



KSFO/560

950 California Street
San Francisco, California 94108
(415) 398-5600

JULIA HARE
Director of Community Affairs

August 10, 1977

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
Government Building
Brickdam Georgetown
Guyana, South America

Dear Honorable Forbes Burnham:

The Reverend Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple have recently come under what appears to be undue fire from certain quarters.

I have visited Reverend Jones' church and was struck by the spirit of the services, the compassion and goodwill displayed, the apparent good work, the use of Afro-American culture as I have never seen it before. Outside the church in the community at large, I have seen young black men and women members of the church, once crippled by feelings of inferiority, now walk with pride and dignity and a positive bearing with a clear sense of purpose.

Reverend Jones' baptism by the fire of reactionary wrath was of course predictable. Long before Socrates and Jesus Christ to Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy, men and women have been persecuted and gone to their deaths whenever they show promise of organizing people and society--successfully--for human good. Today, as we now know from COINTELPRO and the confessions of the FBI, the CIA and the Watergate burglars, persecution incorporates official and scientific prosecution whose method is infiltration.

Members of the black bourgeoisie complain that his membership is predominantly black and in the black community where he should have no place. Nor would he, if the black ministers were not failing their roles. The thing that most came home to me on my visit to the church was a sense of the failure of black church leadership. Reverend Jones has provided them a model of their mission in life, God's mandate to them, their call to preach. In terms of cries

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Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
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that the temple operates with the heavy hand of discipline and financial demands on members, I can testify that I have witnessed in churches throughout the country, including an Anniversary celebration of the president of a major black denomination where he stood and milked contributions by the hundreds of dollars each from elderly women pensioners and widows. And there is far more than I could say out of my experience and observations since early childhood, variously as member, organist and minister of music, the latter for the oldest black church in the United States in Petersburg, Virginia.

The Reverend Ike openly demands high pay from his followers and flaunts it. Why is there not an investigation and witchhunt of Reverend Ike?

When people speak of politics in church, I am reminded of Hemingway's remark in, I believe, A Farewell to Arms, that there is politics in all religion and religion in all politics.

When I interviewed Reverend Jones for my hour-long radio program, I noted the public response was overwhelming and positive. Why are those who resist freedom for Afro-Americans so bent on nailing Jim Jones to the cross?

Sincerely,

Julia Hare
JULIA HARE

bcc: Michael Prokes
Marsha Jones

D-1-L-6(4)

San Francisco, CA
August 9, 1977

Honorable Prime Minister L.F.S. Burnham
Co-operative Republic of Guyana
Public Buildings
Brickdam
Georgetown, Guyana

Honorable Prime Minister:

Because I care for and believe very deeply in my Pastor, Bishop Jim Jones; because I care about our people both here and in Guyana; and because I wholeheartedly believe in socialism and respect the efforts of your government to create a just, co-operative society in Guyana, I feel responsible to convey to you the nature of the persecution our church is currently facing here in the United States.

In the midst of a terribly polarized society, Bishop Jones has shown, in the most personal and in the most profound terms, that as Americans we can live together as brothers, as sisters, as comrades. Despite all our differences of race and ethnic identity, economic stratification, or philosophic point of view, we have seen by virtue of Bishop Jones' ministry that we can indeed work together for the common good. This example has had a tremendous impact on the communities where our congregations are located, and throughout the state and nation as a whole. The more successful we become and the more people we convince of the benefits of the co-operative point of view, the more opposition from conservative elements mounts as a consequence. The criticism being leveled against Bishop Jones here is superficial, trumped-up, and tailor made by conservative and reactionary elements to try to discredit his character and work and to prejudice the public against the viable socialist alternative Peoples Temple represents.

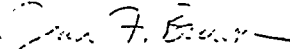
But I feel you should know, too, that the people here are not fooled by the Mc Carthy-like reaction which the media have become the vehicles for. There has been an overwhelming outpouring of support and encouragement from leaders, both political and religious, and the people who know and respect Bishop Jones for his sterling reputation as a champion of economic and social justice. Floods of letters, phone calls, and eloquent public statements have been coming in attesting to the good works he has been known for over many years and through many struggles. Just in the past two weeks leaders who have stood in defense of Bishop Jones include: California State Assemblyman Willie Brown; Rev. Cecil Williams; Civil rights activist and recent participant in the World Conference Against Apartheid, Racism, and Colonialism held in Lisbon, Yvonne Golden; California State Assemblyman Art Agnos; the Lieutenant Governor of California, Hon. Mervyn Dymally; American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks; Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, President of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association; and many more. People who believe in and are struggling for progressive change in American society are unified in defense of Bishop Jones. The precedents for this kind of attack range from Mc Carthyism in the 1950's to campaigns against Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights struggle in the 1960's, to the systematic castration of

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the Black Panther Party in the early 1970's. Viewed in this historical context, the present attacks on an eminent socialist leader come as no surprise.

