

X-2-4-1  
(19)

### CHAPTER THREE

Treasury Department: Response to Peoples Temple Inquiry about David Conn and other apparent Treasury Department representatives' probes with regard to Peoples Temple.

After hearing that David Conn was in some way connected with the Treasury Department, Mr. Prokes wrote to that Department asking them what the facts were about any investigation that might involve Peoples Temple. The letters included here are the responses to our inquiries. Both Mr. Tropp and Mr. Prokes wrote letters of inquiry. Responses came from the Internal Revenue Service, the Treasury Department, and U.S. Customs Service.

In April, 1977, Rev. James Purifoy, a former member of Peoples Temple, reached Jim Jones by telephone in Guyana. He was calling because he had received a call from a person who said he worked for the Treasury Department and wanted to know anything Mr. Purifoy could remember about Jim Jones and Peoples Temple. Rev. Purifoy did not talk to the agent other than to say that he had nothing to say. Mr. Purifoy's address, as we last knew it, is 35 E. Santa Ana St., Fresno, California. His phone number is 227-8068. Following the

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letters included herein, is an affidavit of Sandra Bradshaw and Tom Adams, members of Peoples Temple who were present at Rev. Purifoy's home when he made the call to Jim Jones. They verify the fact that Rev. Purifoy did indeed call Jim Jones in Guyana and relate to him the account of his call from the Treasury Department agent.

(It might also be noted here that in the notes which Dennis Banks took during the meeting with David Conn, there is mention that "Grace (Stoen) had been visited by the Treasury agents.")



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

JUN 27 1977

REFER TO  
ADM-3:C

Mr. Richard D. Tropp  
Post Office Box 15157  
San Francisco, California  
94115

Dear Mr. Tropp:

Your letter dated April 20, 1977, refers to a letter written previously by a representative of the Peoples Temple to several governmental agencies indicating officials of the Peoples Temple were under some type of official "scrutiny". You have asked us to clarify what you term to be a "fishing expedition".

Although this office is unaware of such a letter being directed to this agency, we did receive a copy of a letter from Mr. Michael J. Prokes, addressed to the Internal Revenue Service, Washington, D.C. The letter mentions no activity or incidents involving the United States Customs Service.

We are unaware of any activity by Customs officials in this Region of the Customs Service which would be in the nature of a "fishing expedition" as discussed in your letter.

The Customs Service does have broad responsibility for enforcing many laws and regulations concerning the entry of merchandise and other items into this country, as well as the exportation of many items. Necessarily encompassed within this responsibility is the requirement to investigate any suspected violations of those laws.

I trust that this clarifies any concern that you might have with the functions of the Customs Service. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert N. Battard  
Regional Commissioner

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury (22)

District  
Director

620 Folsom St.  
San Francisco, Calif. 94107

Person to Contact:

Telephone Number:

Refer Reply to: EO:1

Date: JUN 10 1977

Mr. Michael J. Prokes  
Associate Minister  
Peoples Temple of the Disciples  
of Christ  
P.O. Box 15023  
San Francisco, CA 94115

Dear Sir:

Reference your letter of May 20, 1977, to Mr. Stan Long.

This office is not conducting an examination of your organization at this time.

If an examination is conducted in the future, it will be carried out under procedures that are in effect at that time.

It is recommended that if your organization is contacted by someone claiming to represent the Treasury Department that you ask them for Treasury Department credentials. All Internal Revenue Service employees are issued pocket commissions which will identify them as Treasury Department employees.

Sincerely,

ACTING

*Christina Wood*  
Chief, EP/EO Division

Address any reply to:

8-24-77  
Intelligence Division (23)  
P. O. Box 36050  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Internal Revenue Service**

Date: 5 MAY 1977  
I:WCL



Mr. Richard D. Tropp  
Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ  
P. O. Box 15157  
San Francisco, CA 94115

Dear Mr. Tropp:

Before we responded to your letter dated April 20, 1977, regarding any investigative action by the Internal Revenue Service concerning the Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ, a delegation from the Peoples Temple visited our office. The delegation was lead by Mr. Michael J. Prokes. Mr. Prokes spoke with Group Manager Paul H. Wall of our office.

It is my understanding that Reverend Prokes raised the same questions that are expressed in your letter. Group Manager Wall explained to the delegation the rules and regulations pertaining to the Freedom of Information Act. Subsequently, Group Manager Wall wrote to Reverend Prokes outlining the Freedom of Information Act procedures.

