This statement and the attached can be read to press conference. They can be combined, maybe abbreviated.

April 14, 1978

STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 'press conferences' staged this past week in front of our churches represent the latest in a long series of preposterous attacks against Jim Jones and Peoples Temple.

--In the attacks this week, relatives of peoples Temple members living in Guyana have been assembled to parrot vicious

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FLASH-UPDATE! April 15, 1978 FLASH-UPDATE!

THREAT TO SEND MERCENARIES AGAINST PEOPLES TEMPLE

INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN A SELF-STYLED GROUP OF 'CONCERNED RELATIVES' HAVE NOW PUBLICLY THREATENED TO HIRE MERCENARIES TO ILLEGALLY ENTER GUYANA TO USE WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY, INCLUDING ARMED ATTACKS (THEIR SPECIALTY) TO CAPTURE MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE COMMUNITY. THESE THREATS WERE MADE PUBLIC TODAY IN A CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER.

PEOPLES TEMPLE HAS ALERTED THE PRESIDENT, THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, AND APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS IN GUYANA.

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slanders and lies. They are using the ploy of being 'concerned' about members of their families who have chosen to live at the Peoples Temple co-operative community in Guyana, and are making false statements about the community.

--The United States Consulate in Guyana, which is thoroughly familiar with the successful agricultural co-operative, has stated that it will be glad to answer any inquiries about Peoples Temple Agricultural Mission, and we refer any interested parties to their offices for an objective account.

--Unwilling to accept the decision of people to lead their own lives according to their conscience and convictions, the group's attempts represent a clear attack on individual rights and liberties.

-- Those who have orchestrated the campaign are resondible for circulating the lies, and for over a year have been trying

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to recruit people to become involved in the massive smear campaign, which is only the outer edge of a politically-motivated conspiracy to destroy Peoples Temple that has been operating on many levels.

--The individuals for whom these people profess such 'concern' are happy in Guyana, where they are leading wholesome, productive, and rewarding lives. They have utterly rejected the false overtures of 'concern' on the part of their relatives. They will be making public statements in the very near future.

There are many hundreds of people --both members and non-members-- who have relatives living here in Guyana, and who are most approving and supportive of their choice to do so, and with whom they have regular contact, both by mail and by radio-telephone communications. They are free to visit them, as is anyone who is not involved in these underhanded efforts to slander and abuse our community and the people who have decided to come here out of their own free will and conscience, and a desire to serve and live this co-operative lifestyle.

The group of people who have conspired to propagate lies about conditions at this community (and, as we now have evidence, are plotting to create an international incident) include persons who have been opposed to Peoples Temple for a number of reasons, though they are especially upset that members of their families have chosen to live co-operatively and have rejected their lifestyle, values, and abusive patterns. Several of them, as affadavits and public statements of their relatives here in Guyana will clearly attest, have exhibited mental and physical cruelty to them, have proven uncaring, insensitive, or domineering and possessive, and are acting and talking out of totally despicable and, in some cases, psychopathic motives.

The individuals who assembled on the steps of Peoples Temple to denounce us this past week are a sordid group which includes people who, among other things:

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--have tried to blackmail us;
--have embezzled funds from the church while infiltrating

US for a number of years;

--have been involved in the manufacture of ammunition, and have advocated mad, ridiculous schemes of violence. They have operated in the classic manner of agents-provocateurs, trying to influence younger members of our organization (which is non-violent and devoted to achieving social justice) and persuade them to take reckless courses of violence and terrorism.

Included in the group are people who have used and trafficked in drugs; who have molested children, including their own (and in one case the very 'child' who he is trying to 'get back' -- who is now twenty-four years old and wants no part of him); who have operated book-making and credit-card rackets, forged checks, and stolen money from the collective in the amount of several thousand dollars; who have abused and actually treated black members of the church as house-slaves; who have engaged in fraud; who have exhibited a series of highly unstable personal patterns in their private lives (e.g., sadism).

The Temple possesses affadavits on these individuals, sworn by the people who they are supposedly so 'concerned; about. If challeneged in a court of law, we will make them public.

THESE PEOPLE, AGAIN, ARE ORGANIZERS, COLLABORATERS, AND RECRUITS, BOTH PAID AND VOLUNTEER, IN A CONSPIRACY THAT HAS TRIED EVERY TRICK INTTHE BOOK TO (in the words of one of them) "DESTROY" US.

Conspiring with other individuals, they have lied about us, getting the worst type of smear and innuendo-filled articles in the press. They have sent out agents to bribe people to lie about us. They have employed the divisive and dirty-trick methods of COINTELPRO that have been used repeatedly to crush a number of so-called 'radical' and 'black-power' groups.

Not only have they lied viciously about this challenging, successful community -- they have tried a host of underhanded schemes: sabotaging our communications, instigating bogus 'investigations' that have never turned up anything while getting headline

HH-1 - F3

media coverage, creating an aura of 'guilt' about us. They have attempted to cut off pensions to elderly people in our church, specifically those residing at our agricultural project/community here in Guyana, in an effort to actually starve out children and old people.

They have tried to use the State Department, Congressional offices, the U.S. Consulate, everyone they could think of to sabotage our work in Guyana, described by visitors as a model of co-operation, earning the praises of all who have seein what has been accom lished here. They have circulated lies about us everywhere, planted smear articles about us in newspapers and magazines, try ng to sow division within=our organization and within the progressive community by calling us 'dangerous radicals.' Theyhhave tried to send undervover agents into Guyana to snatch away children from their rightful homes and parents, and have tried to pay off and bribe officials to help them. Now comes their latest threat: to flout the law completely and send in hired armed killers to kidnap people.