There are no words to express the gratitude which we, as members of Peoples Temple, feel toward you and your cabinet of enlightened, progressive ministers, for the assistance you have given us. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana represents to us the chance to live life according to the principles of sharing and equality which we have come to treasure. Whatever tactics are used to try to "de-stabilize" our efforts, we will not be swayed from our purpose. We feel a deep solidarity with you and the Guyanese people in this struggle.

Sincerely yours,



Jean F. Brown
Peoples Temple

D-1-L-6(6)

San Francisco Community College District

August 9, 1977

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
Government Building
Brickdam
Georgetown, Guyana
South America

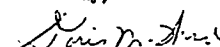
Dear Prime Minister Burnham:

I am writing in behalf of Rev. James Jones who I have known for a number of years, as far back as the late 1950s in Indianapolis, Indiana, when he and his wife were active in the civil rights struggle and where he also served as the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission.

Jim Jones has always been a forthright man who has dedicated his life to the eradication of racism, discrimination, prejudice, and any form of human suffering and bondage. He has great belief in the equality of mankind and that all men and women must share in the great fruits and wealth of this nation. To this end, he has vigorously supported social programs to bring about these results, and in like fashion, he has opposed those programs and pieces of legislation that he knew would further enslave and encapsulate people. In the areas of health care, old age assistance, housing, education, etc., Jim Jones has consistently struck a note for "the little people." In these matters, he has been as active and concerned here in San Francisco as he was in Indianapolis, Indiana.

If I were to select a single achievement of his many accomplishments as a manifestation of his commitment to social betterment, I would point to his adoption of children who represent different races and ethnic groups. Few of us mortals have that kind of commitment. I salute the Rev. James Jones.

Sincerely,



Doris M. Ward
Vice President, Governing Board



D-1-L-6(7)

33 Gough Street • San Francisco, California 94103 • (415) 864-3200



DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING 100 LARSEN STREET - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

August 9, 1977

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
Government Buildings
Brickham
Georgetown, Guyana
South America

Dear Mr. Burnham:

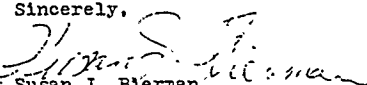
I am writing to express my admiration for the work that Rev. Jim Jones, his wife, and his congregation at Peoples' Temple are doing in San Francisco, California.

Just recently I had the opportunity to visit the Temple, and to see the people, all ages, all colors, finding guidance and encouragement there. In the last two or three years it has been wonderful to watch Rev. Jones and his people in their quest for a better life for people. Unhappily, our city and our country are full of people in terrible physical as well as spiritual need.

Personally, I do most of my own work in the political field, and Rev. Jones has been most helpful on occasion with his moral support and encouragement. His project in your country is an exciting one to us, and we will await further word as to its development.

Thank you and your country for all the help you have given Rev. Jones and his people. We will try to do the same here.

Sincerely,


Susan J. Blerman
Member
City Planning Commission

D-1-L-6(8)

*Original mailed
8/12/77*

850 Bryant Street, Room 421
San Francisco, CA 94103

Copy

August 11, 1977

Prime Minister L.F.S. Burnham
Office of the Prime Minister
Brickdam
Georgetown, Guyana

Dear Prime Minister Burnham:

This letter is in reference to Rev. Jim Jones whom I have known for about two years. Prior to that time I knew of his work in the San Francisco Community.

Rev. Jones has been very supportive of local programs designed to rehabilitate ex-offenders. As the past Director of the Police Community Relations Unit of the San Francisco Police Department, I personally know that members of his organization were instrumental in abating one of San Francisco's most serious social problems existing in the Fillmore District of our City.

