

WHO KILLED JIM JONES?

The Coroner's inquest into the November 18 Jonestown Disaster has ended. The jurors have concluded, among other things, that James Warren Jones was murdered by person or persons unknown.

They have concluded too, that Jones and persons unknown were criminally responsible for the death — by acute cyanide poisoning — of over 900 members of the Peoples Temple who died at their Jonestown Agricultural settlement on November 18 last.

But now that the six-day inquest has ended, the mystery shrouding the Jonestown disaster — the tragedy that has no parallel — seems to have deepened if anything. And, somewhere in the midst of it all, I smell a rat — nay, a few rats.

If Jim Jones was indeed murdered as the five-member mixed jury's verdict suggests, then, who killed Jim Jones?

The weapon which was used to kill him — a .38 revolver — was found some 20 to 25 yards from his body. The bullet that killed him entered what is considered a suicide area for a right-handed person — directly above the right ear, — and Jones was said to be a right-handed person. There was also evidence that the bullet was fired at close range.

According to Director of Public Prosecution, Cde E. A. "Mannie" Ramao, who led the evidence at the inquest, it was just not possible for someone to commit suicide then throw away the gun used some 20 to 25 yards. That seems a very valid argument.

So, who killed Jim Jones? Why did the person or persons kill him? Did Jones ask one of his faithfuls to fire the fatal shot?

There are several other

questions which remain unanswered: Did he commit suicide but someone on the afternoon or night of the incident subsequently removed the gun from near to his body? If he was indeed murdered was it because some of his followers thought he intended betraying them by not committing suicide himself?

Or, was it because there was a coup at Jonestown on the afternoon of November 18 — either because of the large sums of money at the settlement or because of political intrigue bearing in mind that Jones had allegedly planned taking his followers to the Soviet Union.

The latter — the possible staging of a coup — might sound a bit far-fetched but it seems a real possibility. In other words, we might have been overlooking a real possibility ever since news broke about the Jonestown disaster.

STETHOSCOPES

During the inquest one witness told about Dr. Larry Schacht sending for stethoscopes. If the doctor knew that the Flavour-Aid beverage which was being used was laced with cyanide and that its use would have resulted in nothing else but death, what the hell did he want with stethoscopes at that stage of the proceedings?

Was it that he thought the exercise was just another drill — another of Jones' gimmicks — but became alarmed when he saw the effect the beverage was having on those who drank it? Or, was it that he wanted to make sure that no one was lying in the fields and playing dead? Or, was the witness lying under oath?

VALIUM

Add to all this the fact that

Government Senior Bacteriologist and Pathologist, Dr Leslie Mootoo had told the inquest that one report he had received from the Government Analyst showed that a bottle found at Jonestown and which was labelled "Valium", also contained cyanide. Who added the cyanide to the valium and why?

Then take the case of Ann Elizabeth Moore 24, Jones' Personal nurse. Her body was found in Jones' home with the entire left side of the head blasted off and one of the most powerful handguns manufactured in the world — a Ruger 357 Magnum — splattered with blood about one foot away.

There was also a diary at her side which she had allegedly written and signed. Members of the Peoples Temple, she allegedly wrote, "died because you would not let us live in peace".

The contents of the diary are consistent with what one expects in a suicide note and the jury has concluded that she committed suicide. Their verdict however, contrasts sharply with evidence given by Dr. Mootoo.

According to Dr. Mootoo — and he was at pains to stress this — Ann Elizabeth Moore was murdered because she could not have inflicted the injury herself.

BAFFLES

Another feature which baffles the mind is this. Why would one penniless survivor who said he witnessed most of the proceedings on the evening of November 18 before "smarting" the armed guards and making good his escape into the bushes, want to return to the scene the same night — about three hours after escaping —



JIM JONES

By

JOHN GIBSON

Gibson

to, of all things, look for his passport?

Yet another baffling feature is this: If the witness wasn't lying, why was he and his other mate aboard the "Cudjoe" told to take the boat from Port Kaituma to Kumaka, on the morning of the 18th, spend the night there and return to Port Kaituma the next morning

hearing in mind they had no business to transact at Kumaka?

The Cudjoe was arrested at Kumaka by members of the GDF on the night of the 18th so that it didn't return to Port Kaituma according to instructions.

On the same night three Temple members carrying a large sum of money, their own passports, and the passports of the Temple's Financial Secretary Maria Katsaris, and Annie J. McGowan who, on behalf of

the Peoples Temple bequeathed some \$18 million (Guyana) to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, were arrested at Port Kaituma.

At the time of their arrest they were by the Police Station and not far from the waterfront where the Cudjoe was usually moored.

Were they supposed to rendezvous with the Cudjoe?

There are sure more questions than answers about the November 18, Jonestown Disaster.

SQUIRREL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES COMPANY LIMITED

PLANT PLANT PLANT

GROW:- Hot Peppers, Corn, Guavas, Five-Finger, Tomatoes, Sweet Peppers, Tamarind, Bitter Cassava.

YOU GROW — We'll buy and use —

SQUIRREL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES CO. LTD.
8 West Ruimveldt.

FARM AND BECOME A REAL BIG MAN,

GROW MORE AND SAVE FOR YOURSELF AND GUYANA IN THE PROCESS.

Phone: 71031

VACANCY
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OF THE
ONS