

**"RYAN'S READY TO LEAD GROUP TO TEMPLE BASE," TIM REITERMAN,  
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□ Two mothers at the temple gate  
cry for their sons / Page 22

By Tim Reiterman  
Examiner Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana —  
Rep. Leo Ryan prepared to lead  
members of a fact-finding delega-  
tion and other observers to the  
remote People's Temple jungle mis-  
sion today.

"The matter is fluid and is  
changing from hour to hour," Ryan  
said. "We are negotiating with the  
temple. We have an airplane, but  
the arrival of the two attorneys  
(Charles Garry and Mark Lane) may  
slow the momentum down a bit.

"The purpose of the trip is still  
ahead — to talk to people at the  
mission."

Garry and Lane, who represent  
People's Temple, were due to arrive  
in this South American country  
today.

Ryan said arrangements for  
the group may also be hampered by  
a government requirement for per-  
mits to enter the interior of the  
country.

The temple has insisted in the  
past that Lane be present for any  
mission tour by the group. But  
according to the delegation, the  
announcement of Lane's arrival  
was not encouraging.

Ryan, a San Mateo Democrat,  
said the temple expressed dis-  
pleasure with some of his state-  
ments about the inquiry into mis-  
sion conditions. In fact, Ryan said,  
the temple indicated that an invita-  
tion for the congressman to visit  
the agricultural project today  
might be in jeopardy now.

"The atmosphere began to  
warm considerably until these two  
attorneys arrived," Ryan said.

Meanwhile, about 14 "con-  
cerned relatives" of temple mem-  
bers met yesterday for more than  
an hour with U. S. Ambassador  
John Burke. Some emerged from  
the meeting in tears, holding a  
statement that read in part:

"The embassy does not have  
any legal right to demand access to  
any private citizen in Guyana. In  
light of this, the embassy has no  
authority to require contact be-  
tween members of People's Temple  
and persons whom they do not wish  
to receive."

Relatives had repeatedly asked  
that the press observe the session  
with Burke, but he insisted that it  
be a private meeting. When it was  
over, the ambassador got into a car  
and was quickly driven away.

"It was a useful meeting," he  
said. When asked whether the  
concerned relatives will get to see  
their loved ones at the mission,  
Burke replied, "It's too soon to say."

Steve Katsaris, Ukiah private  
school administrator, is in Guyana  
for the third time to see his  
daughter Maria. He summed up the  
meeting: "The ambassador was po-  
lite and told us there was no way he  
legally could do anything. We told  
him we would go on our own  
without his help."

Beverly Oliver, who has two  
sons at the mission, said, "The  
ambassador told us that the Guy-  
anese government were the only  
people who could act without the  
temple's permission, because it is  
private property."

The South American country's position on the controversy isn't entirely clear, though the Jonestown jungle settlement is generally regarded as a significant attempt to turn part of Guyana's dense interior into productive land.

One government official expressed great curiosity about allegations published in the American press, particularly those of former members who contend that the mission's 1,200 inhabitants aren't free to come and go.

He also wondered aloud why a congressional delegation and so many relatives would travel thousands of miles to check on the welfare of loved ones if there were no truth whatsoever to the allegations.

After difficulties earlier this week with press corps passports, the Guyanese Information Ministry yesterday extended courtesies to newsmen here. Those included arranging a news conference with Minister of Education Vincent Teekah.

The welfare and education of children at the mission is one facet of Ryan's inquiry, and Teekah was able to offer his observations from a two-hour visit to the mission school earlier this year.

He said the school is being operated as a private school, so he informed the Rev. Jim Jones, the temple leader, that private schools are against Guyanese law.

"They tried to impress me by

what they were doing," Teekah said. "They seemed to be doing a fine job in preparing the children.

"I wasn't there the whole day to see if they flogged them or if children were being beaten. I mention that because you find sometimes in our schools a teacher using the cane directly . . ."

The minister said Jones was quite agreeable to a requirement that the school of about 120 children become a government school, with half its students from the surrounding community, half its teachers from the Guyanese population and a Guyanese administrator.

Teekah, asked why the temple settlers didn't send the children to a school in nearby Port Kaituma, replied: "Jones was trying to make a self-sufficient town, and you notice he named it Jonestown. They have a hospital and almost every little thing. I think that is why he established the school."

The minister said Jonestown is the only such settlement of foreigners in the country. "As far as this ministry is concerned, we are not treating Jim Jones and his people in a favorable or unfavorable way," he said. "This country is a secular state with many religions. I am not the judge whether this religious or political philosophy is right.

Teekah did point out, however, that the area called Jonestown really is Port Kaituma and added: "I am not sure that Jonestown exists in Guyanese law."