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Interview with Dick Dwyer, 3/21/1979

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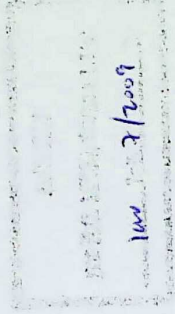
Interview with Dick Dwyer, 3/21/1979

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**Confidential**

INTERVIEW OF RICHARD DWYER

Washington, D. C.

MARCH 21, 1979

mjkl

McCarthy

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

INTERVIEW OF RICHARD DWYER

MARCH 21, 1979

Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

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into the death of Representative Leo Ryan and the resulting  
incidents at Jonestown, Guyana, on November 18, 1978.  
We are pleased to meet this morning with Mr. Richard  
Dwyer, Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States Embassy  
in Georgetown, Guyana.

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Mrs. Bauman. Thank you, George.

I would just like to reiterate our understanding we  
will be operating under the conditions for the interview set  
forth in the December 14 interview with Mr. McCoy.

Mr. Berdes. Which I will add our usual reaction and  
comment also on the record of the December 14, 1978, interview  
with Richard McCoy.

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1           Dick, can we ask you, please, to begin by outlining  
2 some basic biographical information about yourself?

3           Mr. Dwyer. Surely. I was born in Evanston, Illinois,  
4 on the 3rd of May, 1933. I was raised in Michigan City,  
5 Indiana. I attended public schools there; went to college at  
6 Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, followed by graduate school  
7 at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs  
8 at Princeton.

9           I <sup>took</sup> hold a Master's degree in public [affairs] and international  
10 affairs from Princeton, following which I joined the Foreign  
11 Service, and, with the exception of approximately a <sup>half</sup> year off  
12 in the Army, I have been in the Foreign Service since.

13           I have served in Syria and Egypt and Bulgaria, in  
14 Chad and presently here, interspersed with assignments in  
15 the Department of State.

16           Mr. Berdes. Can I ask you the year you joined the  
17 Foreign Service, please?

18           Mr. Dwyer. 1957.

19           Mr. Berdes. When were you assigned to this post?

20           Mr. Dwyer. I arrived in Georgetown on the 14th  
21 of April, 1978.

22           Mr. Berdes. And your position at that time, as it  
23 is now, was Deputy Chief of Mission?

24           Mr. Dwyer. That is correct.

25           Mr. Berdes. Could I ask you, please, to outline your first

1 awareness of any kind regarding Peoples Temple, please?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Ambassador Burke interviewed several candidates  
3 for the job, of which I was one.

4 At that time, he mentioned that there were a group of  
5 Americans settled in the northwest region of Guyana. This must  
6 been in late February or early March, and this was more or  
7 less a passing reference to it in the context of talking to  
8 several different people about the job here.

9 After that, I talked with Dick McCoy at some length  
10 when he was on leave in the United States.

11 Mr. Smeeton. This would be prior to your actual taking  
12 of the job?

13 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

14 Frankly, prior to my arrival here.

15 Mr. Spalatin. February-March, 1978 time frame?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

17 Mr. Smeeton. Before April 14, when you actually arrived  
18 here?

19 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

20 Dick McCoy had been up in <sup>Washington</sup> [Boston] on other business. I  
21 talked with him. I had also talked with then Guyanese Desk  
22 Officer Frank Tumminia.

23 Mr. Spalatin. Were all three of these people, Ambassador  
24 Burke, Mr. McCoy, and Mr. Tumminia, all saying similar things  
25 about it?

1 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I should go back and point out  
2 that I was asked when I first <sup>heard of Peoples Temple. This was from</sup> came to Ambassador Burke, but  
3 this was not in the context of briefing me.

4 Mr. Spalatin. Just a mention of it?

5 Mr. Dwyer. Just in the context of talking to people,  
6 or candidates to fill the job.

7 After Ambassador Burke had returned to Guyana and made  
8 his selection of me as Deputy Chief, and after it had been  
9 approved by the Department, and it was reasonably certain I  
10 was coming to Guyana, then I would become more deeply concerned  
11 with the Guyanese <sup>affairs.</sup> officials.

12 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall what McCoy and Tumminia  
13 told you about the Temple?

14 Mr. Dwyer. To take them separately, Dick McCoy  
15 gave me simply a brief outline of approximately -- in the  
16 context of his consular responsibilities -- of approximately  
17 how many Americans were there, that they were setting up  
18 an agricultural community, a little bit about his responsibilities  
19 and how much time it took.

20 I was interested in knowing the consular services <sup>INC</sup> of  
21 a community that far away from Georgetown.

22 Mr. Smeeton. How much time did he estimate it took?

23 Mr. Dwyer. I would hate to go back and give you an  
24 answer on that because I am just not really sure at the  
25 moment. The thrust of his remarks was sometimes it took

1 all his time.

2 Mr. Smeeton. Did you get the general impression that  
3 it took a significant portion of his time?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I can answer it better in terms [of]  
5 subsequent to April 14, <sup>after</sup> when I was here. In that context,  
6 it did not take a major proportion of his time simply because  
7 they were so far away. <sup>These</sup> They were the normal consular functions  
8 that he performed, that the consul performed, he and his vice  
9 consuls -- passports, registration for births and deaths, how  
10 to go about obtaining American identity papers for children  
11 who had been born in <sup>Jonestown</sup> Georgetown, how to go about sending out  
12 notifications of death, what have you.

13 So basically, I would say <sup>if</sup> there <sup>were</sup> [was] some kind of emergency  
14 [at birth -- not birth, something like that,] it could occupy  
15 him for a day or so.

16 Mr. Smeeton. Getting back to your pre-arrival here  
17 in Georgetown and in your discussion with McCoy, you started --  
18 I interrupted your train of thought--you started to tell us  
19 what you recall about that conversation.

20 Mr. Dwyer. It was not greatly detailed. He described  
21 the group to me, what they were trying to do, as he saw it.

22 Mr. Smeeton. Excuse me, if I could just interrupt here,  
23 do you recall him at that time indicating his suspicions about  
24 the Temple might have been heightened a little bit in  
25 comparison to what he might have thought about them the year

1 Mr. Smeeton. He didn't say something to the effect  
2 that "As time wears on and these episodes begin to accumulate,  
3 my sensitivity and suspicion is gradually being reached"?

4 Mr. Dwyer. This was still fairly early.

5 Mr. Smeeton. We are talking about March. He has had  
6 two visits. There have been a number of episodes that he had  
7 been involved with at that time. He was involved with Mr.  
8 Katsaris' efforts to see his daughter-- he arranged that  
9 meeting; the Olivers had been down; the Stoen case. There  
10 were a number of other cases. I don't want to enumerate  
11 all those.

12 By the time you talked to him, he had been involved in  
13 a number of episodes.

14 Mr. Dwyer. You are asking me did he have a change <sup>of view</sup> from  
15 there from a year before, and the answer is I have no idea.

16 Mr. Smeeton. He didn't express it in these terms,  
17 enumerate some of the more significant episodes and say, "As  
18 a result of all this, I am beginning to have a little different  
19 perspective, I am beginning to maybe have a little more  
20 suspicion that something might be amiss or awry."?

21 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I don't really remember whether he  
22 did or did not, quite frankly.

23 I did get the definite impression from him, not the  
24 impression he told me, that there were problems here with  
25 American relatives of these people and that it was almost an

1 impossible kind of task to try to determine where the truth  
2 <sup>lay.</sup>  
3 [lie.]

4 Mr. Berdes. Was that essentially the basic attitude  
5 he reflected, one of being neutral on it, or having had the  
6 pro and con inputs tending to cancel each other out, or  
7 did he have a basic --

8 Mr. Dwyer. I don't mean to overinflate this particular  
9 conversation, George. In the sense that I was the new Deputy  
10 Chief of <sup>MISSION</sup> (Commission) coming down here, I was interested in  
11 talking to someone who served here, and who would be under  
12 my supervision. So we talked not only about the Peoples  
13 Temple and about the whole range of consular affairs, plus life  
14 in Georgetown, I think we spent more time, undoubtedly, on  
15 the broader range of things.

16 You asked me to characterize Dick McCoy's comments to  
17 me on Jonestown. I would say that I had the impression before  
18 I got here that we had an unusual situation at that time;  
19 no absolute immediate problems, but with <sup>the</sup> potential of difficult  
20 problems in the future.

21 Mr. Spalatin. Would those problems, Dick, be in the  
22 area, as you saw it at that time, in consular matters only,  
23 or potentially in bilateral relations with the Guyanese  
24 Government?

25 Mr. Dwyer. I saw no problems with bilateral relations  
with the Guyanese Government.

1 Mr. Spalatin. In the consular context?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Definitely not. I think I can go on from  
3 there and say after I got down and almost through most of my  
4 time here, the big problem that I <sup>first</sup> saw was some kind of  
5 confrontation amongst the people in Jonestown where we would  
6 be presented with the problem of a great many people wishing  
7 to leave, perhaps, or some kind of an internal conflict in  
8 Jonestown, rather than anything bilaterally.

9 Mr. Smeeton. During this time that you were preparing  
10 for your departure, did you have any discussions with Mr.  
11 Hewitt or Mr. Griffith regarding your assignemtn?

12 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, of course.

13 Mr. Smeeton. Anything of significance regarding Peoples  
14 Temple matters you can recall being discussed by either of  
15 them?

16 Mr. Dwyer. I can't recall anything of significance.  
17 I am sure probably it was mentioned.

18 May I say, to put this a bit in perspective, the great  
19 majority of my time immediately before I came down here  
20 involved the maintenance of American staff in this Embassy.  
21 The electric power <sup>IN GEORGETOWN</sup> had failed for the better part of a  
22 week, and we had serious decisions to make in the Department  
23 on the Ambassador's recommendations whether or not we could  
24 continue to sustain the Embassy. We also  
25 had an emergency request from the Government of Guyana for

1 emergency assistance on the power generation.

2 To this end, the AID Disaster Relief Committee was  
3 called into session. I spent a great deal more of my time  
4 on this question immediately before I came down here than  
5 would have been normal had I gone out to a post that didn't  
6 have an immediate problem.

7 Mr. Smeeton. The reason I mention Mr. Hewitt in particular,  
8 in his testimony before us, he indicated that of the various  
9 cases involving Peoples Temple, the Stoen custody case  
10 he viewed as having the potential for spilling over to the  
11 political arena, so he was watching that one more attentively  
12 than the others.

13 He was concerned that by spilling over into the political  
14 arena, maybe possessed potential for ultimately exacerbating  
15 or straining relations between the Government of Guyana  
16 and the United States.

17 In that connection, or in that context, do you recall  
18 Mr. Hewitt discussing that particular case with you?

19 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly I was told about the Stoen case  
20 before I came down. Now whether it was Hewitt or Tumminia or  
21 precisely who, I am not sure.

22 I would imagine, I am sure, undoubtedly, he did mention it.

23 The Stoen case was remarkable principally for <sup>the</sup> somewhat  
24 bizarre accusations <sup>which</sup> were being leveled on each side. Yet  
25 it remained a child custody case then in the courts, and

1 between two sets of Americans.

2 Again, extrapolating into my assignment here, the question  
3 of the Embassy here was to determine--not to determine, but  
4 to try to encourage as far as we could that the case was  
5 settled fairly.

6 Obviously, in lawsuits between two Americans, you don't  
7 choose sides. We remain as completely objective as we can.

8 Mr. Berdes. Dick, you said a minute ago chiefly in the  
9 conversations with Richard McCoy, you had a sense of internal  
10 Peoples Temple problems involving the possibility that some  
11 of these people might be wishing to leave. Is that what  
12 I understood you to say?

13 Mr. Dwyer. Not quite. And again I am still having a  
14 little bit of a problem saying what I learned at that time, and  
15 what I learned after.

16 Mr. Berdes. I think it would be important if you could  
17 make that distinction as you unravel.

18 Mr. Dwyer. It is almost impossible now. I will be happy  
19 to do so if I can.

20 Mr. Berdes. To the extent you can.

21 Mr. Dwyer. My feeling of where we might have real  
22 problems with the Peoples Temple revolved around what kind  
23 of things [that] we could anticipate.

24 Mr. Spalatin. I believe you said potential for such type  
25 developments, not so much that you immediately saw it right now,

1 but what would happen if there was a split and what  
2 is the Embassy going to do; is that a fair statement?

3 Mr. Dwyer. What kind of problems would you anticipate  
4 with a thousand people, more or less, up in this isolated  
5 area? You will have obviously the normal consular duties,  
6 but I guess the biggest problem that we would [anyway] foresee  
7 would be that there would be some kind of internal split  
8 in the community itself and all of a sudden everyone would  
9 want to go home <sup>FROM</sup> and be up there, and this would be a problem  
10 of repatriating Americans. That, frankly, was about the limit  
11 of my forecast of potential problems.

12 Mr. Berdes. What my question was driving at, though, was  
13 what was the evidence you had to suggest that possibility,  
14 or was it merely a concern on your part?

15 Mr. Dwyer. This was purely a concern at that time.  
16 Certainly I had never met these people; I had never been  
17 there. For that matter, I hadn't been to the country  
18 of Guyana.

19 Mr. Spalatin. If it was any country you were going to with  
20 thousands of people living in a remote section, you might  
21 say potentially we might have a problem here; is that  
22 a fair statement?

23 Mr. Dwyer. That is a fair evaluation. Simply, I was  
24 not aware, certainly, of any internal problems in this community  
25 of itself, but as any time when you have that number of people

1 together in a situation that is somewhat unique -- that is  
2 a bad phrase, perhaps, but this was the kind of thing that  
3 conceivably might happen.

4 Now, I had, from my talks with [these] people in Washington,  
5 an awareness that accusations had been made against the Peoples  
6 Temple. In the time frame of my preparations to come here,  
7 however, this was a fairly compressed period of time and  
8 basically, I guess the feeling was that -- my own feeling,  
9 certainly was that this as something to be studied on the  
10 grounds once I got there.

11 Mr. Smeeton. In the course of this preparation, you said  
12 you were aware of the fact there were allegations against the  
13 Temple. In that regard, did you come across the New West  
14 article of July of 1977, which enumerated a number of these  
15 allegations with respect to the Temple's activities in  
16 California?

17 Mr. Dwyer. No, I didn't.

18 Mr. Berdes. And let me amend the question to ask if  
19 in the course of your preparation of coming here you used  
20 the files on Guyana and whether you found those articles  
21 in the files, and what else did you find in the files?

22 Mr. Dwyer. No, I did not see the article before I came  
23 to Guyana, and my immediate concern in this, again, fairly  
24 short time frame, was with the overall operations of the  
25 Embassy, of which the question of People's Temple was a part.