They do not like Jim Jones because of his leadership and organizational abilities, and because his group has provided a much more fulfilling, principled and rewarding life than they ever could. Some, who were members of Peoples Temple, are unable to face their own failure to live up to principles of co-operation, sharing, and commitment to social justice -- and their only recourse is to try to discredit and destroy ammanaand an organization who continue to reflect ideals and practices that remind them of their own failures. Many of these people are parents who failed their children miserably, and are bitter because their children have sought and found a better road. So it is not surprising that they are only too willing to join in the chorus of those who are trying to tear down Peoples Temple.

We have provided the media with details of the conspiracy against us, how it has operated on deeper levels than what the public will hear in the rantings of these liars and malcontents.

HH-1-F4

We are putting the entire group on notice: Jim Jones and Peoples Temple are not about to roll over and play dead for the plotters and the collaborators and false witnesses they have pulled together by hook and crook to help them. We willcontinue to fight this conspiracy --and expose it-- EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. We are several thousand strong; we stand on our record of human service, and we will never abandon our beliefs. Moreover, we will continue to practice them.

Persecution is nothing new to us. Jim Jones has= been through it for 25 years, since the McCarthy period. We have gone through arsonits, racists, hired assassins, rock-throwers, smear-job artists in the media, red-baiters, and interminable harassment. It all started when Jim Hones, in the middle of a racist midwestern city, brought blacks and whites together in his church, strated talking about racial and economic justice...and doing something about it.

If anyone wants more documentation, the full story, we will provide it. And it's quite a story. We have already exposed the criminal types (some with Nazi connections) behind this conspiracy, the orchestraters of it all, the behind-the-scenes plotting. AND WE WILL EXPOSE IT AGAIN AND AGAIN, even though we don't know if anyone in the establishment media will have the guts to print it.

The stage-play in front of our church last week was an exercize in trying to divert and fool the public, by creating a smokescreen of lies and slanders in order to keep the mind of the public off the criminal activities (such as hiring mercenaries) that they are involved in. But it wont work, in the final analysis. Actually, we know that their circus 'press conference' was, ultimately, an exercize in futility, because the anti-Temple anti-Jim Jones cabal is up against a powerful force that they cannot possibly bring down: the force of a movement based on economic and social justice that has behind it the power of the people united.

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Here are three examples of how the media campaign to discredit Jim Jones and Peoples Temple works. In each case, the Temple is subtly accused, through implication and innuendo, of certain crimes -- in these cases, burglary, influence-peddling, and murder. In all three cases, after official investigations are carried out, it is discovered that not only is the Peoples Temple completely innocent of any wrongdoing, but that there had not been any wrongdoing in the first place.

The first case concerns the 'break in' at New West magazine, in which a file on Peoples Temple was supposedly 'disturbed.' Without any evidence, and on the flimsiest of suppositions, a front-page story is manufactured that is easily seen to be a publicity stunt to drum up interest in a forthcoming article on Peoples Temple. The Temple itself called for a thorough investigation of the supposed 'break in' from the San Francisco Police Chief. The investigation concluded that there was no break in at all. The entire case raises great suspicion about the integrity of New West and the newspapers that participated in building this non-event into a front-page story which also received coverage in many newspapers around the state.

Front-page headlines in San Francisco papers attempted to imply that the Peoples Temple was 'dominating' a school, or had a 'bloc' of students enrolled by some sort of 'deal.' Innuendo-filled stories made the Temple again seem to be a disreputable power-wielding organization. However, two weeks later, an article far from the front pages reported on an 'official school department investigation' which stated flatly that there were no deals, no special treatment, no favoritism. In fact, the people making the original charges to that effect 'disavowed their statements.'

A third situation involved articles in the Press Democrat and New West magazine implying that Peoples Temple was responsible for two 'suicides,' and that one of them may not have been a suicide. The Implication was that the Temple had taken the money of these people and then did away with them. The articles, if carefully read, can be seen to be based on heresay and allegations -- no facts. But when a coroner's jury was convened to probe one of the suicides, the findings of suicide were upheld.

The pattern in all three cases is the same: guilt by innuendo and

HH-1-G1

implication and heresay in the media: and innocence after official, factual investigation.

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Chronicle

★★★★ SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1977

Burglary Breaks-In at Magazine

By George Draper

The office of New West magazine at 625 Pacific avenue was burglarized during the night Thursday and, although nothing was taken, editors reported that a file involving People's Temple and the Rev. Jim Jones had been "disturbed."

Contributing editor Phil Tracy told officers it appeared to him that one of the files had been "jammed back in" the filing cabinet.

Tracy speculated that a story

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BURGLARY

From Page 1

the magazine is preparing to publish by Chronicle reporter Marshall Kilduff about People's Temple at 1859 Geary boulevard could have been taken out of the file and photographed.

Mike Prokes, associate minister of People's Temple, said the Temple had called the office of Police Chief Charles Gain and asked for a thorough investigation of the incident.

"We'd like to know what's behind this because it's not us," Prokes said.

Reached last night, the Rev. Mr. Jones said People's Temple did not participate "in any such activity. Certainly People's Temple would have had not one thing to gain by this."