Sincerely,

Rodney E. Williams
RODNEY E. WILLIAMS

REW:vn

D-1-L-6 (9)

Ridgewood Ranch,
Willits,
California

Hon. Forbes Burnham:

We understand from the Rev. Jim Jones, his wife Marcie and their associates, that you are doing a very fine work for your people and that they support your government wholeheartedly.

You are indeed fortunate to have such a friend as the Rev. Jones. We have known him for quite a number of years and have found him to be unfailingly loyal and fearless in the Christian pursuit of economic and racial equality, social justice and the dignity of the individual human being.

Our very best wishes to you in your efforts to make a better life for your people. In so doing, you are setting a pattern for others to follow. "What blesses one, blesses all."

Sincerely,

Forbes Burnham
Jim Jones
Marcie Jones
Rev. Jim Jones
Rev. Jim Jones
Rev. Jim Jones
Rev. Jim Jones
Rev. Jim Jones

OUR VISION--A world free from want, with liberty and justice for all, and with understanding love toward God and one another. This day's work is dedicated to the end that we may prove that it is more blessed to give than to receive and that it is true that "giving does not impoverish nor does withholding enrich".

D-1-L-6(10)



national organization for women

August 11, 1977

Primenminister , Guyana, South America

Honorable Sir;

I am writing this letter in support of the Peoples Temple and Rev. Jim Jones. It is important that you hear from us who are community leaders in San Francisco. I am the President of the San Francisco National Organization For Women as well as serving two terms as a National Board Member. I have also been a school Administrator over the past twenty years. Currently I am running for the Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco.

There is no doubt in my mind when I say that the Rev. Jones is a person of integrity and commitment. I have seen the work of the Temple. Poor people are fed there. I have seen the Health Clinic of the Temple. Sick people are cared for there. I have seen drug victims being helped back to reality at the Temple. I have seen a creative and innovative school in operation at the Temple. I have seen and know personally some of the very disturbed youth that the Temple has literally saved from certain self destruction.

Do not listen to those who wish to stop the Temple's activities whether it be here in San Francisco or in our country. Give it your continued support along with the major leaders of San Francisco. Rev. Jones is a great leader with a great mission. He truly cares and shares with oppressed humans. I am ready to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Shelley Fernandez

Shelley Fernandez.
President, S.F. N.O.W.

D-1-L-6(11)

BANCROFT AVENUE

LYNN E. HODGES, Pastor



BAPTIST CHURCH

1395 BANCROFT AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO, CA. 94577
(415) 463-1811

August 8, 1977

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
Government Buildings
Brickdam
Georgetown, Guyana

Honorable Sir:

I have been asked to write a letter concerning the status of the People's Temple in San Francisco and its pastor, the Rev. Jim Jones. I am glad to do this because of my deep respect for these splendid people.

For the past 5 years I served as the Executive Minister of the Northern California Ecumenical Council and the San Francisco Council of Churches before recently becoming the pastor of this parish and retaining only part of the responsibilities that are related to ecumenical work. During this time I have had many opportunities to work with and observe Jim Jones and his people. In every instance they displayed an enormous amount of integrity and commitment to the poor and the oppressed. I can only wish that all churches did as much to help those who need help.

As this letter is written, part of the media in the San Francisco area is attacking the credibility of People's Temple and their pastor. They are quoting some disgruntled former members who were asked to leave the congregation or who chose to leave because of differences of opinion. I have seen no evidence that the accusations being made are true and I do not expect any proof to be forthcoming. At this point it would appear that a conspiracy has formed for the purpose of hurting the ministry of People's Temple.

I have heard good things about the agricultural project that People's Temple is associated with in your country. And I have heard Rev. Jones speak very highly of Guyana on several occasions. I hope that this relationship shall continue to flourish and be beneficial to all.

Very sincerely yours,

Lynn E. Hodges, pastor

D-1-L-6(12)

COPY

18 August, 1977

Honorable Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
Office of the Prime Minister
Public Buildings
Bridgetown
Georgetown, Guyana

Dear honorable Prime Minister:

I understand one of our people has written to you recently and apprised you of the situation Rev. Jim Jones and Peoples Temple are facing in the U.S. Some of us thought we should assure you again that we will never speak publicly about U.S. governmental policy, and we will always speak supportively about Guyana and cooperative socialism.