1 In that respect, I read all the correspondence over  
2 approximately three or four months on file, the letters,  
3 what have you.

4 I did not go back as far as July of 1977. Quite  
5 frankly -- well, I just don't know whether that article  
6 was even in the file.

7 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall any of the people you talked  
8 to, either McCoy, Tumminia, Griffith or Hewitt bring that  
9 article up and suggesting that particular article was worth  
10 reading?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't. I certainly know I was unaware  
12 of the article. I am sure if someone had mentioned it, I  
13 think I would have sought it out.

14 Mr. Berdes. Have you ever read the article?

15 Mr. Dwyer. I have not.

16 Mr. Smeeton. For the sake of continuity, more or less  
17 summarize your recollections of conversations with McCoy  
18 and Hewitt, but if you would focus now on your discussion  
19 with Frank Tumminia, anything you can remember about your  
20 conversations with him specifically on the Temple?

21 Mr. Dwyer. With regard to Jonestown and the Temple, I  
22 think our discussions were highlighted probably about the  
23 problem of correspondence with particular interest in the  
24 subject and the volume of mail that he, as a desk officer  
25 for several countries, was receiving on this one particular

1 question.

2 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall him discussing the Stoen  
3 case at all?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, indeed, we did discuss the Stoen case.

5 Mr. Smeeton. What was his perception of that case at  
6 that time from a political standpoint?

7 Mr. Dwyer. There was no real --

8 Mr. Smeeton. I don't think I made my self too clear.  
9 Maybe I can help you a little bit. Did he at any point  
10 during the course of that conversation indicate that he, too,  
11 might have seen that case as possessing a potential for  
12 spilling over into the political arena, which was his area of  
13 major concern, possibly serving as a source for undermining U.S.-  
14 Guyanaese relations, therefore, sort of alerting you to  
15 sort of watch that one in particular and keep him apprised.

16 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly he was concerned about it. That  
17 would be normal in that case.

18 Again, the question there for the United States Government  
19 was whether this case was progressing in a manner that was  
20 fair to the litigants, and also that whether it was being  
21 dealt with fairly.

22 Mrs. Bauman. Did he indicate to you any concern that  
23 he felt that it was affecting U.S.-Guyanese relations?

24 Mr. Smeeton. Possessing the potential, is the way  
25 I put it.

1 Mr. Dwyer. It would possess, indeed, the potential.  
2 If there were any indications that it was not proceeding  
3 normally, that basically was it.

4 Mr. Smeeton. In this connection, was Mr. Blacken's  
5 diplomatic note germane to that case brought up in any way?

6 Mr. Dwyer. No, it was not.

7 Mr. Smeeton. I should not confine it to Mr. Tumminia,  
8 but any of the other officers?

9 Mr. Dwyer. No, I was unaware of Blacken's note until  
10 I arrived here and read the files.

11 Mr. Smeeton. And none of the officers that he talked to  
12 observed that the case seemed to be taking a rather unusual  
13 amount of time to be addressed and taken care of?

14 Mr. Dwyer. I am not sure that is accurate. I am not  
15 at all sure at that time it had taken an unusual amount of  
16 time.

17 Mrs. Bauman. And no one indicated they thought so to you  
18 when you were preparing to go on out?

19 Mr. Dwyer. Well, there was considerable hope that it  
20 might be settled as quickly as possible as a potential problem.  
21 Certainly people did suggest the faster it <sup>were</sup> ~~is~~ settled, the better  
22 it would be for all concerned.

23 I am sure the whole group of people I talked to back there  
24 were of this feeling.

25 Mr. Smeeton. The Blacken note was designed, perceived by t

1 drafter as being a vehicle for maybe getting the case back  
2 on track; he was convinced in his own mind, anyway, that  
3 there was a foot-dragging on the part of the Government  
4 and he felt the note was necessary to get it back on track,  
5 and he indicated that the Foreign Minister, Mr. Wills, had  
6 encouraged him to send it thinking that it might stimulate  
7 more movement on the case, and this occurred during the  
8 fall of the previous year.

9 That is part of the reason why I am posing the question  
10 now. This is several months hence and the case is still  
11 dragging on. The Stoens have been down in January, I gather,  
12 with the objective of trying to get more movement on the case.  
13 So I was thinking maybe by the time March rolled around, some  
14 people in the Department might have taken notice of the  
15 fact movement still seemed to be rather slow -- maybe a little  
16 slower than it should have been.

17 Mr. Dwyer. I can repeat what I said before. I thought  
18 it highly desirable by all concerned to get it settled  
19 as quickly as possible.

20 As to what Blacken had in mind when he drafted <sup>the</sup>  
21 his note, I have no idea.

22 Mr. Smeeton. He essentially just wanted to get it back  
23 on track. He was convinced there was some foot-dragging  
24 on the part of the Government. And some intervention maybe  
25 on the part of the Government.

1 Mr. Dwyer. As I say, I have no idea what he thought.  
2 There was, I would expect, a reluctance to make a very hard  
3 decision on the part of the Government, and also too because  
4 the case involved two groups of foreigners. I suspect they  
5 wanted to make as certain as they possibly could, everything  
6 was absolutely justified in whatever public action they might  
7 have taken.

8 And in the time frame, certainly it was part of this  
9 Embassy's concern to have the case progress as quickly as  
10 possible. But this is also, I might add, the child custody  
11 case which, in many ways, no -- not no -- but it was  
12 a case of and by itself that could have occurred with or  
13 without a Peoples Temple.

14 The case itself was a case between two groups of  
15 American citizens. In other words, I guess what I am saying  
16 is that we have child custody cases with some frequency whenever  
17 there is a split like this.

18 Mr. Smeeton. We have a California State order, of  
19 course, indicating that they had awarded the custody of  
20 the child to the Stoens.

21 Mr. Dwyer. As I presume you are aware --

22 Mr. Smeeton. And I gather that because of that fact,  
23 Mr. Blacken was convinced maybe they had a good case.  
24 Not that he felt he was on their side versus Jones, but that  
25 particular fact would have a bearing on the movement of the

1 case.

2 Mr. Dwyer. As far as I am aware, the California order  
3 would not be enforceable in other states of the United States,  
4 let alone in a foreign country. In other words, had  
5 this taken place in New York rather than Guyana, the  
6 California order would not have been enforceable in the  
7 State of New York on the part of the New York courts.

8 Mrs. Bauman. I don't think we need to get into that  
9 other than to say it wasn't enforceable directly in Guyana  
10 and they <sup>needed to institute a</sup> didn't need to have this court proceeding <sup>in Guyana</sup>.

11 Mr. Dwyer. Our job was to ensure, insofar as we could,  
12 that the case was treated fairly and in the normal process  
13 of the --

14 Mr. Smeeton. And in reasonable course of time.

15 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

16 Mr. Smeeton. If I can just continue with Mr. Tumminia,  
17 do you recall him discussing with you his visit to Jonestown  
18 on February 2 with Mr. Blacken and his impressions of what  
19 he saw there?

20 Mr. Dwyer. He did talk to me about it. I have no  
21 very hard feeling for precisely what he found there. His  
22 summary comment, I think, was that you should, by all means,  
23 go and see for yourself and make up your own mind.

24 Mr. Smeeton. He didn't indicate that he himself thought  
25 a number of the members he observed were possibly programmed,

1 that they were acting like robots?

2 Mr. Dwyer. I don't really remember. I have seen his  
3 comments to that effect since. Now whether he made the same  
4 ones to me or not, I would not be able to say, quite  
5 frankly.

6 Mr. Spalatin. Did he at that time share with you  
7 his motivation as to why he wanted to go to <sup>Jonestown</sup> [Georgetown] during  
8 his February trip to Guyana in view of the fact you  
9 understood, if I recall correctly, that your understanding  
0 from other people that this was a consular matter in the  
1 consular area?

2 Did he indicate to you his motivation and purpose of  
3 trying to go to Jonestown during February of 1978 was because  
4 of his concern for a growing potential for an impact on USGOF  
5 relations?

6 Mr. Dwyer. I couldn't say whether he really did or not.  
7 On the other hand, I would consider it perfectly natural  
8 for him to have done so.

9 Mr. Spalatin. You just don't recall him articulating  
0 it that way, per se?

1 Mr. Dwyer. No, I do not.

2 The duties of a desk officer in the Department of State  
3 <sup>concern for</sup> (implies) the entirety of relations <sup>with</sup> (of) a country. While we  
4 have special bureaus and special people to deal with consular  
5 problems, it is certainly the obligation of the desk officer and

1 AT  
2 the central point to be aware of consular problems, and to  
3 be aware of economic problems or any other kind of problem.

4 Mr. Spalatin. Do you recall Mr Tumminia at that time  
5 expressing the fact that he and Mr. Blacken disagreed  
6 as to their perception of the status of the people within  
7 Jonestown?

8 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't. He may have done so.

9 As I say, I do recall him telling me that, "By all means,  
10 go up and take a look." In that context, he may well have  
11 said something like that.

12 I also saw John Blacken very briefly before I came down  
13 here, and if there had been an indication that there was  
14 a serious disagreement on the evaluation of Jonestown,  
15 I suspect I would have remembered it.

16 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall anything Blacken said to you  
17 that is worth relating to within the context of this inquiry?

18 Mr. Dwyer. No, I am not even sure that we discussed  
19 Jonestown beyond just mentioning it in passing.

20 I might add, what I am talking about is a grand total  
21 of an hour or so in handling over the job from one person  
22 to another.

23 Mr. Spalatin. Did anybody in these briefings advise you  
24 of an Interpol report that was submitted to the Guyanese  
25 Government in January of 1978?

26 Mr. Smeeton. Maybe for elaboration and clarification,

1 regarding the possibility of arms being shipped to Peoples  
2 Temple from California to Jonestown?

3 Mr. Dwyer. No.

4 As a matter of fact, I think your comment right now --  
5 I don't know of an Interpol report coming to Guyana.

6 Mr. Spalatin. Nor had anybody told you specifically --  
7 it probably would have been Mr. "Tumminia" -- of a Customs  
8 report submitted in August of 1977 regarding the same matter  
9 regarding various potential contraband, in addition to guns, being  
10 allegedly shipped into Guyana?

11 Mr. Dwyer. I don't recall precisely the first time I  
12 heard of this. I do know that Jim Jones himself mentioned  
13 it to me in May.

14 Mr. Spalatin. He mentioned the Customs report to you  
15 in May?

16 Mr. Dwyer. No, he mentioned that shipments into the  
17 Peoples Temple had been opened and examined by Customs  
18 here, he thought, on the suggestion of American authorities.  
19 This was his view, an example of how unnamed, unspecified  
20 sources in the United States were conspiring to destroy the  
21 Temple.

22 My statement there is a little bit more harsh than  
23 he actually put it. But he did tell me a quantity of  
24 shipments to the Peoples Temple here in Georgetown had  
25 been opened by the Guyanese Customs and there had been theft

1 and pilferage and they lost a quantity of material.

2 Now whether at that time he told me or alleged that  
3 similar inspections had been made in the States, I am not  
4 sure.

5 Mr. Berdes. Did he embellish that point by suggesting  
6 that this was part of a conspiracy against him being exercised  
7 by the United States Government?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Not necessarily by the United States Government,  
9 by dark forces unnamed.

10 Mr. Spalatin. Did he specifically follow up and  
11 say, "As an American citizen, I request that this matter be  
12 investigated," from his vantage point?

13 Mr. Dwyer. No, he did not, but my reply, as best I  
14 can recall, to him at that time was simply, "It is not unusual  
15 for Customs authorities to investigate and open shipments  
16 coming into this country."

17 This was part of a litany of harassments that he  
18 alluded to at that time.

19 Mr. Smeeton. In this connection, he did not suggest  
20 those Customs inspections by the Guyanese authorities had  
21 been suggested by American authorities.

22 Mr. Dwyer. He certainly implied that they had been  
23 suggested by sources in the United States.

24 Now, whether he actually said "American authorities,"  
25 or "political", or what, I am not quite sure in my own mind.

1 Mr. Smeeton. As you reviewed that file, did anything  
2 leap out at you, anything particularly noteworthy?

3 Mr. Dwyer. I had not really been prepared over what  
4 I guess might characterize as to how bizarre these accusations  
5 were that were being exchanged between these people. At least  
6 then I would say it was ---

7 Mr. Smeeton. By bizarre, would you elaborate a little bit  
8 on what you mean by that?

9 Mr. Dwyer. The embassy files were copies of statements  
10 allegedly signed by the father and the mother, by Grace and  
11 Tim Stoen. I regarded these as bizarre.

12 Mr. Berdes. Can you be more specific and ask you whether  
13 those statements involved Tim Stoen's permission that he had  
14 asked Jim Jones to father the child, John Victor Stoen?

15 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, that is right.

16 Mr. Berdes. Were there also statements in the file in  
17 the form of an affidavit exercised by Joseph Mazor alleging  
18 that he had knowledge of the fact that Jim Jones had fathered  
19 the child in the back of a bus; anything to that extent?

20 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, in my own mind, I am making a distinction  
21 here about the general subject of Peoples Temple as distinct from  
22 the Stoen case, I guess. In any event, somewhere I have seen  
23 the Mazor document. Just when I saw it and whether it was in  
24 the general file on it or whether it was in the Stoen file,  
25 I am not sure.

1 Mr. Berdes. Let me try to put pieces here together, if  
2 I might. You said the Ambassador recommended your view of the  
3 file as a priority item. Why did he make it a priority item?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Again, you best ask him why he made it a  
5 priority item.

6 Mr. Berdes. What was your understanding?

7 Mr. Dwyer. My understanding of it was two-fold. One was  
8 that Dick McCoy was going to be transferred in two or three  
9 months and we needed some continuity in it and that this case  
10 had attracted a great deal of attention already in the public  
11 and, indeed, on the Hill, and that this was a case whereif there  
12 were unfairness or partiality exercised by any officer of this  
13 embassy with regard to Peoples Temple pro or con, why, it would  
14 be sought out by advocates of one side or another.

15 Mr. Berdes. That stress is on the importance of handling  
16 the entire matter fairly. Would that more specifically involve,  
17 as you said, the compliance of all regulations, the Privacy Act?

18 Mr. Dwyer. Absolutely. [Not only the Privacy Act.] Not only  
19 the Privacy Act, but the Freedom of Information Act.

20 Mr. Berdes. Did you have some understanding as to why  
21 there was that awareness or was there an acute sensitivity?

22 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know whether you can say acute or not.  
23 Certainly there is sensitivity of it, but there should be some  
24 sensitivity in every embassy of the world. We had a case, for  
25 example, completely unrelated to the Peoples Temple, of a young

1 person in jail in Guyana who did not want his relatives in the  
2 United States to know he was in jail. He was of age; he had  
3 specifically refused to permit us to tell his parents that he  
4 was in jail.