"Let us all take polygraph tests, voice prints," he added. "Myself, every minister, the membership would be most happy to take a test."

The Rev. Mr. Jones said that "if it (the burglary) ws done, unquestionably there are some provocateurs who want to, I guess, stop genuine social reformers, to discredit our programs."

"How is it," Jones asked rhetorically, "that someone knows exactly where to go (in the New West offices) to find papers that pertain to one particular church unless they have someone inside which we do not."

People's Temple, which claims a congregation of 20,000 statewide, has become known in recent years for its charitable donations to neighborhood, senior citizen and church groups.

Tracy said the New West office was closed at 7 p.m. Thursday and that when a secretary came to work at 9 a.m. yesterday she noticed that one of the second story windows had been opened.

Tracy arrived a few minutes later and called police. He said he immediately checked the files on the People's Temple article "because this was the only sensitive story we're working on."

Tracy emphasized that he had no idea who could have disturbed the file, and he was not accusing anyone.

He said, however, there have been "controversy, contention and lots of phone calls" since it became known that the magazine, owned by Australian millionaire Rupert Murdoch, was planning to publish the story.

Tracy said the magazine had been receiving phone calls and letters since late May concerning the yet to be printed article about People's Temple.

At least 12 of the magazine's advertisers had called New West to say they had received phone calls complaining that "we were about to print a biased article about People's Temple and the Rev. Jones," Tracy said.

Police officer Michael Duffy, who made out the original police report under the heading of "attempted burglary and a suspicious occurrence," did not mention that the document allegedly disturbed in the New West files concerned the People's Temple or the Rev. Mr. Jones.

Subsequently, Chief Gain's office called Tracy and asked whether the disturbed files did in fact involve the Rev. Mr. Jones and the Temple. Tracy said they did.

Chief Gain later requested a copy of the police report and ordered a full investigation by the burglary detail.

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3 STAR EDITION
PAGE 1 → BAR
FRI, JUNE 17, 1977

Calls harass editor:

New West is burglarized

New West magazine was burglarized last night and files on a story about the Rev. Jim Jones and his Peoples Temple were disturbed, editors of the magazine reported to police today.

Police were investigating the reported break-in.

It was also learned New West's Northern California editor, Rosalie Muller Wright, has moved her two children from their home to an undisclosed location after receiving intimidating phone calls about the story.

Wright and other New West editors were emphatic that the magazine will print the story, although publication has been delayed — for editorial reasons only — from next Monday until at least July 4.

"There is no way in the world we're not printing that story," Wright said. "If they think they can intimidate me, they're crazy.

She said that even if she could be scared off, other editors in the Rupert Murdoch publishing empire, which owns the Los Angeles-based magazine, would not be.

"Rupert Murdoch has millions and he's committed to a fair story," Wright said. "We're putting them on notice: It doesn't work."

Reached in New York City, Rev. Jones angrily denied that anyone connected with Peoples Temple was involved either in the reported burglary or the phone calls to Wright.

"Is someone trying to set up Peoples Temple?" he demanded. "What possible reason would a church have which has a reputation of doing nothing but good for people?"

He said when he heard of calls being made to the offices of New West he told his people to "quit calling, quit writing — it's only aggravating the situation."

"No one (from my organization) is calling Mrs. Wright's home, and I'm terribly sorry and chagrined if someone else is doing it," he continued.

"I've had threats on my life, too. This is a two-way street."

Jones suggested that there was a conspiracy aimed at his church that could account for the reported actions.

"Either a criminal element is upset with us because we're getting something done, or militants are trying to push people off the

—See Back Page, Col. 5

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3- STAR EDITION
PAGE 1 → BACK
FRI, JUNE 17, 1

Magazine burglarized; calls harass editor

—From Page 1

brink in Peoples Temple that I have gotten out of a militant orientation and to work within the framework of society," he said.

Contributing editor Phil Tracy said a window in New West's second-floor office at 325 Pacific Ave. was forced open sometime after staff members left the office last night.

"Nothing was taken but files relating to the story on Peoples Temple were disturbed," Tracy said. "The file was in a certain order and the order was not the same when I came in this morning."

He said none of the other staffers had entered the unlocked file and no other files were disturbed.

Wright said she had received numerous phone calls in the past several days from persons refusing to identify themselves.

"Their whole game is more intimidation than threats," Wright said. "The first couple of calls were fishing expeditions. They were looking for me. Then when they figured out they had found me, I'd get the calls and they wouldn't say anything.

"Then the last two, they said, 'Don't do it.' I assume they meant not to publish the story. Now that's not a threat ... it's more intimidation. That's their modus operandi."

The still-unpublished article by San Francisco Chronicle reporter Marshall Kilduff has been the focus of an intense and apparently well-orchestrated effort to convince New West editors not to print it.

At first, the editors reported, the calls were low key and even informational. Coming from such persons as Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, Delancey Street founder John Maher and business magnate Cyril Magnin, the calls stressed the Rev. Jones' good works in the community.

Later, the calls and letters included demands that the article be canceled and made vague allusions to serious consequences if it wasn't.

Some of the calls also attacked writer Kilduff's personal integrity and professional credibility.

Among the letters was one from Jones' attorney, Fred Furth, setting down a list of conditions for an interview by Tracy with the charismatic church leader.

The conditions included that Jones be shown a final draft of the interview before publication — normally an unacceptable practice in the industry. New West editors refused and the interview was canceled.