If you do not have convenient access to the material regarding the Freedom of Information Act procedures which was sent to Reverend Prokes, please advise, and I will send you the same material.

Very truly yours,

*William C. LaFollett*  
William C. LaFollett  
Assistant Chief, Intelligence Division

Department of the Treasury

X-2-4-1 (24)

**Internal Revenue Service**  
Washington, DC 20224

Date: MAY 5 1977 In reply refer to: E:EO:O:P



Reverend Michael J. Prokes  
Peoples Temple of the Disciples  
of Christ  
P. O. Box 15023  
San Francisco, California 94115

Dear Reverend Prokes:

Your Communication Dated: April 17, 1977

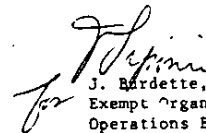
In re: Peoples Temple of the Disciples  
of Christ

Thank you for your recent communication.

The information you need is in the office of the Director at  
the address shown below. To give you better service, we have sent  
your communication to him and asked that he reply directly to you.

If you have any further questions about this matter, that  
office will be glad to help you.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. Bardette, Chief  
Exempt Organizations  
Operations Branch

Internal Revenue Service  
620 Folsom Street  
3rd Floor  
San Francisco, California 94107  
Attn: Chief, EP/EO Division

Address any reply to:

US Treasury Department

Intelligence Division  
P. O. Box 36050  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Internal Revenue Service

Date: In reply refer to:

5 MAY 1977

I-WCL

X-2-h-1 (25)

Mr. Michael J. Prokes  
Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ  
P. O. Box 15023  
San Francisco, CA 94115

C



Dear Reverend Prokes:

The copy of your letter dated April 17, 1977, addressed to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, has been referred to me for reply.

I understand that you and a delegation from the Peoples Temple visited our office on April 25, 1977 and discussed the questions raised in your letter with Group Manager Paul H. Wall of this office. I also understand that Group Manager Wall explained the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act to you, and later mailed you additional information regarding the Freedom of Information Act.

If, after your discussion with Group Manager Wall, you still desire additional information, any information that is releasable to authorized representatives of the Peoples Temple, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, will be released, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Very truly yours,

*William C. LaFollett*

William C. LaFollett  
Assistant Chief, Intelligence Division

**Internal Revenue Service**

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue  
Service Center

Western Region  
Fresno, California

P.O. Box 12966, Fresno, Calif. 93779

Person to Contact: Richard Zanarini

Telephone Number: (209) 488-6524

Refer Reply to: A:DO Disclosure

Date: May 16, 1977

Eugene Chaikin, Attorney-  
at-Law  
P.O. Box 15156  
San Francisco, CA 94115

Re: Timothy O. Stoen, Past Chairman of the  
Board of Peoples Temple Christian Church

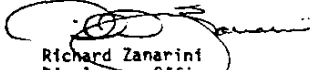
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Dear Mr. Chaikin:

We received your Freedom of Information Act request, dated May 7, 1977. Recently, we discovered that you have a similar request pending in the San Francisco District Office; therefore, we are forwarding this request to be associated and handled in conjunction with their case.

Any further questions or additional requests should be directed to the San Francisco District Disclosure Officer. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Zanarini  
Disclosure Officer



**Internal Revenue Service**

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue  
Service Center

Western Region  
Fresno, California

P.O. Box 12866, Fresno, Calif. 93779

Person to Contact: Richard Zanarini

Telephone Number: (209) 488-6524

Refer Reply to: A:DO Disclosure

Date: May 16, 1977

Peoples Temple of the  
Disciples of Christ  
Attn: Jean F. Brown,  
Asst. Secretary  
P.O. Box 15023  
San Francisco, CA 94115


X-2-4-1(27) 1

Dear Ms. Brown:

We received your Freedom of Information Act request, dated May 7, 1977, regarding the Peoples Temple Christian Church. Recently, we discovered that you have a similar request pending in the San Francisco District Office; therefore, we are forwarding this request to be associated and handled in conjunction with their case.

Any further questions or additional requests should be directed to the San Francisco District Disclosure Officer. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Zanarini  
Disclosure Officer

- (b) Any files, correspondence inquiries concerning the tax exempt status of the Peoples Temple Christian Church,
- (c) Is the Peoples Temple Christian Church presently under investigation by any division of the IRS?

After reading the enclosed regulations your attorney may wish to request additional information or use a different format.

I would suggest that a separate request be made for each individual or organization. If a separate request is made for Reverend Jones, he should be identified by Social Security Number and sign his own request.

If the church's main office is within the San Francisco District, the inquiry should be made to the San Francisco District.