5 This was an excellent example of a case <sup>where</sup> ~~that~~ someone  
6 unfamiliar or newly arrived at the post <sup>could</sup> would easily pick up  
7 the telephone when it rang and find the person's parents on the  
8 other end of it and say, "Yes, I saw young so and so just the  
9 other day when visiting hours permitted. We go and call on him  
10 <sup>in jail</sup> once a month."

11 Mr. Berdes. I understand that, but in specific reference  
12 to Peoples Temple, did it involve the fact the Ambassador con-  
13 veyed to you or were you aware that a number of Freedom of  
14 Information and privacy actions involving Peoples Temple had  
15 been placed against the United States and, therefore, was there  
16 an acute sensitivity stemming from that?

17 Mr. Dwyer. What I am saying, George, is the sensitivity  
18 regarding the Peoples Temple extended to every case. I would  
19 have a hard time saying when I became aware that there was a  
20 Freedom of Information request involving the Peoples Temple, but  
21 it was clear from the beginning, <sup>and</sup> Ambassador Burke made clear  
22 from the beginning, that this had the potential of becoming a  
23 Freedom of Information or Privacy Act case.

24 Mr. Berdes. Did the Ambassador's directions on that  
25 include reference to the fact First Amendment freedoms were at

1 issue here in some way? That this was a religious group?

2 Mr. Dwyer. No question that I was aware of this. Now,  
3 whether he told me this specifically or not, I cannot say.

4 Mr. Berdes. Given that fact, how did the so-called  
5 bizarre reports, to which you referred a moment ago, cancel out  
6 in the face of First Amendment protections? Did it come together  
7 for you?

8 Was this, in fact, a religious group given these rather  
9 extraordinary allegations, statements, affidavits, all the  
10 rest?

11 Mr. Dwyer. It did not strike me that there was any reason  
12 to think that these statements might reflect on the <sup>religiosity</sup> religious  
13 viciousity of it. In the same sense it would not strike me that  
14 the Baptists, Catholics, or anyone else had a child custody  
15 case dispute. That would not necessarily reflect on the  
16 <sup>RELIGIOSITY</sup> viciousity of the group.

17 Mr. Spalatin. In that same file, do you recall an affidavit  
18 filed by Yolanda Crawford?

19 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't.

20 Mr. Spalatin. You never heard of the name?

21 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know who Yolanda Crawford was.

22 Mr. Smeeton. I think you mentioned earlier, Dick, the  
23 New West article.

24 Mr. Dwyer. I didn't mention it earlier. You did.

25 Mr. Smeeton. Let me just finish my sentence. You don't

1 recall seeing or reading that?

2 Mr. Dwyer. No, to this day I haven't read it.

3 Mr. Smeeton. So from that, is it accurate to deduce it  
4 was not in that file?

5 Mr. Dwyer. I suppose it is, yes.

6 Mrs. Bauman. In which file?

7 Mr. Smeeton. The embassy file that Mr. Dwyer read at the  
8 instruction of the Ambassador.

9 Mr. Dwyer. I don't believe we had it. In the course of  
10 the period of time between the summer and November 18, we did  
11 receive quite a massive volume of mail on the Peoples Temple pro  
12 and con.

13 I am not really even sure whether this may have turned up  
14 there or not.

15 Mr. Spalatin. Did the Ambassador ever bring up the article  
16 with you?

17 Mr. Dwyer. Specifically, I don't believe so. I would have  
18 a hard time saying. But, perhaps, more to your point, certainly  
19 he did discuss with me that these allegations had been made  
20 about the Peoples Temple.

21 Mr. Spalatin. But not necessarily in the context of the  
22 New West article?

23 Mr. Dwyer. I don't recall they were in the context of the  
24 New West article.

25 Mr. Smeeton. In other words, you are saying the gist of

1 what was reflected in that article was orally conveyed to you  
2 possibly?

3 Mr. Dwyer. What was made clear to me was that there were  
4 allegations against this group and by this group against the  
5 other people?

6 Mr. Smeeton. Were there specific allegations cited or were  
7 they just allegations as a general category?

8 Mr. Dwyer. The one undoubtedly which most concerned us was  
9 whether or not American citizens were being held there against  
10 their will. That I would say is the one certainly we were most  
11 concerned about.

12 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall any allegations regarding the  
13 possibility of members of the Temple being periodically abused  
14 in a physical sense?

15 Mr. Dwyer. Unfortunately, here I have the same time  
16 problem again. Certainly I heard this.

17 Now, whether it was in the first few weeks I was here or  
18 whether it was later, I am not sure. I do remember specifically  
19 that we had received at least one letter and probably more asking  
20 us to check into whether or not a friend or relative had been  
21 abused.

22 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall any discussion about whether  
23 or not this was, indeed, a religious group or possibly a group  
24 masquerading as a religious group?

25 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't think so. That would be far beyond

1 our capabilities to determine.

2 Mr. Smeeton. I am just talking about the allegations per  
3 se being discussed?

4 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't think so. But I think it was  
5 certainly my own view at the time, for better or for worse, most  
6 instances of religious orientation <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ largely what the people  
7 involved say <sup>they are.</sup> ~~it is.~~

8 Mr. Berdes. I am sorry, would you repeat that?

9 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, whether this group is religious or not  
10 depends upon largely in some ways the group's own definition of  
11 religion. In other words, I am unaware of any hard and fast  
12 rule beyond IRS laws that might define it.

13 Mr. Berdes. My next question: Were you aware they enjoyed  
14 an IRS tax exempt status?

15 Mr. Dwyer. Possibly. Insofar as their operations here were  
16 concerned, I never had the occasion to question the fact myself.  
17 I might say, I was well aware that Jim Jones had been ordained,  
18 or whatever the process of the church might be, in the Disciples  
19 of Christ organization; that he was known as the Reverend Jim  
20 Jones and often as bishop, although, indeed, I asked him myself  
21 how he got the title of bishop.

22 Mr. Berdes. But you are also aware that one can become a  
23 Reverend by a simple matter of sending \$10.00 in somewhere.

24 Mr. Dwyer. Oh, certainly.

25 Mr. Smeeton. Let me just pursue a point here, George, in

1 the same connection. Mr. Blacken, during his visit to Jonestown  
2 in early February of 1978, had an opportunity to sit down and  
3 discuss a variety of subjects with Mr. Jones.

4 During the course of that conversation, Mr. Jones indicated  
5 he was an agnostic and Mr. Blacken had indicated that in his  
6 statement subsequent to the tragedy that you may or may not have  
7 read. Actually he submitted two, I think, on the 5th of  
8 December and the 6th of December.

9 It was in one of those two statements, for the record, in  
10 which he indicated that.

11 During the course of his testimony before us, he elaborated  
12 on that. He indicated that he was struck by that observation on  
13 the part of Jones. He is a man who was indicating, at least  
14 everybody thought anyway, he was heading a religious group, and,  
15 yet, he professed to be an agnostic and he found it rather  
16 strange that a man who professed to be an agnostic was generally  
17 represented as a bishop or religious figure.

18 Do you recall Mr. Blacken ever sharing that bit of infor-  
19 mation with you?

20 Mr. Dwyer. No, I do not. As I say, we had a grand total  
21 of, I suppose, an hour or so. He was on his way to New York and  
22 I was on my way down here.

23 Mr. Smeeton. And you do not recall anybody else sharing  
24 Mr. Blacken's observation with you; for example, Mr. Tumminia  
25 who was along on that particular trip, did he pass along that

1 bit of information, or the Ambassador or anybody else who might  
2 have been privy to that information from Mr. Blacken?

3 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't recall. On the other hand, I was  
4 then and I am still somewhat unclear as to whether or not,  
5 for example, you could be an agnostic and still be a member of  
6 a religion. I understand what you are saying.

7 Mr. Smeeton. I think it was viewed in the eyes of some in  
8 the general context of suspicions people harbored about the bona  
9 fide, so to speak, of the group and whether or not by this time  
10 was it evolving more into a social movement rather than a reli-  
11 gious group, per se.

12 We have had testimony from people within the Temple, which,  
13 of course, you are not privy to, who indicated they never per-  
14 ceived it as a church. They perceived it essentially as a social  
15 movement. And also they observed, particularly in the later  
16 stages of the church, there was no effort whatsoever to even  
17 visibly display religious symbols or to even engage in what one  
18 would generally imagine to be a religious service. It is that  
19 kind of a backdrop against which I pose some of these questions  
20 so that you get a little clearer picture of what you are driving  
21 at.

22 As I think you are well aware, it is a difficult question.  
23 I think some of your answers reveal how difficult it is to  
24 address from our standpoint. But we are trying to determine  
25 whether or not they rightfully deserve that tax-exempt status.

1 We may never be able to reach that determination. But  
2 we are posing a lot of these questions. That is an objective,  
3 maybe an unattainable one.

4 Mr. Dwyer. I think it should be made clear, certainly  
5 it is no part of the responsibilities of a Foreign Service  
6 Office<sup>o</sup>, or, for that matter, any other officer of the United  
7 States Government to attempt to determine an individual's private  
8 <sup>beliefs</sup> ~~believes~~ abroad. These are not really an area of just inquiry.

9 Mr. Smeeton. What about if a Department officer came  
10 across information which would suggest that a group did not  
11 deserve tax-exempt status, do you feel he would be obliged to  
12 pass that information on to appropriate authorities elsewhere  
13 in the U.S. Government, not making any observations on it, but  
14 just saying ---

15 Mr. Dwyer. Any American officer serving abroad who becomes  
16 aware of a violation of American law has an obligation to report  
17 it to the appropriate authority, no matter what that violation  
18 may be.

19 Mr. Berdes. Even under the Privacy Act?

20 Mr. Dwyer. Pardon?

21 Mr. Berdes. Even under the Privacy Act?

22 Mr. Dwyer. It is my understanding if there is a violation  
23 of law, yes.

24 Mr. Spalatin. To make the distinction, Dick, between a  
25 violation of law that you know as opposed to one somebody else

1 says is a violation of law, but you don't know what the other  
2 person said is true or not, why you have enough, shall we say,  
3 circumstantial evidence or confidence in the party telling you  
4 to pass it on? Do you see the distinction?

5 Mrs. Bauman. We are getting a little speculative here.  
6 We are going way off ---

7 Mr. Spalatin. I am asking, would such information be  
8 transmitted within the parameters of the Privacy Act?

9 Mr. Dwyer. In other words, what kind of things should be  
10 reported about American citizens with the restraints of the  
11 Privacy Act?

12 Mr. Spalatin. That may be one way of putting it, if you  
13 like.

14 Mr. Dwyer. I would say I have felt personally in this  
15 very gray area that no officer should report allegations made  
16 without some kind of verifiable proof that he, himself, was  
17 privy to.

18 In our profession, in our business of representing our  
19 country overseas, we talk at great length with everyone concerned  
20 about why decisions were made on the part of the government or  
21 what influenced this member of the government to make such a  
22 decision.

23 We must, in that context, take into account whatever we  
24 know about these people. In dealing with Americans, however,  
25 there is definitely a wide and broad area of restraint.

1 Specifically, it is not our job. Indeed, we are forbidden by  
2 law to report on what Americans are doing. We have an obligation  
3 to provide services for Americans abroad.

4 We not only have an obligation, but we have constraints  
5 to prevent us from repeating rumors or going into the private  
6 life of Americans. I have no more right to inquire what you did  
7 last night with your freedom than I do with any other American.

8 Mr. Berdes. As a possible frame of reference that might  
9 prove useful to all of us, perhaps I can simply note the Privacy  
10 Act requires agencies to maintain no records describing the  
11 exercise of First Amendment rights except as pertinent to law  
12 enforcement activity.

13 Mrs. Bauman. First Amendment?

14 Mr. Berdes. Yes, that is what I said.

15 Mr. Dwyer. That is clear. Basically with regard to your  
16 question, George, on the IRS, these would have been offenses  
17 committed here but in the United States.

18 Mr. Smeeton. Well, in this sense, Dick, and I am not a  
19 lawyer so I don't profess to make any opinion as to your  
20 observations, and I have noticed in this connection with other  
21 inquiries regarding other religious groups, from time to time,  
22 I think we heard it in the context of this inquiry, to groups  
23 professing to be religious in nature and enjoying tax-exempt  
24 status engaged in activities that are concluded by IRS to be  
25 inviolation of that tax exempt status and if you came across

1 information like that, i gather from your previous statements,  
2 whether they occurred in this country or any other nation abroad,  
3 you would feel obliged to pass that on as an officer to the  
4 appropriate U.S. authorities.

5 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, sir.

6 Mr. Smeeton. That is all. Just for the purposes of clari-  
7 fication, that is the reason I asked the question.

8 Mr. Spalatin. After your arrival here in mid-April 1978  
9 and in your context of government of Guyanese officials, did  
10 any of them bring up or did you bring up the Peoples Temple, and  
11 if so, either way, they or you bringing it up, how would you  
12 characterize their general feelings or attitudes toward Peoples  
13 Temple in general and Jonestown specifically?

14 Mr. Dwyer. I had no occasion to bring up the general  
15 subject of Peoples Temple with any Guyanese officials in that  
16 time frame. The only comments that I can recall made to me by  
17 Guyanese in general were by some people, who I cannot even  
18 remember now, who were interested in the agricultural aspects of  
19 the Temple. One, a veterinarian, who had gone up there to try  
20 to help them establish their animal husbandry. So the comments  
21 that I had heard about the Peoples Temple from Guyanese were  
22 largely dealing with how they lived in that common sense ---

23 Mr. Spalatin. Practical aspects of an agricultural  
24 community. So you heard nothing from any Guyanese officials  
25 about some elements being uneasy about alleged drug smuggling or

1 anything in a negative vain, I guess, is what I am asking.

2 Mr. Dwyer. I am pausing to thienk whether or not I, myself,  
3 heard directly or had it second-hand.

4 Mr. Spalatin. Might you have heard it from a fellow  
5 embassy official?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly from Dick McCoy who was concerned  
7 that he had conversations with Guyanese officials who did harbor  
8 reservations about this group.

9 Mr. Spalatin. Do you know if there was any interest within  
10 the Guyanese government to conduct some type of an investigation  
11 along these lines in the time frame of the summer of 1978?

12 Mr. Dwyer. I am unaware of any Guyanese official <sup>making</sup> having  
13 any investigation.

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Mr. Berdes. We want to get into the period of your May 10 visit to <sup>Jonestown</sup> [Georgetown], but before I do that, I wanted to review a couple matters that raise questions in my mind from your statement of February 16, a copy of which has been provided to us.