Jones and his devoted following, reported at 9,000 in San Francisco and 20,000 statewide, have emerged a powerful political force in San Francisco.

Though church spokesmen deny that portrayal, Temple members have been extremely active in a variety of recent campaigns and Jones was named by Mayor Moscone as president of the Housing Authority after he threw his considerable weight behind Moscone in his bid for mayor.

HH-1-G5

Gain orders probe of New West burglary

Police Chief Charles Gain, acting on a request by Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones, has ordered a full investigation of a reported burglary at offices of New West magazine.

The Rev. Jones called Gain from New York late yesterday after New West reporter-writer Phil Tracy reported a break-in, in which Tracy presumed the target was a manuscript of a story about Jones and his Peoples Temple.

Jones angrily denied that anyone connected with his church had anything to do with the break-in or "intimidating" telephone calls received at home by Rosalie Wright, New West's Northern California editor.

Patrolman Michael Duffy, who made a preliminary investigation, said a New West office window apparently was jimmied open and a bolt broken.

The window was alongside a fire escape on the second story of a building at 325 Pacific Ave.

"As far as I could determine," Duffy said, "no entrance to the office was made. However, I can't say any entrance wasn't made."

Duffy said Tracy told him the office window was partially open when he entered the room yesterday morning.

The officer went on to quote Tracy as saying he did not know if anything had been taken, but said a cabinet filing case seemed to have been "disturbed."

That filing case, according to Tracy, contained the unpublished manuscript of a story about Jones and the activities of Peoples Temple, written by Chronicle reporter Marshall Kilduff.

Why the intruder or intruders did not take the manuscript was a puzzling element in the case. Tracy, according to Duffy, said he thinks the intruders might have photographed it.

Editor Wright left home with her two children Thursday night after receiving another of a series of phone calls from someone who said: "Don't do it."

She said she presumed the caller meant New West should not publish the Jones-Peoples Temple article.

"We won't be intimidated," Wright said.

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S.F. EXAMINER—Page 3
☆ Thurs., June 30, 1977

Case still open

Police say no break-in at New West

A reported break-in at the Pacific Avenue offices of New West magazine here remained classified by police today as "an attempted burglary."

The burglary attempt occurred on the night of June 16 and Inspector Gerard Evans, after conducting a follow-up investigation, reported:

"It is the conclusion of the investigating officer that, because of the lack of physical evidence, entry was not made to the New West office between 6:30 p.m. June 16 and 9 a.m. June 17."

Evans recommended "that the classification of this remain as an attempted burglary."

His report was submitted to Police Chief Charles Gain by Capt. John Mahoney, commanding officer of the property crimes division of the inspectors' bureau.

Gain, who had ordered the investigation at the request of Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones, made public a report on the investigation yesterday.

New West staffer Phil Tracy told Patrolman Michael Duffy of Central Station, who made the preliminary investigation, that folders containing material on Jones appeared to be an inch or so higher in the file cabinet than the other folders.

Presumably, according to Tracy, the Jones material was the objective of the reported break-in attempt.

Rosalie Wright, the magazine's Northern California editor, said an article on Jones will be published "in the near future."

On and since the night of the break-in attempt, she said, she has received several harassing phone calls, the last being late last Thursday night.

On that occasion, she said, her phone rang five times at three-minute intervals, with the caller each time hanging up without speaking.

Wright raised the question of why the premises weren't dusted for fingerprints until the Monday after the burglary report, but said she would have no further comment until the Jones article is published.

Temple staff member Harriet Tropp said that in view of the police finding that there was no evidence of an actual break-in "fears that 'the temple would be misrepresented in a forthcoming article are more than justified."

She added that "serious questions arise as to the motives of those who sought publicity for an incident which proved to be entirely without substantiation."

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6-30-77

P. 1

Cops Dubious of Magazine Break-in

After inspecting the alleged crime scene and interviewing employees, San Francisco police investigators said yesterday they don't believe the office of New West magazine on Pacific avenue was burglarized on the night of June 16.

The magazine's editors claimed their office had been broken into that night, and although nothing was taken, they said one of the files had been "jammed back" into the filing cabinet.

Contributing editor Phil Tracy said a secretary had found a file on People's Temple, 1859 Geary boulevard, sticking out about one inch. He speculated the file might have been removed, photographed, and stuck back in a hurry.

The file concerned a story thatthe magazine is preparing to publish by Chronicle Reporter Marshall Kilduff about the Fillmore district church and its influential leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

Police Captain John A. Mahoney, commander of the burglary

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MAGAZINE

From Page 1

detail's property crimes division, reported yesterday that his officers, including fingerprint experts and criminologists, could find no specific evidence of a break-in at the office on the second floor.

The report — which Mahoney said was based on a "thorough investigation of the crime scene" — concurred with an original police report of the incident by officer Michael Duffy, filed on the day after the break-in claims were made.

Duffy had reported that he found no evidence of entry into the office.

The investigation of the supposed break-in centered on a window that editor Tracy said had been forced open by the alleged intruder.

In investigating the window theory, police found that one of the magazine's writers, Jon Carroll, had locked himself out of the office a few days before when he left to go to the bathroom.

That was on June 13. Carroll's fingerprints were the only ones police found on the window, according to Mahoney's report.

When Carroll was interviewed by police, he said he had climbed down the fire escape from the third floor and gotten back inside the office by opening an unlocked window and climbing through it.