If the church has headquarters in another district, the request should be sent to that District Office.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Very truly yours,

**PAUL H. WALL**  
Group Manager (I-3)  
Intelligence Division

Enclosure:  
a/s

X-2-4-1(28)

P. O. Box 36050

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(b) Any files, correspondence, or other records of the church should be made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

Peoples Temple Christian Church  
1859 Geary Boulevard  
P. O. Box 15023  
San Francisco, California 94115

X-2-44(29)

Attention: Michael J. Prokes  
Associate Minister

If the church's main office is within the San Francisco District, the inquiry should be made to the San Francisco District.

Dear Reverend Prokes:  
In response to our meeting this morning I have enclosed a copy of the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Freedom of Information Act. The regulations are fairly involved, therefore, it may be advisable to have them reviewed by the Church's legal representative.

Some of the main points relating to making requests for information are as follows:

1. Mail request to:
    - PAUL H. WALK
    - Chief Manager (1-3)
    - Intelligence Division
- Enclosure
- District Director
  - Internal Revenue
  - 450 Golden Gate Avenue
  - San Francisco District Office
  - Attention: Disclosure Officer
  - Freedom of Information Request
  - P. O. Box 36020
  - San Francisco, California 94102

2. The request should be in the form of a letter signed by the person making the request. A request on behalf of the church should be signed by an official of the church.
3. State that the request is made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC, 552, or regulations thereunder.
4. You must be fairly specific as to what records are being requested, as an example you could request the following:
  - (a) Copies of all information items on file in the Intelligence, Audit or Collection Divisions of IRS relative to Peoples Temple Christian Church.

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(b) Any files, correspondence inquiries concerning the tax exempt status of the Peoples Temple Christian Church.

(c) Is the Peoples Temple Christian Church presently under investigation by any division of the IRS?

After reading the enclosed regulations your attorney may wish to request additional information or use a different format.

I would suggest that a separate request be made for each individual or organization. If a separate request is made for Reverend Jones, he should be identified by Social Security Number and sign his own request.

If the church's main office is within the San Francisco District, the inquiry should be made to the San Francisco District.

If the church has headquarters in another district, the request should be sent to that District Office.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Very truly yours,

*Paul M. Gall*  
PAUL M. GALL  
Group Manager (I-3)  
Intelligence Division

Enclosure:

a/s

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury (31)

District  
Director

P. O. Box 36050  
450 Golden Gate Ave.  
San Francisco, Calif. 94102

Peoples Temple Christian Church  
1859 Geary Boulevard  
P. O. Box 15023  
San Francisco, California 94115

Person to Contact: Paul H. Wall

Telephone Number: 556 3642

Refer Reply to:

Attention: Michael J. Prokes  
Associate Minister

Date: April 25, 1977

Dear Reverend Prokes:

In response to our meeting this morning I have enclosed a copy of the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Freedom of Information Act. The regulations are fairly involved, therefore, it may be advisable to have them reviewed by the Church's legal representative.

Some of the main points relating to making requests for information are as follows:

1. Mail request to:

District Director  
Internal Revenue  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco District Office  
Attention: Disclosure Officer  
Freedom of Information Request  
P. O. Box 36020  
San Francisco, California 94102

2. The request should be in the form of a letter signed by the person making the request. A request on behalf of the church should be signed by an official of the church.

3. State that the request is made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC, 552, or regulations thereunder.

4. You must be fairly specific as to what records are being requested, as an example you could request the following:

(a) Copies of all information items on file in the Intelligence, Audit or Collection Divisions of IRS relative to Peoples Temple Christian Church.

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue  
Service Center

Western Region  
Fresno, California

P.O. Box 12866, Fresno, Calif. 93779

Person to Contact: Richard Zanarini

Telephone Number: (209) 488-6524

Refer Reply to: A:00 Disclosure

Date: May 16, 1977

Eugene Chaikin, Attorney-  
at-Law  
P.O. Box 15156  
San Francisco, CA 94115

1-2-4-1 (32)

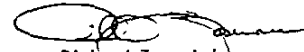
Re: James W. Jones, Pastor of  
Peoples Temple Christian Church

Dear Mr. Chaikin:

We received your Freedom of Information Act request, dated May 7, 1977. Recently, we discovered that you have a similar request pending in the San Francisco District Office; therefore, we are forwarding this request to be associated and handled in conjunction with their case.

Any further questions or additional requests should be directed to the San Francisco District Disclosure Officer. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Zanarini  
Disclosure Officer