Mr. Dwyer. Which statement was that, George?

Mr. Berdes. This is your signed statement contacting the Peoples Temple. Would you like a copy?

Mr. Dwyer. I didn't know if you were talking about a report of the May 10 visit or not.

Mr. Berdes. In terms of chronology, you say that during one of the meetings which you had with Peoples Temple representatives within the embassy, which they requested, they complained "that they had had reports that an American ham radio operator named Malcolm, operating in Georgetown, had been over here to degradate the Peoples Temple in radio conversations with other amateur radio operators in the United States."

You go on to describe Mr. Jensen as a representative of the Agency for International Development here. Did they elaborate on that in any way; did they say he had been doing more than that and did they indicate how they had found this out? Was it before your May visit, by the way?

Mr. Dwyer. No, it was substantially after that. Mr. Jensen was the AID executive officer. We are sitting in his office. Basically, the impression I got, now whether they actually said it or not, what they conveyed was that this man

1 had said on the radio with others that these people were, the  
2 word "kooks" comes into my mind. Whether they actually said that  
3 and that they were very upset that someone should be describing  
4 them as "kooks" on the airwaves. Now, how they heard this, I  
5 don't know, but obviously they had two radio stations here  
6 operating full time almost; one in Jonestown, one in Georgetown,  
7 plus one back in the States.

8 Mr. Berdes. Is that the first knowledge you had of Mr.  
9 Jensen's work or activities as a ham radio operator?

10 Mr. Dwyer. Not at all. Mr. Jensen was a licensed ham  
11 operator here. He very kindly made his services available to all  
12 members of this mission for phone patches, conversations back to  
13 the States.

14 Mr. Berdes. Where did he operate his radio out of?

15 Mr. Dwyer. His house; his home.

16 Mr. Berdes. During those two meetings with representatives  
17 from Peoples Temple, they also expressed to you the feeling  
18 that the embassy in some manner was taking side against them.

19 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, that is true. They made a point of saying,  
20 well, we understand it is not the embassy but there are members  
21 of the embassy that are going around saying things that are  
22 derogatory to the Peoples Temple.

23 Mr. Berdes. Were they specific?

24 Mr. Dwyer. In what sense?

25 Mr. Berdes. Did they cite examples?

1 Mr. Dwyer. Not to me, but I believe to Mr. Ellice.  
2 Basically, what I said to them was there is absolutely no way  
3 that any officer of this embassy should be saying things pro or  
4 con against any group of Americans and I told them simply that  
5 we couldn't consider allegations made without any backup facts.  
6 Subsequently, they didn't come to Mr. Ellice and allege that  
7 embassy members had said derogatory things. I can't think of  
8 precisely what they said had been said

9 As I recall, they included Mr. McCoy and Mr. and Mrs.  
10 Mason, possibly somebody else. I did speak with each of those  
11 individuals myself and <sup>was</sup> were assured by them that they had not  
12 in any way made any comment.

13 Mr. Berdes. Which is what Mr. Jensen also indicated, he  
14 denied having made the comment.

15 Mr. Dwyer. To his immediate superior, yes.

16 Mr. Berdes. Did you become aware in any way he might have  
17 been monitoring some of their radio broadcasts between Georgetown  
18 and Jonestown or between Jonestown and San Francisco?

19 Mr. Dwyer. I am unaware of any monitoring that he did. If  
20 he did any, I don't know. I might add, you are talking about  
21 monitoring in the aspects of a ham radio operator; all you need  
22 is a radio. You don't need a rig.

23 Mr. Berdes. I understand. But Mr. Jensen never indicated,  
24 nor was he asked, to your knowledge, whether he was monitoring  
25 their broadcasts?

1 Mr. Dwyer. No, not at all.

2 Mr. Berdes. Let's discuss the matter of your visit to  
3 Jonestown on May 10, 1978, and begin by asking you what motivated  
4 the need for you to go.

5 Mr. Dwyer. Basically, this motivation was in my  
6 responsibilities as the ambassador's deputy, which included  
7 Consular Affairs, I thought it incumbent upon myself, that is a  
8 rather officious phrase, by the way. Simply, this was obviously  
9 an important part of the Consulate's job and part of my job was  
10 to supervise the Consulate.

11 From a nonofficial standpoint, I was personally interested  
12 in this attempt to settle the jungle, to have a large number of  
13 Americans leave the United States and establish themselves in  
14 the kind of jungle we saw yesterday is not exactly ordinary and  
15 I had certain personal interests in this, as well as my official  
16 interests.

17 I might add one other thing to that, Dick McCoy was due to  
18 leave in a couple months and we wanted to be sure we had some  
19 continuity in the embassy of someone who had firsthand knowledge  
20 of Jonestown.

21 Mr. Berdes. Was that sort of a normal decision, or was it  
22 born of the fact that Peoples Temple in Jonestown had already  
23 been deemed in the embassy's collective conscious as a rather  
24 sensitive and difficult matter?

25 Mr. Dwyer. No, we had established with the Department after

1 exchange of correspondence that approximately a quarterly  
2 visit, more or less, would be desirable. This was about the  
3 time for it and also I think -- well, I personally regarded my  
4 own professional responsibilities to get to know the country  
5 as quickly as I could.

6 I traveled not only to Jonestown but to other areas of the  
7 country immediately after I got here.

8 Mr. Berdes. How long before your departure did you notify  
9 the Peoples Temple facility here in Georgetown that you were  
10 going.

11 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know. This was Dick McCoy's  
12 responsibility. So, precisely when he notified them, I don't  
13 know.

14 Mr. Berdes. Were you aware that such prenotifications  
15 were being made?

16 Mr. Dwyer. They had to be; yes.

17 Mr. Berdes. Why was that?

18 Mr. Dwyer. Simply in the sense <sup>that</sup> getting there is always a  
19 problem. We want to be sure <sup>we</sup> you have the transportation laid  
20 <sup>on</sup> out.

21 Mr. Berdes. That is a matter involving the Government of  
22 Guyana.

23 Mr. Dwyer. That involves the Government of Guyana, but  
24 this is a very small town and that is even a smaller place up  
25 there, so there is no question they would be aware of our coming.

1 And one of the purposes, I expressed, one of the purposes was to  
2 make inquiries on behalf of relatives or friends about people  
3 there. We wanted to be sure these people, as far as we could,  
4 were seen. I believe Dick McCoy always had a few others that  
5 he would inquire about that were not on the list.

6 Mr. Berdes. Did he ever discuss that practice with you of  
7 withholding a few names?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I think he did. Certainly I was aware of  
9 it. I presume; yes.

10 Mr. Berdes. What was your understanding of why he did that?

11 Mr. Dwyer. Just as a check to see if there were -- as a  
12 way to examine some of these questions without the opportunity  
13 of preparation on the part of Peoples Temple.

14 Mr. Berdes. Which questions?

15 Mr. Dwyer. The questions raised by relatives. I under  
16 stand, a relative would say my relative or friend, or something,  
17 is not well, or something like that, would you check it.

18 Mr. Berdes. Would it be fair to say underlying that  
19 practice of withholding certain names on the advance  
20 notification list was a certain suspicion regarding Peoples  
21 Temple?

22 Mr. Dwyer. Suspicion was certainly there. We had no  
23 ground for any belief that any of these things that were  
24 alleged were actually happening. On the other hand, again, we  
25 wanted to go and see and form as independent a judgment as we

1 could. I might add, this practice had been reasonably well  
2 established before my arrival.

3 Mr. Berdes. I ask you to simply narrate, as you best  
4 recall it, your experiences on the visit into Jonestown.

5 Mr. Dwyer. You have, I presume, my report of that visit  
6 there somewhere. I did a report for the Department. I should  
7 preface it by saying the last few months, when I actually  
8 learned something or knew something or became aware of something  
9 has become rather blurred, but on that day, we flew up with a  
10 member of the Peoples Temple, whose <sup>identity</sup> I wasn't quite sure about, <sup>when I wrote the report.</sup> I  
11 think now it was probably Tim Carter. I know Tim came back with  
12 us. But I had not met him really before.

13 I had not met any of these people before. Who people were  
14 was a little bit indefinite. In any event, we arrived at Port  
15 Kaituma Airport in the early part of mid-morning and we made a  
16 call on the Assistant District Officer, Mr. Thomas, who was  
17 newly appointed to the region at that time. This <sup>was</sup> is more or less  
18 a courtesy call. Dick McCoy wanted to stress to Mr. Thomas the  
19 importance of registration of births, deaths, and things like  
20 that, with the local authorities without which he was unable to  
21 issue American documentation.

22 I don't think we spent more than 10 or 15 minutes with Mr.  
23 Thomas. Then we proceeded on to Peoples Temple, to Jonestown  
24 in a government supplied Landrover. We were met on arrival by  
25 Jim Jones and Marceline Jones and a group of other people.

1           These people, I have subsequently identified, or they were  
2 all introduced to me but I had no occasion at that time to try  
3 to differentiate one from the other. Maria Katsaris was there  
4 and Tim Carter was there and Mike Prokes was there. Anyway,  
5 several others.

6           We went into the main pavilion where we had a drink of  
7 flavor aid or fruit-flavored punch, and then we proceeded on  
8 a little tour of the community. They had obviously been prepared  
9 for my visit in the sense that they had those tables that you  
10 saw in the pavillion yesterday, two or three of those out and  
11 on them were displays of handicraft items such as dolls and wooden  
12 toys and items that they had made in Jonestown.

13           We went from the pavilion, I think our first stop was over  
14 at the day care center, the <sup>NURSERY.</sup> nusury. I was told by Marceline  
15 Jones, <sup>that</sup> this was her particular interest and pride. She told me  
16 that she was a registered nurse, I believe a pediatric nurse.  
17 So we tourned through this building where they had the cribs  
18 and what have you for the children.

19           We looked at the incubators. They had one child that had  
20 been left with them, they said, by some local Amerindians, a  
21 child of, oh, eight or nine months that had suffered badly from  
22 malnutrition.

23           The child was gaining weight. The child was noticably  
24 smaller than a child of that age, to give an example of the kind  
25 of community projects they had.

1 We looked in at, as I said, the day-care center there.  
2 There must have been 15 or 20 small children out on a covered  
3 patio-type arrangement as it had begun to rain. We went from  
4 there over to the <sup>TROOLY</sup> tulle huts, the cabins made from bark and  
5 leaves of the <sup>TROOLY</sup> tulle palm.

6 The old people, they call them the seniors, at least part  
7 of them were housed <sup>there</sup>, I spoke to several of these people at  
8 that time. We looked into one of those cabins, as we did yes-  
9 terday.

10 From there we went over and looked at the dispensary.  
11 They were very proud of their medical facilities. I think it  
12 was in that context, perhaps, that I first heard of the local  
13 customs inspection because they alleged that they had lost a  
14 large quantity of medicines and medical equipment through pil-  
15 ferage.

16 We, then, went over and met Dr. Schacht very briefly.  
17 We went from there to the carpentry shop, to the machine shop.  
18 I might add that on this progression, care was taken to intro-  
19 duce me to the individuals who were working there and to tell  
20 me something of their past history.

21 This young woman who was a welder had been a prostitute.  
22 This young man who worked in the machine shop had been on drugs.  
23 There was a decided purpose in trying to show me how they had  
24 rehabilitated these people.

25 I should also add, Dick McCoy left (us making) the tour early

1 on and went over to the pavillion where he had a number of  
2 consular affairs to take up with individuals.

3 The machine shop, wood shop. Basically, we made <sup>a</sup> [the] tour  
4 very similar to what we did yesterday, not as long. Perhaps  
5 an hour, anyway.

6 We came back then to the pavilion. I sat down and watched,  
7 observed Dick McCoy as he was presenting to a group of Jonestown  
8 residents, young people who had recently had children or were  
9 expecting children, where he <sup>briefed</sup> [believed] them on what matters were  
10 necessary to register the child <sup>as an</sup> [of] American citizenship, how to  
11 get a passport, how to get whatever other documentation they  
12 needed.

13 We then had lunch in the main pavilion. I don't recall  
14 how many of us were there -- Jim and Marcie Jones and at least  
15 half a dozen others, maybe a total of 10. And I talk<sup>ed</sup> at some  
16 length with Jim Jones at that time about what he was trying to  
17 do or what the Peoples Temple was trying to do.

18 I told him a little about myself, including the fact I had  
19 served as political-economic officer in our embassy in Bulgaria  
20 for a little over two years and, thus, had some first-hand  
21 knowledge of a <sup>SOCIALIST, a</sup> [social, historic] Communist state.

22 Mr. Spalatin. Did Mr. Jones indicate he had traveled to  
23 Eastern Europe?

24 Mr. Dwyer. No, he did not. I am unaware that he ever  
25 did.

1 Mr. Berdes. What did he say his purpose was?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Purpose, you mean in Jonestown?

3 Mr. Berdes. Right.

4 Mr. Dwyer. It was a communal society developed for people  
5 for whom the stresses of -- what would you call it? I don't  
6 know if he called it a capitalist society, <sup>or</sup> market <sup>economy</sup>,  
7 but in any event, for whom the normal stresses of urban living  
8 in the United States had proved beyond them.

9 They had selected, he said, an area that was isolated and  
10 parenthetically he said he often wished it was not quite that  
11 isolated but they had selected an isolated area principally  
12 because there were elements in their community that had problems  
13 in the United States of adjusting to American society.

14 Mr. Berdes. Did you see any physical evidence of, or did  
15 Jones in any way confirm in what he told you as to their purpose,  
16 the fact that this was a religious community?

17 Mr. Dwyer. I did not specifically ask him what kind of  
18 religion was practiced there. I was aware that he, from the  
19 letterheads of the Peoples Temple, that they were an affiliate  
20 or parish of the Disciples of Christ.

21 I believe he attempted to put to me the idea of a community  
22 going back to the early Christian days where they lived together  
23 and shared all things.

24 The one question I remember that we discussed and that he  
25 raised was the question of motivation <sup>of</sup> how you motivate people

1 who work for the good of the society when you have decided  
2 against the use of money or any other normal type of market  
3 economy.

4 He said he thought the community still had not resolved this  
5 question. There were jobs that were obviously less desirable  
6 than other jobs and how in a measure of fairness do you distri-  
7 bute work?

8 Basically, he said they were using simply a system of  
9 praise, of the peer group pressure <sup>as</sup> was their chief motivation <sup>ing</sup> ing  
10 factor. I don't recall that he actually used that phrase, by  
11 the way, "peer group pressure", but it was certainly the idea  
12 of the sense of the community extending upon the individual  
13 an obligation to perform duties for the good of the community.