The editors still claimed yesterday the identical method of entry was used by the alleged burglar. They said the sill and an old bolt-type lock showed evidence of pry marks, and that secretary Cathy Wayland found the window open when she came to work Friday morning.

The police interpreted the pry marks as the result, possibly, of someone having "tampered" with the window before the time a new lock was installed at the behest of the editors after they felt a burglary had occurred.

New West's Northern California editor, Rosalie Mulier Wright, took exception yesterday to the police department's findings, saying:

"It was sloppy police work.

"I am not surprised the police did not find any evidence for a burglary that took place on Thursday night, because they didn't even take fingerprints until the following Monday. It's real sloppy police work, in fact, it's ludicrous," she said.

Mahoney said his investigators didn't send crime lab personnel to the scene until Monday because officer Duffy, in his original report, said he found not real evidence of a break-in.

A spokesperson for People's Temple, Harriet Tropp, said that since police concluded there was no break-in, "it is obvious that the fears of our members and many community leaders that People's Temple would be misrepresented in the forthcoming article are more than justified."

MEN and WOMEN by Calman



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Police interpreted the pry marks as the result, possibly, of someone having "tampered" with the window. The police noted certain marks of damage on the old lock on the window.

Following the purported burglary, a new lock was installed.

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The San Francisco Progress — City North

Vol. 58 No. 91 — 562 — Published Wednesday, Friday and Sunday — 15 Cents — Wednesday Aug 3, 1977

Temple-dominated city school

By E. Cahill Maloney

The San Francisco Unified School District provided the Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple with that amounted to its own temple high school.

Opportunity II High was used as an educational base for Temple affiliated young people during the 1976-77 school year.

Although the alternative high school has a long waiting list, more than 130 Temple teenagers were enrolled at the school at one time last September, counsellor - teacher Ron Cabral said.

"Some sort of deal was arranged between school coordinator Yvonne Golden and the Rev. Jones," he said.

Ena Spackman, another opportunity teacher, confirmed that Opportunity II was the Temple school. "Eighty per cent of the kids who go to Opportunity are Temple kids," she said.

Enrollment figures could not be confirmed early this week since central office personnel didn't seem aware of the arrangement.

Ms. Golden, who said she had read recent press reports about the temple, would not discuss the student make - up of her school with The Progress.

"We do have temple students at Opportunity," Ms. Golden said. "But I think all information about the students should come directly from the district."

The school's area superintendent Lane DeLara did not know about the temple connection as of Monday. The principal of record — Ben Fonsworth — was on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Teachers at opportunity didn't seem to feel it was unusual to deal with student problems through temple counselors in lieu of parents.

"Most of the teachers were delighted with this new type of student," Cabral said. "People actually showed up for classes."

Since Opportunity II was established in 1971 attendance usually ran less than one - half of enrollment, Cabral explained.

If all 300 students carried on the rolls at the old building at 160 South Van Ness ever showed up, there would not have been any place to put them, he continued. It was assumed that the actual teaching load on any given day would be about half the enrollment.

Last year temple kids dominated the school, enabling it to field a baseball team, improving achievement scores and swelling the ranks of "parent participation."

Teachers said temple youths stuck together, were sometimes pulled out of school for long trips and were "secretive" about the temple.

Cabral said a lot of them had been living in Redwood Valley, Ukiah and Los Angeles before enrolling at Opportunity.

He identified temple member Tim Carter as the contact for any problems that arose in connection with students. "They seemed to be under control of church counselors," Cabral said.

He did not know the exact nature of the counseling arrangement, saying Ms. Golden "sort of wanted to take care of everything to do with the temple."

Ms. Spackman confirmed that any school problems were handled through counselors. She had not found, that unusual, since RAP, New Horizons and other youth groups often assign counselors to act as liaisons between the school and the home.

Temple youngsters were generally well behaved, Ms. Spackman said. By way of example she described a rare occasion when a purse was missing. Other temple students brought the issue to the school coordinator and insisted the culprit be reprimanded.

"Nothing was stolen from the purse and I wanted to discuss it as a private

(Continued on Page 11)

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Temple dominated city school

(Continued from Page 1)

matter, but it was taken out of my hands," Ms. Spackman said.

The children were very aware of the Rev. Jones and when he appeared at parent meetings and such they would applaud enthusiastically, the teachers said.

Two of the Rev. Jones' own boys were pulled out of the school in April to travel abroad by Mrs. Marcelyn Jones.

"Losing Tim Jones was a real blow to our baseball team. He was a natural pitcher and an all - around American boy type. I had hated to see him go."

Buses picked the young people up after school and sometimes took them on trips, Cabral said, but no - one ever wanted to talk about their travels in class.

"After a trip the kids didn't seem like they had a good time. It was kind of mysterious where they went or what they did," he noted.

Efforts to get youngsters to speak about their temple experience in class usually met with the response that one would have to come to service to find out about the temple.

Asked what it was about Jones that made them so devoted, one young woman said, "Jim saved me from prostitution and the evils of the world," according to Cabral. The other youngsters responded, right on.

Linda Mertle, an 18 - year - old who had been a temple member until eight months ago, is one of Cabral's former students.

It was her reference to "the temple school" that prompted Progress inquiries into Opportunity. The temple itself is not registered as a high school.