With deep regret, we also feel we must say that, from our experiences, it is necessary to be very, very careful regarding possible contact with reactionary elements in the States. We've been told by people from the highest level, almost in fear and trembling, to be very concerned about what is going on. The hostility and rancor there are immense, with only the two exceptions of significance, (President Carter and Andrew Young) possibly representing change.

It distresses us immensely, not just for our own sake, to hear these people tell us that all of our problems began with our support for the government of Guyana. People who have caused the most trouble have been real provocateurs, a Trotskyite element given to anarchistic radicalism and terrorism. They have really been too much to behold.

We have many affidavits from people both inside and outside our own organization about each of the individuals involved. We don't wish to destroy anyone's reputation -- these were taken simply as a defense against provocateurs. Our attorney said we needed them. They are available to you if you ever need them. We are terrorized that the U.S. might do something to betray Guyana, which we have grown to love immensely.

It is ironic that reactionary newspapers are using terrorist radicals! A very strange marriage, to be sure. They want to trigger outright confrontation in the public mind with people who uphold socialism as a way of life. Andrew Young was brazen enough to state his views, and you know what an attack he has come under, despite his statements supportive of the U.S. The television media has been particularly involved, and always paints Guyana in the ugliest terms.

Obviously, the attack is based on the ideals that you have established and intend to live by and that we have likewise espoused and practiced, because it never started until our support for Guyana was made public. We certainly don't believe any of the allegations against Guyana, as referred to by Lt. Governor Symally in his letter of 3 August.

It is good, in a way, that all this has happened. It has only made us more determined to stand in life or death with the goals of socialism. We pledge this.

We are enclosing some additional letters from our supporters which were forwarded to us by our comrades in the States. We could actually show you a suitcase full

D-1-L-6(13)

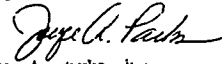
of such letters, but I'm just sending samples from the more sensitive and influential community leaders -- and may have missed some of those. These samples even show support by people who do not necessarily have the same political view as ours.

I'm also enclosing for your interest an article which appeared in the Chicago Tribune. It was brought to our attention by someone who recognized its relevance to our present situation. Considering that Dr. King committed his last hours speaking out against the exploitation of the Third World, with particular reference to the Vietnam fiasco, it is not surprising that the dramatization discussed in this article misrepresented his commitment, which was played down by the play-it-safe liberals.

On the positive side, we thought you might like to know that the wife of Guyana's Ambassador to the United Nations brought a beautiful multi-racial child to us in Jonestown. It had practically expired from physical need. She was greatly concerned for its future, and thought Jonestown would be a good place for it. We are happy to be adding this child and other Guyanese children to our beautiful rainbow family of so many adopted children, and will give them the best possible home.

This is really our function here, not getting involved in political matters, which we leave entirely up to you. We will however, try to keep you informed as we hear things that seem important to you.

Cooperatively yours,


Joyce A. Parks, M.D.
Medical Practitioner

cc: Dr. Stoeny Reid
Cabinet Ministers
Ministers of State

D-1-L-6 (14)

October 25, 1977

Hon. Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
Public Buildings
Brickdam, Stabroek
Georgetown

Dear Prime Minister Burnham:

I write to you today on several subjects. I have not been writing as frequently as before because I know you are very pressed of late, and also because apparently in the matter of my son, John, your hands are tied to a certain extent.

I am currently advised both by my counsel and by the Foreign Minister that I cannot come into Georgetown, because the arrest order against me has yet to be lifted. Indeed, when I discussed an upcoming meeting planned for myself, Mervin Dymally, and Andrew Young with the Foreign Minister, he said he would arrange for my safe passage through the capital and out of the country, because the arrest order is still outstanding. If it were not for the fact that, as I told you on previous occasions, a distinguished member of your cabinet warned me that his word is not to be counted upon, I would go to that meeting. Mr. Codette left the clear impression that the Foreign Minister is actually against our project, when he referred to the vote taken on our coming here. So, it is hard to know what to believe.

The other day one of our comrades was speaking to a Minister in the Cabinet, a very forthright person whose word we have never found to falter and a good spokesman for your government. One thing he said, however, caused much consternation among those few who are aware of the comment, and I am sure would trigger the same unhappy reaction among all in our community were they appraised of it. He stated unequivocally that we would just have to let the courts follow their course regarding John--there would be no intervention on our behalf. The clear indication was that there would be no intervention, even if it did not go well for us in court. I am frankly puzzled because

D.M. 8(8)