14 Mr. Smeeton. Did you see any visible signs of what could  
15 be construed as religious symbols around? Is there any area  
16 that was earmarked for religious worship?

17 Mr. Dwyer. No, I was told that there were meetings of  
18 all kinds, including, presumably, religion, <sup>was</sup> were held in a <sup>the</sup> the  
19 pavilion. This was their central meeting place.

20 I think I probably saw several signs that we saw yesterday.  
21 There were considerably more around there. I am sure I saw a  
22 quote from some aspect of the Bible or two. But beyond that,  
23 I would be hardput to say precisely what.

24 Looking back on it, there is little doubt in my mind that  
25 Jones and the other people had an image which they wished to

1 project to me. That is, <sup>me of</sup> basically simple people who <sup>have</sup> [has] requested  
2 nothing else but to be left alone and, it was stressed with some  
3 frequency, to be a credit to both the United States and to Guyana.

4 The question of motivation, as I say, was one theoretical  
5 aspect that I remember of our conversation in the context of  
6 which I gave the view, for example, of my experiences in  
7 Bulgaria of how difficult it is to motivate people for the good  
8 of the state.

9 My example was that of a hunter. I hunted in Bulgaria.  
10 It was considered <sup>proper</sup> [an honor] to ask permission of the local <sup>men</sup> [man]  
11 of the village if you <sup>could</sup> [can] go out and shoot with <sup>them</sup> [him]. We shot  
12 on Sundays, normally. We were going after birds, pheasants,  
13 quail and in one village that I got to know fairly well after  
14 I had been there a few times, they took me out in the fall of  
15 the year, well outside the village, four or five kilometers  
16 away and up beyond the hills <sup>where there</sup> [here] was a good four or five acres  
17 of corn still on the stalk that hadn't been harvested. This  
18 was a cooperative farm, state farm.

19 I was surprised to see that this corn had not been har-  
20 vested because I knew that the government was in short supply  
21 of fodder for animals, and the story came out, "we may not have  
22 met our quota for fodder for animals, but we have pheasants <sup>of</sup> [of] on  
23 every range and a few from Romania.

24 "We would rather leave this corn in the fields where we can  
25 shoot our pheasants and our quail <sup>then</sup> [and] send <sup>it</sup> [them] to the state for

1 a very low price." I was using this example with Jim Jones as  
2 one of the most, if not the most, conservative <sup>COMMUNIST</sup> society around  
3 where still they had not reached a place where the average indi-  
4 vidual or even a group of individuals could be dependent upon  
5 to put the interest of the state before their own personal  
6 interests.

7 After lunch, Jim Jones was called away by someone, I forget  
8 who, on an errand of some kind. I felt then <sup>AS</sup> and I still do  
9 probably that this was purposely set up to leave me alone with  
10 Marceline Jones.

11 Mrs. Jones used that opportunity to tell me with tears in  
12 her eyes that the Reverend Jim Jones was the finest man, finest  
13 individual that she had ever met in her life, that he was  
14 dedicated to the wellbeing of people in general and his community  
15 in particular. Although it was a very painful subject, she  
16 wanted me to know that the fathering of the Stoen child had  
17 been accomplished with her full knowledge and consent and that  
18 she and Jim realized now that probably it was a terrible mistake.

19 She wanted me to understand it was purely in the interest  
20 of others rather than <sup>of</sup> any personal interest.

21 Mr. Berdes. Did that in any way bend your understanding  
22 of Peoples Temple as a religious community?

23 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I <sup>had</sup> been aware of these things before.  
24 I was acutely <sup>un</sup> comfortable. I guess one might say that that was  
25 the first time I had the feeling of how single-minded some of

1 these people could be. Certainly coming from an average middle-  
2 class background, I found it strange that this particular lady --  
3 I won't say strange, but I found it uncomfortable, the lengths  
4 that this woman wished to describe to me her concurrence in the  
5 fathering of this child.

6 Anyway, Jones came back subsequently in a few minutes and  
7 Marceline said to him, I have been telling Mr. Dwyer about the  
8 Stoens and John.

9 Mr. Berdes. John Victor??

10 Mr. Dwyer. John Victor. I think they called him John-John  
11 as well.

12 Mr. Smeeton. Did you see John Victor at this point?

13 Mr. Dwyer. I think I did. Dick McCoy had done so and  
14 I don't remember if he did so during that visit or not. Anyway,  
15 Jones then also said, "Well, that was a terrible mistake I made,"  
16 that he very much regretted it. He said he is a beautiful  
17 child. His mother abandoned him and went on at length that  
18 he felt the mother was an unfit mother.

19 Mr. Smeeton. Did he offer any opinions about Tim Stoen  
20 at that time, and the case in general?

21 Mr. Dwyer. No, he did<sup>not</sup> not bearing directly on the case,  
22 he didn't know what he would do if anybody ever tried to take  
23 this child away from him, that he felt<sup>he said</sup> he [said] was his own  
24 child and was happy where he was and would be subject to an  
25 unsuitable life were he returned to his mother and/or his father.

1 I don't know whether he made any comments on Tim Stoen  
2 beyond the fact that he had been unwilling to live in a primitive  
3 developed community, that he was unable to live without the  
4 niceties of American life, <sup>and,</sup> therefore, had fled. Not fled, but  
5 therefore, he left.

6 I don't know whether he had said to me at that time or not  
7 or whether subsequently someone else that Stoen was -- whether  
8 because of the child or despite the child <sup>had become</sup> their arch  
9 foe, the Temple's arch foe.

10 Mr. Berdes. You are not sure whether it was then or some-  
11 time later.

12 Mr. Dwyer. Indeed the Stoens I knew about, of course,  
13 because of the court case. But I did not have the appreciation  
14 before I went to Jonestown in May that apparently Tim Stoen had  
15 played a pivotal role in the Peoples Temple organization.

16 This came out only gradually. Jones did mention to me  
17 that in the context of my questioning him, if people could leave  
18 here and he said, "oh, yes, many people have left." Some he  
19 referred to as Trotskyites, being a Foreign Service Officer,  
20 obviously, and having served in Eastern Europe, I know something  
21 of Communist ideology and history.

22 Indeed, for me, Trotsky is an <sup>interesting historical</sup> unearthy character whose  
23 biography I had <sup>READ</sup> completed shortly before that. I was fascinated  
24 to know or inquire what was a Trotskyite, how do you work out  
25 of Peoples Temple and become a Trotskyite. The answer was very

1 unclear, but, basically, I understood from Jones the definition  
2 of a Trotskyite was someone who believed in violence and was  
3 unwilling to avoid <sup>violence</sup> ~~silence~~ in a community <sup>life</sup> life.

4 The other thing I found in time, whatever their professed  
5 ideology was, and I am speaking of ideology rather than as  
6 religion or cult, it was not developed. It was unclear.

7 Mr. Berdes. Still evolving?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Well, rather primitive. Now, whether it would  
9 have grown, I am not one to say. These people had very little  
10 concept, a philosophical concept of Communism on the average.  
11 Jones, I am sure, purportedly read a great deal, he said he did.  
12 I am not so sure how much he absorbed. Having been used to  
13 dealing with government officials in a Communist country, you  
14 are absolutely sure you press this button and you <sup>will</sup> get that  
15 response.

16 The indoctrination begins very young. But there, I felt  
17 none of this. It would be hard to say I <sup>knew</sup> ~~deal~~ logically what  
18 they believed in. Again, with hind sight, I suppose looking  
19 back on these things, I did not appreciate at the time the fact  
20 that the ideology was the man himself.

21 Mr. Berdes. At that point and stemming from your meeting  
22 and discussion with him on May 10, how would you describe  
23 Jim Jones? Was he intelligent, was he brilliant, was he  
24 charasmatic, was he clever or not?

25 How would you describe him?

1 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly intelligent. No question about it.  
2 A man more concerned about ideas than about things. I gave you  
3 the example yesterday at Jonestown of <sup>a machine</sup> [this machinery] that was  
4 to <sup>make</sup> [take] gas out of woodburning fires and use <sup>it to</sup> power [on the]  
5 internal combustion engines and, thus, to save on fuel. This  
6 was obvious to me something Jones thought was interesting and  
7 clever, but he had not the personal interest in such things to  
8 recognize <sup>the</sup> [a] machine when he saw it.

9 By happenstance, I had heard a radio program of Peoples  
10 Temple. They had a half hour radio program every week and prior  
11 to going up there, I made a point of listening to that ---

12 Mr. Smeeton. This would come over which radio?

13 Mr. Dwyer. The local broadcasting station, the local  
14 radio.

15 Mr. Smeeton. Here in Georgetown?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Yes. Well, it is nationwide.

17 Mr. Smeeton. This was once a week, they were allowed a  
18 half hour's time.

19 Mr. Dwyer. I believe they paid for <sup>it.</sup> [this]. This <sup>is</sup> [was] not  
20 unusual here. The House of Israel, another group here, has  
21 a half hour radio program or 15 minutes, I forget which. The  
22 American government has one too. So does the Libyan Government,  
23 what have you.

24 But in any event, on <sup>that</sup> [the] particular radio program, they had  
25 discussed at some length what they were doing agriculturally.

The attempt to find new crops, new users for old crops, I should say. How everything in Jonestown was designed to be productive. It was an interesting program but somewhat naive. What I was interested to discover when I then myself the next week went to Jonestown was that very closely, very nearly the same words were being used to tell me about what they were doing.

In other words, it was canned, which is neither here nor there, I suppose. They were obviously attempting to put the best face on that community for me. Indeed, I was surprised. The casava was described to me in almost precisely the same words I heard over the radio which was an indication things were pretty well organized.

Mr. Smeeton. Was Jones himself the person who spoke on this broadcast?

Mr. Dwyer. I don't believe so. That is a good question. Now that you mention it, I don't know whether he ever spoke on these broadcasts. They tried to use the occasion of a visit from somebody. They tried to have somebody from outside the community on their radio program to describe the glories of Jonestown.

Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall any religious content in any way during that broadcast?

Mr. Dwyer. No, they did not ---

Mr. Smeeton. They focused primarily on the agricultural aspects of what was happening?

1 Mr. Dwyer. This particular broadcast did. As I say,  
2 they were on every week.

3 Mr. Smeeton. Did you hear them after that?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

5 Mr. Smeeton. You started listening to them rather  
6 regularly?

7 Mr. Dwyer. You can only take so much. But periodically  
8 one thing about it, the timing ---

9 Mr. Smeeton. I was thinking you might have used it as a  
10 source of possible intelligence or use as to what was going  
11 on?

12 Mr. Dwyer. Let me make very clear, my job is not to gather  
13 intelligence on American citizens.

14 Mr. Smeeton. Not intelligence in the worst connotation, but  
15 information. Let's strike "intelligence".

16 Mr. Dwyer. Your word, Tom, not mine. Let's leave it  
17 there.

18 Mr. Spalatin. Dick, you said that the radio program was  
19 interesting but somewhat naive. Can you apply that same  
20 observation to Mr. Jones?

21 Mr. Dwyer. I guess really what started me off on this was  
22 George's question as to how I saw the man. His interests,  
23 obviously, were not related to things. He recognized the need  
24 for them and indeed he made a point to me of stressing the  
25 qualifications of some of the people he had up there, mechanics,

1 what have you.

2 Mr. Spalatin. To meet the practical needs of the  
3 community?

4 Mr. Dwyer. That is right. Obviously, his interests were  
5 in running the community itself, how to manage people and, again,  
6 looking back on it, I suppose the man's basic interest was power.

7 Mr. Spalatin. Did you find him clever, necessarily so or  
8 not necessarily so?

9 Mr. Dwyer. I didn't think of him in terms of being clever.  
10 He made a point of the conspiracy theory <sup>WHICH</sup> came through loud  
11 and clear. He felt they were being harassed, they had been  
12 harassed in the United States, one of the reasons they came  
13 here.

14 There just was not anywhere in the United States far  
15 enough away that would prevent the harassment of a community  
16 of the type he was trying to establish.

17 Mr. Berdes. You said his sincerity came through loud and  
18 clear, is that what I hear you to say? What did you say came  
19 through loud and clear?

20 Mr. Dwyer. The conspiracy came through loud and clear,  
21 the complaints against the harassment that there were these  
22 groups, for reasons that he claimed not to understand, trying  
23 to destroy the Temple.

24 Mr. Berdes. Were they still dark sources or the U.S.  
25 government?

1 Mr. Dwyer. He had alleged that the United States Air Force  
2 intelligence agents had spied on them in San Francisco, but not  
3 in the sense of saying that the whole United States Government  
4 was against him.

5 Mr. Smeeton. Did he offer specific information in that  
6 regard?

7 Mr. Dwyer. He used the case of two men who he claimed  
8 he later identified as Air Force intelligence specialists who  
9 had been spying on him.

10 Mr. Smeeton. In California?

11 Mr. Dwyer. In California.

12 Mr. Spalatin. The bottom line on this, Mr. Dwyer, did  
13 you think Jones was sincere and for real? Were you suspicious  
14 or not?

15 Mr. Dwyer. Well, suspicious of what? Certainly he was  
16 sincere in his being there to develop a community, there is  
17 no question in my mind about that whatsoever. There is also  
18 no question in my mind, either now or then, that he was pre-  
19 senting the picture of Jonestown to me that was tailored for  
20 me in my capacity as an American diplomat.

21 As I say, I think this was clear to me.

22 Mr. Spalatin. Is there anything else of significance for  
23 the purpose of our investigation you wish to relate to us?

24 Mr. Dwyer. On that visit, no. It was a community where  
25 people were obviously actively busy. I don't know how many

1 people I talked to briefly, but I had no indications <sup>from</sup> of anybody  
2 I talked with on that day that anyone had any problem.

3 Mr. Spalatin. Did the people strike you as viewing  
4 Mr. Jones with respect or fear?

5 Mr. Berdes. Or even reference? Did they hold him up  
6 as someone truly out of the ordinary?

7 Mr. Dwyer. No question but he was the leader of this  
8 community. Indeed, there were the group of 20-odd children,  
9 I would guess, not that many, 10 to 20 small children being  
10 led back from a play area in the fields that are beyond. As  
11 they all came by, they all smiled and waived and said, "Hi,  
12 Dad."

13 I guess the expression on my face revealed something,  
14 because we had previously been talking about the Stoen case and  
15 Jones said, "Well, that is my nickname up here, everybody calls  
16 me dad."

17 Mr. Berdes. Could it conceivably have been a religious  
18 image in concern to the father?

19 Mr. Dwyer. <sup>THE</sup> Irreligious significance of them calling him  
20 "dad" did not strike me ---

21 Mr. Smeeton. As you have indicated, Dick McCoy conducted  
22 a number of interviews while you were off in another direction  
23 or maybe touring -- I don't think you indicated that you were  
24 able to observe his interviews or participate in his interviews.