This April Peoples Temple did file a private elementary school application with the school district under the title Christian Life School. The school address is 1859 Geary, the same as the temple's.

According to affidavit the school health and fire license are pending." School officers are listed as Lee Ingram of 217 Webster St., Sharon Amos of 1664 Page St., and Pat Grunnet of 1662 Page St.

The Pate Street addresses are two of those identified by Linda Mertle as communal residences for small children.

Mertle and other former temple members said minors lived in the temple itself as well as in communal flats and apartments in the Fillmore area.

The State Department of Health Licensing division said it has been assured no children live on the temple premises. The Department of Social Services reports it has not licensed any Temple group homes.

Cabral, who visited the temple once in connection with an Opportunity II school newspaper project, said some students appeared to be living in military type dorms upstairs in the temple while others lived in houses nearby.

Cabral was searched before he entered the temple and was kept under close watch the whole time he was there, he said.

"A lot of their (students') folks seemed to be in Redwood Valley or Los Angeles," Cabral said. "But the kids didn't seem like they were in any kind of bondage."

The temple youths all knew about Guyana and talked about it Cabral said. He knows of no youngster, other than Jones' own two boys, who was pulled out of school before the end of term to go to the temple's South American mission retreat.

Elmer Mertle, one - time temple photographer, said the Guyana mission is not the lush jungle paradise Jones describes to temple members.

"Nothing grows down there unless you plant it," Mertle said. The temple settlement consists of one building, sort of a large mountain cabin. What cleared land there is consists of thin soil, he said.

Pretty pictures showed the temple members were taken on a Guyana government agricultural research project, Mertle said.

S.F. Progress 8-3 77

Peoples Temple 'Bloc' at S.F. School

By Marshall Kilduff

High School students belonging to the Peoples Temple, which is led by the controversial Rev. Jim Jones, apparently obtained special treatment allowing them to attend a single public high school in large numbers, it was learned yesterday. About 100 students from the temple enrolled last September at Opportunity II High School at 160 South Van Ness, according to teacher-counselor Ron Cabral.

The school, which has an enrollment limit of 300 students, normall has a waiting list of several hundred students seeking to take advantage of an alternate-style curriculum designed for problem students'

"These temple students came in as a group, and everyone here knew it was part of an arrangement with Yvonne Golden Who runs things here," Cabral said'

Golden, who is coordinator of the school, said the temple students were admitted according to "procedures that we have established

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SCHOOL

From Page 1

here. They were screened by our own students."

Golden said student applications are made in person and a prospective pupil is then interviewed by a group of current students at the school.

"There is no special criteria other than the student's desire to attend Opportunity II High School," she said.

She declined to discuss her school's enrollment figures or the school backgrounds of the temple students.

Asked if she thought it unusual for a third of her students to be from a single source, Golden said, "I regard such speculation as confidential."

Cabral said the temple students were in many ways model pupils. As a group they were not repeatedly absent— a particular problem for some Opportunity students— and their reading levels Were high enough to boost Opportunity to the top rank of larger city high schools.

"Jim Jones even came by and gave me $200 for baseball uniforms. There were 11 temple kids the 15 guys I had on the baseball team, and they came to each practice," Cabral said.

But Cabral and other teachers noticed other aspects of temple student life. Often the pupils were picked up after the school day on private buses owned by the temple.

"Also it was clear that Jim Jones was something special in their lives' They were always talking about him," Cabral said.

"We have had a lot of heavy people come and talk to the students—Angela Davis, Margo St. James, Bill Graham. Af But nobody got the ovatoion that he (Jones didfrom those kids. When he came on, it was like God himself," Cabral said.

On another occasion, Cabral and two non-temple students went to the church's headquarters at 1859 Geary boulevard to have a school paper printed on the timple's printing press.

"All three of us were searched as we came in.It really blew my mind. Then afterwards they were very friendly while we talked about layout and photos," Cabral said."

Jones has become a focus of controversy since being portrayed in New West magazine as the near-total leader of a religious group with strong political connections.

The magazine story said that, according to former members, temple followers were beaten for minor infractions of church rules, recruits were won over with faked healings and real and personal property was turned over to the church.

Jones has remained at the church's agricultural mission in Guyana since the story was published two weeks ago. Temple leaders here have declined to discuss the story, except to say that the charges are not true.

In addition to the staff at Opportunity II, other local educators have felt the effects of the temple style.

Robert Cole, the headmaster of Drew College Preparatory School, a private high school at 2991 California street, said the church reneged on a tuition agreement involving 13 students in 1975.

He said temple officials "pressured" him into dropping a fee of $4269 when the students left the school at the Christmas break in that year and decided to transfer to Washington High School for the rest of the year.

Cole said the church had signed an agreement to pay each student's tuition of $1400 per year. The agreement called for a penalty fee that totaled $4269 if the students decided to leave before the school year was up.

"We'd hired teachers for the year and turned down other students who might have attended for the year," Cole said.

"But when I told them this, they said they were a charitable group and could not afford the penalty. When I still refused, they sent over a delegation of their members and I got five or six calls at home that night," he said.

Cole said he first refused to turn over grade transcripts for the 13 students, but then relented.

"The temple said they'd take me to court. We didn't have enough money for an attorney, and I felt we'd bitten off more than we could chew."

Cole said he then gave the transcripts to a temple member, "but the whole thing left a sour taste."

A temple spokesman could not be reached for comment on the allegations.

