting to the nation on the "Jonestown Disaster" at yesterday's sitting of the National Assembly. At the time when the People's Temple had applied for lease of the land in the North West District, Dr. Reid was Minister of Agriculture. He held the same portfolio when the lease was granted.

In his five-page statement Dr. Reid, who is also Minister of National Development, also announced that a "diligent and intensive" search for survivors of last Saturday's tragedy was

being maintained and that the police were pursuing their investigations which were likely to lead to the instituting of other charges "in the very near future", regarding breaches of the law.

He said the government and people of Guyana deeply regretted the tragedy and sympathised with the government and people of the United States of America and, in particular, the sorrowing relatives of Congressman Ryan, and the newsmen who were shot and killed at the Port Kaituma Airstrip, and members of the People's Temple who have died.

Dr. Reid in his statement said:

On Friday, 17th November, Congressman

Ryan and a team of journalists, together with a group representing concerned relatives made arrangements to visit Jonestown in the North West District. The original plan was to go and return on Friday, 17th November.

"However, once in the North West District at Jonestown it seems as though plans were changed and Congressman Ryan and his team overnights in the North West area. From reports some slept in Jonestown and others slept in areas nearby.

On the evening of Saturday, 18th November, things seemed to have happened swiftly, so swiftly that one gets the impression that many of the things acted out were pre-planned or pre-arranged. Reports suggested three (3) things happened before the departure of Congressman Ryan that are relevant to the whole incident.

(1) That Congressman Ryan expressed satisfaction with conditions and things he saw at Jonestown.

(2) That some persons

asked Congressman Ryan to leave Jonestown, and

(3) That there was an incident in which a member of the Temple menaced Congressman Ryan.

At the airstrip at Port Kaituma six (6) miles from Jonestown when the Congressman and party were about to leave, shooting broke out. Congressman Ryan and three reporters were killed, as well as an American citizen, former resident of Jonestown.

Several other American citizens were injured. One of the more seriously injured persons were conveyed that very evening to the Georgetown Hospital where a medical team was on standby and the injured persons received immediate attention, the others were flown out the following day.

The Government and people of Guyana deeply regret this tragedy and sympathise with the Government and people of the United States of America and, in particular, the sorrowing relatives of Congressman Ryan, the newsmen, members of the

MASS SUICIDE TOLL NOW REACHES 780

THE apparent mystery surrounding the whereabouts of hundreds of members of

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