25 Mr. Dwyer. We had gone over and looked at the day-care

1 center, what have you, then I guess the medical unit and then  
2 Dick said, "I have got to do my work here <sup>now</sup> or I am not going  
3 to accomplish it."

4 There may have been 20 minutes, half-hour, while we walked  
5 down to the machine shop, <sup>and</sup> the carpentry shop, <sup>etc.</sup> what have you.  
6 Obviously, he was not there then. Then we came back and sat  
7 in the pavillion where McCoy was actually working. So beyond  
8 that, we were certainly within sight of each other.

9 Mr. Smeeton. Were you able to overhear the conversations  
10 between the interviewees and McCoy?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No; no.

12 Mr. Smeeton. They were afforded enough privacy so it was  
13 essentially McCoy and the interviewee?

14 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, absolutely.

15 Mr. Smeeton. The reason I pose this question, there has  
16 been some testimony from people who were there at the time  
17 suggesting that Jones resorted to methods to more or less  
18 evesdrop on the conversation.

19 For example, one witness who was there at the time said  
20 we would have people pretending to be cleaning up the area,  
21 maybe just picking up, circling the general facility of where  
22 McCoy was conducting these interviews.

23 Do you recall seeing any of that?

24 Mr. Dwyer. Absolutely not. The whole point of interviewing  
25 these people would be destroyed if the interview were not private.

1 Mr. Berdes. Did you specifically discuss that technique  
2 with Dick McCoy before you went up, the need for privacy and  
3 isolation?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Whether we specifically discussed it, I don't  
5 recall, but, certainly, before we were up there, I was well  
6 aware, obviously, <sup>that if</sup> these were questions to have any validity <sup>they</sup>  
7 had to be responded to in private. The question is really, are  
8 you being held here against your will?

9 If the individual is fearful of the community, you cannot  
10 expect him to respond <sup>truthfully</sup> [fruitfully] when the community is sitting  
11 there watching.

12 Mr. Smeeton. None of those interviews were conducted so  
13 far removed from the pavillion that they were unobserved?  
14 In other words, they might have been within eyesight of people  
15 within the pavillion but they were not within earshot.

16 Mr. Dwyer. That is a fair enough evaluation. I am  
17 aware of some press reports or reports by journalists that  
18 there were such things as <sup>PARABOLIC</sup> [diabolic] microphones, what have you.  
19 Personally, I don't personally believe that was the case.

20 Mr. Spalatin. Did you see any evidence of fear in people?

21 Mr. Dwyer. No.

22 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall McCoy, after these interviews  
23 were conducted, indicating any of them might have in some way  
24 indicated they might have been less than satisfied with their  
25 life there?

1 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't.

2 Mr. Smeeton. They were universally, at least all the  
3 people he interviewed at that time, conveyed the impression they  
4 were satisfied with their life there, he didn't sense anything  
5 intuitively to suggest otherwise?

6 Mr. Dwyer. No, not at all.

7 Mr. Smeeton. And the suggestion that the answers were  
8 almost pat, almost programmed?

9 Mr. Dwyer. No. What he asked of these people would be  
10 dependent upon the questions that were raised in the States,  
11 whether the young man had truly had his head shaved or whether  
12 or not so and so was in good health.

13 Mr. Smeeton. Neither one of you noticed during that visit  
14 anything unusual about the demeanor of any of the inhabitants  
15 of Jonestown?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Beyond the fact this sizeable group of Americans  
17 had chosen to come to South American and hack out a sizeable  
18 piece of jungle, which I thought then was unusual, and still do,  
19 no.

20 Mr. Berdes. Dick, let me read to you, please, out of our  
21 interview with Dick McCoy on December 20th and ask you whether  
22 you concur in the answer to a question that asked him to recite  
23 his recollection of your impressions of the visit of May 10th.

24 And his answer begins as follows: "Well, I think he had  
25 the same impression that I had, that they had concerning the

1 physical layout and physical plan accomplished a great deal in  
2 a very short period of time.

3 "He, like I and I think like anybody who went up there was  
4 struck by the physical isolation of the place, and, in fact,  
5 would be easy threatening people's lives to psychologically  
6 influence them to stay there just because of the isolation.

7 "I don't recall he came out with anything specific that they  
8 noticed which could be considered untoward as sort of a strange  
9 situation or something out of the ordinary.

10 "I don't recall that at all."

11 Do you agree with that general summation?

12 Mr. Dwyer. My overall impression of that day was that  
13 here was a community in the first blush of its enthusiasm with  
14 a great deal of hard work and dedication. I did not think or  
15 have reason to feel, [I thought there was<sup>that</sup>] this hard work and  
16 dedication was a product of fear rather than of enthusiasm.

17 I thought in terms, when I discovered that these people had  
18 originated in Indiana, which I hadn't known before, in terms of  
19 some of the utopian communities established in Indiana in the  
20 19th Century, [a new harmony<sup>Indiana</sup>] came to mind, and I always questioned  
21 to myself how this community could ever be economically self-  
22 sufficient and, should it endure for a period of time, how the  
23 obviously high levels of motivation, dedication, sheer hard work  
24 could be maintained once the blush of the founding has<sup>d</sup> gone.

25 It reminded me in some ways of [<sup>a</sup>the] kibbutz as it started

1 out in clearing the land. I could see evidence, and I think  
2 very sincere pride, in a lot of these people as to what they had  
3 done there, what they had accomplished, a great deal of satis-  
4 faction <sup>in</sup> looking out over a field of crops where nothing but  
5 jungle existed the year before. But, for those people who might  
6 remain over a long period of time, I could not see how the  
7 community could maintain that level of dedication.

8 Mr. Berdes. In response to a second follow-up question in  
9 that same interview of December 20th of Richard McCoy as to  
10 whether you, as a result of that visit, had any greater under-  
11 standing of the difficulties that he may have been encountering  
12 at that point, he said this and I ask you again whether you  
13 agree with this statement.

14 "Well, he" -- you -- "commiserated with me in terms of trying  
15 to deal with Jones because he recognized Jones had this fixation  
16 about this so-called conspiracy and this question of mercenaries  
17 and the wild threats presumably Jones had made.

18 "He, obviously, wasn't all that sanguine about Jones and  
19 some of the people around him. I think he recognized we were  
20 not dealing with a simple situation or that it was not, or at  
21 least it was not susceptible to simple solutions, that we are  
22 dealing with a situation that was not only controversial but  
23 very complicated."

24 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly I agree <sup>that</sup> the situations<sup>s</sup> -- obviously  
25 ~~it~~ was very complicated. This was very difficult to deal with,

1 first and foremost, because of the isolation. Looking back  
2 on it now, that was the only trip I had 'up there when things  
3 went relatively smoothly. The airplane was there, the pilot  
4 was there and, strangely enough, nothing went wrong. Every  
5 subsequent time <sup>there have</sup> ~~it had~~ been a great deal of problems to arrange  
6 these things. And what I appreciated later and even then to  
7 some extent was the amount of work that it took McCoy or whoever  
8 to try to line up the airplane, make sure we had a pilot, that  
9 the government knew we were coming, that we had a vehicle at our  
10 disposal up there.

11 There is no question about it, it <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ a difficult, compli-  
12 cated situation.

13 Mr. Berdes. But those were logistic questions, difficult  
14 indeed they are. But does this question of the situation being  
15 controversial reflect something else?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly it reflects these incredibly, not  
17 incredibly, but the effects of these deeply held convictions,  
18 <sup>such</sup> as on the Stoen case. Here is just a classic example of <sup>where</sup>  
19 in ~~now~~ way is there any solution in sight to satisfy both groups  
20 of individuals and, yet, it was Dick McCoy's job to do so,  
21 insofar as he could, and <sup>our</sup> ~~his~~ job as well, to remain as neutral  
22 and as fair as we can ~~and~~ in the middle of this controversy and  
23 to refrain, insofar as we can, <sup>from</sup> ~~to~~ becoming in any way personally  
24 involved.

25 Mr. Spalatin. Was the complicated also related to your

1 observation earlier that how could they sustain themselves,  
2 the intensity of enthusiasm, I think you used, beyond the first  
3 blush, was that implied in that element as well?

4 Mr. Dwyer. That is really not what Dick is talking about  
5 here, I don't think. We were looking at this in two different  
6 ways. <sup>HIS VIEW WAS</sup> [It was used] purely from <sup>that of a</sup> consular officer, not purely  
7 from <sup>that of a</sup> consular officer, but from the vantage point of being the  
8 consul and I had the -- I was looking at the community and won-  
9 dering what was going to become of it.

10 Mr. Spalatin. More in the future type, how can they  
11 survive, get along?

12 Mr. Dwyer. Here <sup>with</sup> [in] this vast quantity of equipment and what  
13 have you, I should say, <sup>with</sup> I suppose, my own professional interests  
14 are in developing countries, developing economies, how to achieve  
15 some level of development and when we looked, as we did yesterday,  
16 at Jonestown, you see some of these pieces of <sup>heavy</sup> equipment up  
17 there.

18 Now, what could that community produce to replace one of  
19 those generators? What incentive?

20 Mr. Smeeton. In this connection, Dick ---

21 Mr. Dwyer. These are professional economic development-  
22 type interests on my part. As I say -- excuse me -- really  
23 these were, in my mind a year down the road, maybe a couple  
24 years.

25 As I say, I felt that this kind of enthusiasm can, could

1 be developed for something that is starting out, but how does  
2 it continue? That question.

3 Mr. Smeeton. I was just going to say, in this regard,  
4 you are not alone in that observation. A number of others have  
5 made that observation. Also, including, if my recollection  
6 serves me right, Guyanese officials, particularly when the  
7 influx of citizens began to increase, they took the nature of  
8 such things as the age, they were struck by the fact that a good  
9 portion, or a significant portion of the influx were people who  
10 were well up in years and were not probably physically able  
11 to spend much time in the fields and they are also struck by  
12 another significant portion of the community being quite young  
13 and probably therefore not too productive.

14 They were concerned that of the total community, a rela-  
15 tively small number would actually be physically able to be  
16 productive in the field and so on?

17 Did that strike you as you looked over the community and saw  
18 what it consisted of in terms of people the propensity to  
19 produce?

20 Mr. Dwyer. The elderly people, <sup>thanks</sup> [than,] to Social Security,  
21 what have you, <sup>were</sup> [we are] probably self-supporting in the sense ---

22 Mr. SMeeton. I mean in terms of the food.

23 Mr. Dwyer. I understand.

24 Mr. Smeeton. You could meet <sup>eat?</sup> those checks?

25 Mr. Dwyer. Well, with the checks, you can buy the food.

1 Mr. Smeeton. You mean from the surrounding area?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Or from Georgetown.

3 Mr. Smeeton. Import it in?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Which is basically where they got most of  
5 the food.

6 Mr. Smeeton. You are of the opinion that cash-flow would  
7 provide food from elsewhere and bring it in?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly for the elderly people. In fairness  
9 <sup>to</sup> ~~for~~ this group, one thing that did strike me on that first visit,  
10 was I felt these elderly people were ~~a~~ much more part of the  
11 community than they likely would be in the United States. That  
12 there had been a conscious effort to involve them in everything  
13 from helping to tend the children, to sewing, ~~and~~ of any group  
14 of people up there,

15 → I would say, of these I met, they seemed to be the most  
16 thankful for where they were.

17 Mr. Smeeton. Around this time, were you aware of reports  
18 emanating from California that possibly a number of children  
19 who were <sup>WAROS</sup> ~~awares~~ of the State of California might have been  
20 transferred to Jonestown?

21 Mr. Dwyer. Not until after November 18.

22 Mr. Smeeton. That is when you first became aware of that.  
23 You weren't aware of any inquires being made at the Department  
24 level to the State of California regarding this matter.

25 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't believe I was.

1 Mr. Berdes. Did you have the sense of having free access  
2 to Jonestown? You were taken on apparently a guided tour, in  
3 a sense, by Jones himself, much as we were yesterday.

4 Do you believe you could have move around yourself freely,  
5 if you so chose?

6 Mr. Dwyer. I had no feeling that anything was being  
7 hidden from me. I mean I was not suspicious if I were to, that  
8 there were whole areas of this community that were purposely not  
9 being shown to me, but I would like to state again that my  
10 function now and then was not to force my way into someone's  
11 house against their will.

12 I was shown one or two houses, which, I suppose, may well  
13 have been carefully <sup>prepared</sup> paid for me in the sense they were sparkling  
14 clean and tidy. But I did not feel there was anything hidden.  
15 On the other hand, quite frankly, I didn't spend that much time  
16 there.

17 Mr. Berdes. How much time did you spend there, is my next  
18 question?

19 Mr. Dwyer. <sup>McCoy</sup> Dick may recall it better than I. We got  
20 there in the morning. We left about 2:30 or 3:00, I guess.  
21 We got back to Georgetown after embassy office hours, I remember.

22 Tim Carter came back with us. We dropped him off at Lamaha  
23 Gardens and by the time I was back at the embassy, it was  
24 probably 5 o'clock or 5:30.

25 Mr. Berdes. You were there a total of approximately five

1 hours.

2 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, more or less. We stopped in Port Kaituma,  
3 as I said, briefly.

4 Mr. Spalatin. Approximately from 10:00 to 3:00?

5 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

6 Mr. Berdes. Did you at any time or did the thought pass  
7 through your mind at any time that you were being subjected to  
8 a dog and pony show, that the stage had been set there in a  
9 very calculated manner?

10 Did all things appear natural, perhaps, is another way of  
11 asking that same question?

12 Mr. Dwyer. What is natural 150 miles into the jungle?

13 Mr. Berdes. Were the people free and easy with you, did  
14 you have a sense of their being free in their conversations with  
15 you, guarded, protected, cautious?

16 Mr. Dwyer. There was no one I talked to who I felt was  
17 being particularly guarded. They were anxious to get across  
18 their point of view. There is no question in my mind whatsoever  
19 that they had specifically arranged things so as to give the  
20 very best impression of themselves <sup>that</sup> [as] they could.

21 On the other hand, I should have been most surprised had  
22 they not tried to do so.

23 Mr. Berdes. Was there an insistency as to what was being  
24 said, did they more or less use the same words, a single message  
25 they were trying to drive home to you?

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Did they come at you from a variety of perspective, a variety of ways of saying things?

Mr. Dwyer. There was a uniformity in being greeted with a smile. This, I suspect, <sup>had</sup> was obviously been told to everybody before we got up there, please speak to the man from the American Embassy and smile at him.