HH-1-G11

Thurs., Aug. 18, 1977 ★ San Francisco Chronicle

Temple Students Favoritism Denied

Students belonging to the controversial Peoples Temple were not given special admission treatment to Opportunity II High School although they did make up nearly a third of the enrollment, an official school department investigation concluded yesterday.

The special inquiry was touched off when reports in the press two weeks ago indicated a large number of high school students who were followers of the Rev. Jim Jones had enrolled at the experimental school last September.

Several teachers and counselors at Opportunity II estimated that 100 to 150 church students were admitted through a special arrangement with Yvonne S. Golden, the school's coordinator and registrar, who is an admirer of the Rev. Mr. Jones.

But John Cleveland, the district associate superintendent for instruction, said the three teachers who made the charges to newspapers later disavowed their statements.

"When we talked to them with an attorney in the room here, they told us they had been misquoted," Cleveland said.

Cleveland said there was no way to tell from enrollment documents whether a student was a member of the church.

But he said Golden told him the temple students numbered "about 80" out of the school's total enrollment of 300.

Cleveland said there was no waiting list when the students applied last September, and no other students were displaced by the large-scale arrival of the temple contingent.

"As far as I can tell, the main reason for the (temple) students attending Opportunity was the fact that Rev. Jones admired the way Yvonne Golden ran the school," Cleveland said.

HH-1-G12

"But his credibility in the public mind suffered even further damage, and the media has not been of a mind to rectify their wanton impugning of Lt. Governor (George) Brown's character. On the contrary, a Black journalist with the Denver Post has remarked that stories written of a positive nature about Lt. Governor Brown are summarily killed, suggesting that the management policy of the Post is to destroy him not only through negative coverage, but by the absence of coverage when coverage might show him in an unadvantageous light.

"The depravity of the media, the disregard for human life, the ludicrous proportions of their pettiness, the panorama of their sordid, racist ;witchhunts that send reporters scurrying after imaginary demons, and editorial writers stalking goblins in the dark was fully portrayed in this indicent."

- Mary R. Warner
The DIlemma of Black Politics

HH-1-913

Mysterious suicides may be linked to Peoples Temple

By STEVE HART
P.D. Bureau

UKIAH — A pair of mysterious suicides may be linked to Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple.

The Press Democrat has also learned about irregularities in records of property gifts to the church.

The Peoples Temple is being investigated by state and local authorities, following accusations of former church members.

Ex-followers told of beatings, phony "miracle" cures, sexual misconduct and financial swindles.

Rev. Jones, an influential political figure, moved the church to San Francisco from its headquarters in Redwood Valley about a year ago.

The pastor, at the church's farm in South America, has not responded to charges by former members.

The latest accusations involve the 1970 suicide of Maxine Harpe, a Ukiah resident and the mother of three young children. Mrs. Harpe was found hanged in the garage of her home on Talmage Road in early April of that year.

Mrs. Harpe's cousin, Glennelle Marsh of Ukiah, said the Harpe home was later "ransacked" by members of the Peoples Temple.

"They'd gone through it," she told The Press Democrat.

Mrs. Marsh said the three Harpe children were placed in Temple foster homes following the suicide. Relatives objected, "but they had a hard time getting them out," Mrs. Marsh said.

The children are now living with their father.

At the time, the Peoples Temple denied that Mrs. Harpe was ever a member of the church, according to her cousin. But Mrs. Marsh said the woman had been deeply involved in the Temple. About three weeks before her death, Mrs. Marsh called her cousin "but she didn't want to see me because she was too busy in the church."

Mrs. Marsh said the woman seemed depressed.

Ex-Temple member Danny Pietila said Mrs. Harpe was indeed a follower of Rev. Jones. Pietila and several other former members recalled hearing Jones predict the Harpe suicide, two weeks before it happened.

"He said that she would probably commit suicide," Pietila remarked.

According to a 1972 newspaper report, Mrs. Harpe left a suicide note, which read, "Call Jim. It's very important. . . not at home. Get here right away."

Former Jones followers said the house was ransacked to remove any belongings which would identify her with the Temple. Members were told not to attend Mrs. Harpe's funeral service, according to Temple dropouts.

Mrs. Harpe reportedly gave $1,000 to the church two weeks before her death.

Glennelle Marsh said her cousin was not the kind of person who would commit suicide. "I don't know how she could do it. She loved those children so much. I wonder if she was driven into a depression."

Mendocino County District Attorney Duncan James has referred the case to the state Attorney General's office, following inquiries by reporters.

New West magazine has also raised questions about the death of John Head, a 22-year-old Ukiahn who took his own life in 1975.

The magazine quotes Head's mother as saying that her son became friends with Tim Soten, former Mendocino County Deputy District Attorney and a top official of the People's Temple. According to New West, Head gave the Temple some $10,000 he received as the result of an accident.

The young man, who suffered mental

(Continued on Back Page)

Santa Rosa, CA
Press Democrat
(Cir. D. 55,071)
(Cir. Sun. 59,366)
AUG 6 1978

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9-7-11
1978-1-141

8-9-77

Suicides

(Continued from Page 1A)

problems, told his mother he planned to join the Temple in Los Angeles. About a month later, Head took his own life according to police reports.

New West called for an official probe of the Head suicide. The magazine said Head apparently called a neighbor the night before he died and said he was at the Temple "and nobody would bring him back and he had no money."