Everywhere we passed someone, they would do this. Then there was the theme of harassment in the United States, conspiracy against them in the United States.

Then, there was the theme of, we want to be a credit to Guyana and to our own country and, finally, I guess the general theme of how hard we have been working and look what we are doing.

Mr. Berdes. That all came throu rather reasonably?

Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

Mr. Smeeton. What way were these opinions expressed? Were you just wandering through and someone came up to you and offered their opinions?

Mr. Dwyer. No, this was very definitely ---

Mr. Smeeton. Were you all sitting around the table?

Mr. Dwyer. While we walked through, I would be introduced to the guy who ran the carpentry shop or the guy who ran the machinery shop, or the fellow who was in charge of the dairy herd, or the agronomist.

Looking back on it now, I can recognize some of the names

1 and faces in my memory, although at that time, I didn't know  
2 one of these people from the other. But these were basically  
3 what I say were the managers of this community.

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m 1 Mr. Smeeton. If you want to read back what he said, you  
2 said in retrospect you now realize most of these people you were  
3 talking to were managers more or less.

4 Mr. Dwyer. The second echelon of the people generally. As  
5 I say, Katsaris was there; Tim Carter was there; Johnny Jones,  
6 who was in constant attendance <sup>on</sup> [with] his father; these are people  
7 who subsequently I became aware of as individuals.

8 Mr. Smeeton. At any time as you were strolling through,  
9 were you able to sort of stop for a minute in front of somebody's  
10 cottage and maybe chat a little bit?

11 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I will say, I can't remember what day it  
12 was, but it was a working day. There were people in the fields,  
13 people working. The only extensive conversation I had just  
14 stopping by people was <sup>with</sup> some of the elderly people. What they  
15 did with their time, how <sup>did</sup> they like living in Guyana.

16 Mr. Smeeton. You didn't find anything unusual with respect  
17 to their responses?

18 Mr. Dwyer. Only in the sense they were probably more  
19 favorably <sup>e</sup> than I would have expected.

20 Mr. Smeeton. The older people in general?

21 Mr. Dwyer. These few I talked to. I was impressed with  
22 one elderly lady saying, "at home I just had a room and I was  
23 afraid to go out of it. I was afraid I was going to get sick  
24 and there wouldn't be anybody to take care of me. Here I am  
25 not afraid to go out. There are people that come in and look

1 in on me every day to make sure I am all right.

2 Mr. Berdes. By the way, before your plane landed at Port  
3 Kaituma, it circled Jonestown, was there any reaction on the  
4 ground that you noticed or any comment by anyone after you  
5 arrived in Jonestown to that fact?

6 Mr. Dwyer. No, Tim Carter was in the airplane with us. I  
7 couldn't remember who it was. Someone has told me since. I may  
8 have asked Dick McCoy on the telephone who it was who went up  
9 there with us. I think he said it was Carter. Anyway, we had  
10 someone from the Peoples Temple with us.

11 Mr. Berdes. Just one more turn, please, on the question of  
12 your conversation with Jones as it related to his motivation on  
13 John Victor Stoen. Did you have any sense that his intensity,  
14 feeling on that question, stemmed from anything other than a  
15 natural love of a natural father for his child?

16 Did he ever intimate that there was something more to his  
17 position on that question?

18 Mr. Dwyer. There was that and his conviction that the  
19 mother was not fit to raise the child. So there was a definite  
20 antipathy towards Tim and Grace Stoen that became very clear.

21 Mr. Berdes. He never at any time implied directly or  
22 indirectly or left you with the impression that this was a  
23 matter of great crucial concern to him, that there was some great  
24 symbolism involved in John Victor Stoen?

25 Mr. Dwyer. No, certainly not at that time.

1 Mr. Berdes. Have you subsequently come to see that as a  
2 possibility?

3 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I have, subsequent to November 18.

4 Mr. Berdes. Could you just elaborate a little bit on how  
5 you came to understand it?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I suspect, and this is purely a hypothesis  
7 on my part, I just suspect that the child probably had become  
8 for him the symbol of whether the <sup>COMMUNITY</sup> [communication] work<sup>ED</sup> or failed,  
9 but subsequently I have heard in the press, what have you, the  
10 stories of threats of mass suicide if they lost the child. On  
11 that May 10th had anyone told me about it or had I known about  
12 it, would have seemed incredible to me.

13 Mr. Spalatin. Would have seemed what?

14 Mr. Dwyer. Would have seemed incredible to me.

15 Mr. Berdes. We talked a little bit about Jim Jones's  
16 so-called cleverness. I would ask you, please, to simply react  
17 to this suggestion that he, in fact, -- by his repeated  
18 accusations, that the embassy was taking sides against Peoples  
19 Temple that he may have in effect been sensitizing the embassy  
20 and its staff to the point where they would have bent over  
21 backwards in the opposite direction to have avoided that, is  
22 that a possibility?

23 Mr. Dwyer. Whether he may have attempted such or not, we  
24 were very much aware that we had to be defensive on this point  
25 as well as on the point of being overly friendly with these

1 people. After I got back from the May 10th visit to Jonestown,  
2 I was invited at least once and I think maybe twice for dinner,  
3 please come over for dinner, or something in an obvious attempt  
4 to cultivate me personally. This is just exactly the type of  
5 thing that would be undesirable when you have a case where  
6 allegations are being made, such as they were being made. You  
7 don't want to prejudice yourself in the <sup>VIEW</sup>guise of anyone else by  
8 either being unfriendly or overfriendly.

9 Mr. Berdes. Let me make sure I understand what you said,  
10 whether he intended it or not, that was the effect.

11 Mr. Dwyer. No, whether he intended it or not, we were well  
12 aware that this might be the case. In other words, that this  
13 could be a case of a concerted effort to direct our feeling one  
14 way or another. Well, I was going to say I am sure that was so,  
15 but you know, I am not.

16 Mr. Berdes. I think my essential question is, Dick, do  
17 you attribute to Jim Jones then and perhaps reinforced by what  
18 you know now, that degree of cleverness, an ability to manage  
19 situations, and so on.

20 Mr. Dwyer. I think, sure, he was capable of it. I would  
21 say in some ways I would very probably given him a little more  
22 credit than that in the sense it would have been too obvious.  
23 He didn't want to antagonize us.

24 Mr. Spalatin. Did he want to use you?

25 Mr. Dwyer. Oh, they would have loved to have used us in

1 any way they could.

2 Mr. Berdes. Did you have that sense then?

3 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I think so. Please sign the guest book.

4 Mr. Smeeton. They asked you to and did you make any  
5 observations on that point?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Indeed I did. I said it was very interesting.

7 I <sup>Am</sup>was <sup>that</sup>unaware they quoted me, unlike everybody else.

8 As I say, my comment, near<sup>ly</sup> as I can recall it, was simply  
9 very interesting because I did not wish to be quoted.

10 Mr. Spalatin. You didn't put it beyond Jones and his people  
11 to be trying to use you. You were conscious of that potentiality  
12 or that prospect or efforts along those lines, and you don't  
13 believe that in any significant degree they were successful?

14 Mr. Dwyer. No.

15 Mr. Spalatin. To the best of your knowledge.

16 Mr. Dwyer. Absolutely not. I don't mean to in the least  
17 imply that I had the ability to look down the road and see  
18 what was going to happen. Obviously, I did not, but we were  
19 just very careful to try to maintain our impartiality. I might  
20 add as well, I am sure the adversaries of the Peoples Temple  
21 would have delighted to use us as well if they could have.

22 Mr. Spalatin. In the desire and effort to be very careful,  
23 unbiased and objective, the question really comes down to, did  
24 that effort inhibit, in effect, pursuing things?

25 Mr. Dwyer. No, it did not.

1 Mr. Spalatin. Or deter from pursuing things?

2 Mr. Dwyer. No.

3 Mr. Smeeton. While you were in Jonestown and the surrounding  
4 area on that visit of May 10th, did you get an opportunity to  
5 discuss the settlement with any of the local officials or  
6 inhabitants of that area?

7 Mr. Dwyer. No, I made no point to do so beyond a few  
8 remarks with the Assistant District Officer, who was almost as  
9 new to that area as I was.

10 Mr. Smeeton. Did he say anything of significance?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No, the conversation was, as I recall it,  
12 particularly between Dick McCoy and him on the question of, I  
13 don't know whether it was registration of births or registration  
14 of deaths. One or the other needed to be done.

15 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall that officer's name?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Herbert Thomas.

17 Mr. Smeeton. I think you are well aware of the fact, again  
18 in the wake of the tragedy, a number of people have indicated  
19 that some of the local officials did have some reservations  
20 about what was going on and some of these reservations were  
21 shared with a couple of media people the night before the  
22 tragedy while they were staying in Port Kaituma at Mike's disco  
23 and there have been other bits of information relating to the  
24 same thing from other sources. But as far as you can recall  
25 at this time, you received no information along those lines from

1 anybody, I am sure you wouldn't be soliciting so much as maybe  
2 being volunteered?

3 Mr. Dwyer. No, I did not. I might add, as you brought up  
4 the question of that thing on November 17th, the story was that  
5 these people had delivered an automatic weapon to Jonestown with  
6 the permit to use it. I think we ought to just show for the  
7 record, as far as I am aware, there has never been an automatic  
8 weapon found up there.

9 Mr. Smeeton. It went beyond that to suggest people were  
10 being physically abused?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No --

12 Mr. Smeeton. Several of them have indicated, purportedly  
13 anyway, we had testimony from people on the receiving end of  
14 this information that people were being evacuated out during  
15 the middle of the night periodically.

16 Mr. Dwyer. Well, Jones told me that himself.

17 Mr. Smeeton. And they were struck by the fact a lot of  
18 them seemed to be suffering from broken bones, so on, so forth.  
19 They didn't feel all of these were the result of accidents?

20 Mr. Dwyer. I suppose it could be determined, but when you  
21 speak of a lot of people, how many people are you talking about?  
22 I am aware of only two or three night flights up there.

23 Mr. Smeeton. They were talking about them occurring as  
24 frequently as once a month.

25 Mr. Dwyer. I have no information whatsoever.

1 Mr. Smeeton. This is all news to you?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Absolutely.

3 Mr. Berdes. Dick, shortly after you returned from your  
4 Jonestown visit of May 10th, 1978, a Miss Deborah Blakey visited  
5 the embassy and spoke with Richard McCoy and indicated her  
6 desire to leave Guyana and leave Peoples Temple. Are you aware  
7 of the essential background of those circumstances?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, of course, although I did not meet her or  
9 talk with her.

10 Mr. Berdes. You at no time during that period met with her.  
11 Were you kept advised by Richard McCoy on a regular basis during  
12 the period of May 13, 14, 15th of what was transpiring relative  
13 to Debbie Blakey?

14 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, indeed, usually with the ambassador.

15 Mr. Berdes. Were you providing him with guidance and  
16 suggestions on how to handle that particular matter?

17 Mr. Dwyer. The ambassador was in my presence.

18 Mr. Berdes. What do you recall Richard McCoy indicating  
19 to you regarding the decision of Deborah Blakey --

20 Mr. Dwyer. I am sorry, regarding what?

21 Mr. Berdes. What do you recall Richard McCoy indicating  
22 to you relative to Debbie Blakey's decision to leave? Did it  
23 mount up in his mind in some large way as tantamount to a break  
24 in the dam, so to speak? Did he have that reaction?

25 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know whether a break in the dam -- what

1 was of great concern were the allegations that she had made.  
2 That was of concern to us, of course. There was a question  
3 when she later asked McCoy, what should she do about it? I  
4 would have a hard time <sup>improving upon</sup> [quoting] the response that McCoy gave her,  
5 to go to appropriate authorities in the States.

6 Mr. Spalatin. What specific allegations are you referring  
7 to here? Brutality?

8 Mr. Dwyer. She said people didn't get enough to eat. I  
9 think this may have been the first time I heard news of mass  
10 suicide.

11 Mr. Spalatin. Are you familiar with the document that she  
12 signed?

13 Mr. Dwyer. What document?

14 Mr. Spalatin. The document of May 13th.

15 Mr. Dwyer. You mean here?

16 Mr. Spalatin. Here at the embassy.

17 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I am.

18 Mr. Spalatin. "I have decided to leave the Peoples Temple  
19 organization because I am afraid Jim Jones will carry out his  
20 threat to force all members of the organization in Guyana to  
21 commit suicide if a decision is made in Guyana by the court here  
22 to have John Stoen return to his mother." That was the first  
23 time you were aware of that?

24 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

25 Mr. Spalatin. How did you react to that allegation?

1 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I should say here just parenthetically,  
2 I presume you have gotten it all from McCoy and the ambassador  
3 as well, but Dick first wanted to sit down and write a  
4 Memorandum of Conversation of what she said. The ambassador  
5 instructed him that this was not sufficient, that the allegations  
6 should be witnessed by her and I am hazy on the exact time frame,  
7 but I guess she had already left the embassy.

8 McCoy sat down and wrote out the statement, which then we  
9 asked <sup>a</sup> [the] Vice Consul to take [her] to the airport to ask her to  
10 sign. So she did.

11 Mr. Spalatin. So you don't view it as an official legal  
12 affidavit as a result?

13 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know if it is legal or not. We had  
14 several problems with it. Among other things, the Consular  
15 Officer forgot to attest it in the same time frame that it was  
16 dated. And did so only later when we realized that it hadn't  
17 been done.

18 Mr. Spalatin. Lack of countersignature, is that what you  
19 mean?

20 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, he got her to sign it but he forgot to  
21 attest it and he did so because, frankly, I am unsure if it  
22 makes a difference that he did so or --

23 Mr. Spalatin. Daniel Weber did.

24 Mr. Dwyer. That's right, but it wasn't that day. It was  
25 weeks afterwards.

1 Mr. Spalatin. This document indicates after Deborah  
2 Blakey's name and signature; sworn to this 12th day of May 1978,  
3 signed Daniel P. Weber, American Vice Consul.

4 Mr. Dwyer. That is incorrect, I am sorry to say. He  
5 attested it that day, he did take her signature on it that day,  
6 but he didn't sign it that day. He just forgot about it. It  
7 wasn't until sometime in the course of the summer when we had  
8 a Freedom of Information request for the documents, <sup>and</sup> when we  
9 finally found the document it wasn't signed.

10 So he then signed it. I don't know, quite frankly, if that  
11 makes a difference or not. There is no question in my mind  
12 she read it; she signed it. But there was the question of  
13 precisely when it was attested to.

14 Mr. Smeeton. Who was the instigator of the Freedom of  
15 Information request?

16 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know. I am not sure they told us.  
17 They don't necessarily have to tell us, I don't think.