The Press Democrat has discovered irregularities in the records of property gifts to the church. Ex-followers claimed they were pressured to sign their homes over to the Peoples Temple. They said the property was often quickly resold to raise funds for Rev. Jones' projects.

Former member Elmer Mertle, who gave his home to the church, said he thought the property was being signed over to the Peoples Temple. But documents in the Mendocino County Recorder's office show that Mertle's house was transferred to a business partnership operated by top Temple officials.

The partnership, called Valley Enterprises, included Jones' wife Marceline, Stoen, and other church leaders. The property was later sold.

Records show months between the time church members signed the property transfers and the date of filing by the Peoples Temple.

Many of the documents were notarized by Stoen. But Mertle said he never appeared before Stoen, as sworn in the courthouse documents.

More than 30 homes and parcels were reported to have been signed over to the church. Viola Richardson, Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder, said she has no reason to probe the property transfers "as long as the documents are in order and the fees are paid."

The Temple is under investigation by the Mendocino County Social Services Department, however, following charges that public money to support youths and elderly people in Temple care homes is channeled into the church. Ex-members said care is substandard in the Temple homes, which are still operating in the Redwood Valley area.

Jones has also been accused of staging fake "healing" ceremonies and claiming to be God. Former members said they were beaten for such infractions as smoking, talking to outsiders or sleeping during Jones' all-day sermons.

Jones' attorney Charles Garry disputed the charges, and said the preacher will answer questions when he returns from Guyana. Garry said the Temple is considering a libel suit against New West.

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HH-1-G15

Ukiah, Ca.
Journal
(Cir. 5xW. 7,600)

TV station probes 7-year-old suicide

District Attorney Duncan James has been queried by a San Francisco television station as to whether there were any doubtful circumstances surrounding the death of Maxine Harpe, 30, on March 23, 1970.

Mrs. Harpe, a member of the Peoples Temple, was found hanging from a rafter of her garage on Foster Court in Talmage. According to the coroner's report, she had knotted a heavy duty cord around her throat then stood on a trunk. Death occurred at 1:30 a.m. that day and the body was discovered about seven hours later.

James has referred inquiries on the official suicide to a deputy attorney general in San Francisco since the attorney general's office has twice investigated the People's Temple and the official report in each case has indicated insufficient evidence that any criminal wrongdoing had taken place.

The inquiries from the television station and from the co-writer of a People's Temple "expose" in the Aug. 1 issue of New West magazine, a recently launched publication, are apparently the result of the magazine article which liberally quoted dissident former members of the People's Temple who were critical of the pastor, Jim Jones.

Jones, who is visiting a People's Temple youth facility in Guyama, South America, is suffering from a severe ear infection, according to Michael Prokes, assistant pastor. With Rev. Jones is Tim Stoen, former Mendocino County assistant district attorney, who is a strong supporter of and legal counsel for the church.

Prokes did not indicate as to when Rev. Jones, who has been described as a potent religious and political figure in San Francisco and Los Angeles, would return to California to answer his accusers.

HH-1-B14

Inquest in Death of Peoples Temple Man

Los Angeles

The circumstances surrounding the death of a 22-year old man associated with the Peoples Temple will be investigated by the Los Angeles county coroner's office, it was learned yesterday.

An inquest will be held on October 20 at the request of the local district attorney's office to clear several questions raised by an initial coroner's report of the death of John William Head, who reportedly leaped to his death on Oct. 19, 1975.

The case of Head had been highlighted in a New West story dealing with the controversial church and its strong-willed leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

In the magazine story printed in August, Head was portrayed as an emotionally unstable person who had turned over $10,000 in silver bullion to the church while he was living in Ukiah.

Head later moved to Los Angeles where he lived at a temple home, according to the magazine, and the night before his death he reportedly phoned a family neighbor in Ukiah to say he was upset with the church and was penniless.

After Head's body was fonnd, a coroner's report indicated he had died from a leap from a three-story warehouse, but in a later notation in the same document, said he was a "jumper from a bridge."

In addition the report said there were no scars on Head's body though his family claims there was ample evidence of scars on the man's right leg left by some 300 stitches resulting from a motorcycle accident.

Head also left a blood-soaked note, but coroner's officials did not attempt to have a laboratory process the message in order to learn its wording.

"It may turn out to be a suicide after all, but we want to learn why all these things weren't done," said Richard Hecht, a deputy district attorney who heads the bureau of special operations.

Our Correspondent

HH-1-917

San Francisco Chronicle 3
Fri., Oct. 21, 1977

Death by Suicide Finding Is Upheld

Los Angeles

The official description of death by suicide of a 22-year-old man associated with the Peoples Temple and its controversial leader Rev. Jim Jones was upheld by a coroner's jury in Los Angeles yesterday.

The jury had been called to consider several apparent discrepancies in the original report — by the coroner and police — on the death of John William Head, who leaped to his death on Oct. 19, 1975.

At the inquest, police and coroner's officials testified that a bloody scrap of paper was found in Head's pocket with the words "Peoples Temple," "Jones," and "John." But the officials said they could not decipher the rest of the message and declined to describe it as a suicide note.

In addition coroner's officials clarified the address where the body was found because the first report had listed two locations.

A coroner's spokeswoman also said that a long scar on Head's right leg was not mentioned in the first report because other means of identification were used.

The case of Head had been highlighted in a New West magazine article dealing with the church and its enigmatic leader.

Our Correspondent

HH-1-G18