18 Mr. Berdes. Ross Case.

19 Mr. Spalatin. As a former defector.

20 Mr. Smeeton. During this particular time frame, do you  
21 recall receiving from Mr. Blakey indirectly, since I gather you  
22 didn't talk to her at all or have any personal contact during  
23 this time frame any information regarding how you went about  
24 conducting, or how the embassy went about conducting its inter-  
25 views in Jonestown and indicating that Jones had gone to great

lengths to stake the whole thing and program witnesses to respond in a certain way or interviewees.

Mr. Dwyer. Frankly, I can't remember when I was aware of her allegations to this effect, whether it was subsequent to all these happenings or not. I am well aware she made it. Now, whether I was aware of it then, I don't remember.

Mr. Smeeton. The purpose of clarification, I think the affidavit that I have does not mention it per se, is that correct, Ivo?

Mr. Spalatin. That is correct.

Mr. Smeeton. However, on the June 15th affidavit, which arrived at the embassy sometime thereafter, she does make specific mention of that in one of her paragraphs. To refresh your memory, she states in paragraph 36 after commending McCoy and Weber in particular for the assistance they gave her, "However, the efforts made to investigate conditions in Jonestown are inadequate for the following reasons: The infrequent visits are always announced and arranged. Acting in fear for their lives, Temple members respond as they are told. The members appear to speak freely to American representatives but in fact they are drilled thoroughly prior to each visit on what questions to expect and how to respond. Members are afraid of retaliation if they speak their true feelings in the public."

You do not recall during this time frame of May 12 through 15 any information along those lines?

1 Mr. Dwyer. I can't recall that she said that or in that  
2 time I was aware of it. But I would like to go back and say  
3 whether she said it or not, we did all that we could think of to  
4 do to insure that these people had a chance to speak to us  
5 privately without anyone else observing it and, indeed, <sup>a</sup> said to  
6 Congressman Ryan himself, suggested in a passing remark, as he  
7 completed his interviews on the evening of November 17 that <sup>a</sup> [he]  
8 thought we should give him an honorary consul's commission  
9 because he was up here doing <sup>the interviews</sup> [it, as] precisely as we had been  
10 doing <sup>them</sup> [it] over the past year.

11 What lies behind this is even though someone may say that  
12 you have been programmed to speak as you do to me, how do I go  
13 about showing that you are not mentally competent to say what  
14 you say? In a nutshell, that is the whole problem we have had.

15 I might go on to say that I am sure you have seen the  
16 television exchange of Maria Katsaris and her brother Anthony,  
17 which is the same thing. I had this conversation with Steven  
18 Katsaris and Maria, Anthony and, indeed, with Congressman Ryan  
19 and it goes right to the heart of our problem.

20 So no matter whether or not this did, in fact, take place,  
21 I still feel that we gave people the opportunity to speak to us  
22 to say if they wanted to come home. For that matter, just say  
23 I am scared and I don't dare leave, what do I do about it? But  
24 nobody ever did.

25 Mr. Smeeton. Just one follow-up to this item with respect

1 to paragraph 36 of her June 15th affidavit. As a result of  
2 that information, do you recall any meetings within the embassy  
3 with officers discussing this as something to be alert to with  
4 respect to future visits by representatives of the embassy and  
5 maybe try to be extra perceptive, maybe looking for things a  
6 little more attentive than you might have heretofore?

7 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly, we are talking about, and I am sure  
8 I searched my own mind regarding the visit I made up there.  
9 Admittedly, I did not interview People myself, but I feel sure  
10 that this would not help but heighten the perception of our  
11 consul and the staff. I still haven't solved it in my own mind.

12 Mr. Smeeton. As I recall, the only other visit prior to  
13 the tragedy on the part of the embassy official was one involving  
14 Mr. Ellice and Mr. Reece that occurred the 7th of November.

15 Mr. Dwyer. That is right.

16 Mr. Smeeton. In preparation for that trip, do you recall any  
17 specific reference to Debbie's information regarding the  
18 possibility of staged scenarios.

19 Mr. Dwyer. That trip had been in the making for a long  
20 time. We had gone to some length to ensure we had a week's  
21 overlap at least between Dick McCoy, who was leaving the position  
22 as consul and Douglas Ellice, who was coming in to take it over.  
23 One of the things that we wanted to do during that week was to  
24 have McCoy take Ellice up to the Peoples Temple at Jonestown  
25 so he would have some firsthand experience himself as well as

1 the basis of Dick's experience. So I am sure that Mr. McCoy  
2 had long sessions with Ellice, although I would say probably <sup>to</sup>  
3 ask them specifically.

4 Mr. Smeeton. So it is probably accurate to assume, or  
5 safe to assume might be a better way of putting it, that the  
6 substance of Debbie Blakey's affidavit was discussed in the  
7 context of preparation for the next visit to Jonestown.

8 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, and certainly by that time, Ellice [has] had  
9 <sup>seen</sup> the affidavit submitted in the States.

10 Mr. Smeeton. Excuse me.

11 Mr. Dwyer. Douglas Ellice had received by that time the  
12 affidavit she had done in the States which, as you quoted, does  
13 make these allegations.

14 Mr. Smeeton. Did you ever get an opportunity to review  
15 Miss Blakey's affidavit prior to the tragedy?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, and a big question in my mind is <sup>that</sup> I can't  
17 say exactly when. I had the feeling that I knew about it not  
18 too long after it came out, but I can't document that. The only  
19 copy I am aware that the embassy got was a copy enclosed in a  
20 letter from Mrs. Clare Bouquet, who asked us to inquire about  
21 her son Brian. That, I do recall. Quite frankly, it is the  
22 only one we can find.

23 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall, when you did see it, your  
24 reaction to it? Was it much more definitive than the one I  
25 have just cited, which was I guess signed on the 12th or 13th?

1 Mr. Dwyer. I am trying to recall whether there was anything  
2 about it that struck me particularly forcefully. The charges  
3 had been made before by certain relatives and by others and  
4 what was unique about Debbie Blakey's affidavit was the fact she  
5 had been there most recently. Yet, of course, we had Tim  
6 Stoen saying a lot of the same things. But I do have a problem  
7 with recalling just when I heard about the American affidavit,  
8 the affidavit given in the United States.

9 Mr. Smeeton. Would it be fair to say, as a result of  
10 reading that affidavit, your suspicions regarding the Temple  
11 were heightened a notch?

12 Mr. Dwyer. I am not sure it would in the sense we were  
13 highly suspicious already of everybody and of everything  
14 connected with the Peoples Temple. There was such a great deal  
15 of very lurid accusations going back and forth on both sides  
16 that I would say there was very little we could do until and  
17 unless we, ourselves, could establish <sup>proof</sup> on a firsthand basis.  
18 There were, of course, on the other side all kinds of  
19 accusations about Debbie Blakey from the Peoples Temple.  
20 Specifically that she had absconded with <sup>a</sup> sizable quantity of  
21 money. So, once again, as we always were in this case, here  
22 were two American parties making these accusations against one  
23 another.

24 Mr. Smeeton. For your information, Mr. McCoy has indicated  
25 that it heightened his suspicions rather significantly.

1 Mr. Dwyer. I think, on a firsthand basis, it probably did,  
2 but --

3 Mr. Smeeton. What do you mean by a firsthand basis?

4 Mr. Dwyer. His conversations with her, I am sure, was  
5 impressive.

6 Mr. Smeeton. As George indicated earlier, he viewed it as  
7 a possible break in the dam and those were his own words. He  
8 also seemed to indicate as time wore on, and the episodes  
9 involving the Temple accumulated, his sensitivity began to  
10 increase and it was heightened quite significantly, not only by  
11 Debbie's defection but another episode that occurred hard on  
12 the heels of that one involving Kathy Hunter. Do you recall  
13 your own suspicions at this time beginning to increase a little  
14 bit as a result --

15 Mr. Dwyer. I suppose they may well have. There was always  
16 <sup>the</sup> a question, my god, maybe they have got a patch of woods over  
17 there somewhere far away where they are holding people, but  
18 the question was, how do you tell? As it turned out, the idea  
19 of confinement to barracks or something well away apparently  
20 was not there, at least we haven't found it yet.

21 Even in May, we wanted to take a look and see from the air  
22 if there were other parts of this community that we didn't know  
23 about that conceivably were hidden from us. As far as I am  
24 aware, even to date, they haven't found anything.

25 Mr. Smeeton. As I mentioned a minute ago, Mr. Dwyer, we

1 have, through McCoy, an indication that the Kathy Hunter episode  
2 happening hard on the heels of the Debbie Blakey episode  
3 heightened his suspicions considerably of the Temple. To what  
4 degree were you involved with the Kathy Hunter episode?

5 Mr. Dwyer. You are speaking of the episode?

6 Mr. Smeeton. When she came to Georgetown in the latter  
7 part of May 1978 apparently the objective of going to Jonestown  
8 to gain information about the community so she could write a  
9 story about it for a California newspaper.

10 Mr. Spalatin. Involving her stay at the Pegasus Hotel.

11 Mr. Dwyer. Such <sup>^</sup> story indeed has appeared and <sup>was</sup> published  
12 in the local paper here, of course. Mrs. Hunter, as far as I am  
13 aware, never called at the embassy or came by either the embassy  
14 or the consulate. As I recall it, the manager of the hotel  
15 called our consul and said Mrs. Hunter was sick in her room and  
16 wanted to go home and that she had no money. Then Dick McCoy  
17 did indeed go down and speak with her, came back and wired  
18 California for funds for her to pay her bill.

19 She then stayed on again and overspent herself again. On  
20 the word of McCoy, why, the hotel management was willing to  
21 allow her to leave. To this day, I believe, she still owes a  
22 fairly substantial hotel bill over there. That really is the  
23 extent.

24 Mr. Spalatin. Do you recall discussions with Dick McCoy  
25 regarding allegations that while she was there, she was being

1 intimidated and harassed by members of the Temple?

2 Mr. Dwyer. We had in that period a series of bomb threats  
3 and fires involving the Pegasus Hotel and, for that matter, the  
4 Tower and the Park Hotels as well. Now there are people here  
5 absolutely convinced that the Peoples Temple was responsible for  
6 these fires and bomb threats.

7 Mr. Smeeton. We have information that Guyanese authorities,  
8 among others, were of that impression.

9 Mr. Dwyer. I have never talked to one that can offer any  
10 proof.

11 Mr. Smeeton. But they still had that impression based on  
12 our information, circumstantial evidence to suggest that they  
13 were pretty convinced in their own mind.

14 Mr. Dwyer. The only thing I am aware of was that there were  
15 Peoples Temple members in the hotel which Mrs. Hunter took as a  
16 personal threat to her. Maybe they were. However, I have never  
17 discussed it with Mrs. Hunter so I would not be able to say.

18 I read her article in The Chronicle, in a local newspaper  
19 here, of her story. That really is the first time --

20 Mr. Smeeton. When did you learn of that story?

21 Mr. Dwyer. I read it when it appeared here a couple weeks  
22 after November 18.

23 Mr. Smeeton. So it was after the fact?

24 Mr. Park. Well, after the fact. The only other thing, I  
25 think she was famous, of course, for identifying a picture of

1 President Arthur Chung, of Guyana, <sup>which</sup> (who) hangs in Parliament as  
2 Mao <sup>Tse Tung</sup> and, therefore, concluding Guyana was a Communist Chinese  
3 country not realizing the President of Guyana is of Chinese  
4 ancestry.

5 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall in any of your discussions with  
6 Guyanese authorities regarding their feelings that these  
7 intimidations and harassment of Mrs. Hunter were linked to  
8 Temple sources?

9 Mr. Dwyer. Not at the time, no. Subsequently, I have  
10 heard speculation. Truly, I haven't quite made up my own mind  
11 on it. I don't have any basis of fact for it. I do know that  
12 the hotel had labor problems.

13 The question of fires and bomb threats and whatever else  
14 may have gone on with Mrs. Hunter, I haven't made up my own  
15 mind about the fire and bomb threats. I think perhaps Dick  
16 McCoy already has.

17 Mr. Smeeton. What did Mr. McCoy think about it?

18 Mr. Dwyer. That is a question for Mr. McCoy.

19 Mr. Smeeton. Did he express his opinion to you?

20 Mr. Dwyer. I am not sure he ever came out and said so. I  
21 think he probably was more of the opinion than I was.

22 Mr. Smeeton. He was closer to it.

23 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

24 Mr. Smeeton. Would it be fair to say you relied on him for  
25 advice on what to do there, how to take care of her particular

1 situation.

2 Mr. Dwyer. To take care of her particular situation was  
3 very simple. As far as I am aware, her needs for which she  
4 requested assistance were money from her family and getting out  
5 to the airport. I think her visa had expired or had been  
6 terminated in one way or another, and I believe Dick McCoy had  
7 arranged with the Guyanese authorities to allow her to remain  
8 in the country until she was well enough to travel and also pay  
9 the hotel bill.

10 Mr. Smeeton. There was no discussion with providing her  
11 with special protection or asking Guyanese authorities to  
12 provide her with special protection until she got safely to the  
13 airport?

14 Mr. Dwyer. As far as I am aware, I don't think she ever  
15 requested it of us.

16 Mr. Smeeton. I was thinking Dick suggested it might be a  
17 good idea.

18 Mr. Dwyer. We would only do so if she requested it or Dick  
19 discussed it with her, which we obviously -- my own personal  
20 security in this country does not depend on me, it depends on  
21 the Guyanese authorities.

22 Mr. Smeeton. Let me put it this way, if you detected a  
23 reason based on information that might suggest protection for  
24 an American citizen abroad, would you then make that suggestion?

25 Mr. Dwyer. What suggestion?

1 Mr. Smeeton. Suggestion to Americans --

2 Mr. Dwyer. We have done so. To give you another example,  
3 an American citizen married to a Guyanese national here was  
4 having family problems and was very much afraid of her husband.  
5 We simply referred her to the local police authorities, which is  
6 quite frankly all we can do.

7 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall any discussions that provided  
8 Debbie Blakey with special protection?

9 Mr. Dwyer. No. She didn't have special protection. She  
10 was concerned about herself going out to the airport. So as  
11 a courtesy, Dan Weber went along with her as indeed I think  
12 Dick McCoy did with Mrs. Hunter.

13 Mr. Smeeton. These courtesies in response to anxieties  
14 expressed to the embassy by the concerned parties.

15 Mr. Dwyer. But as far as providing people in town with  
16 physical security, we simply can't do it.

17 Mr. Smeeton. I understand that. Maybe making suggestions  
18 to appropriate people within the Guyanese structure to provide  
19 that.

20 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, if we are requested to do so. Your own  
21 case is a case in point. Your expression of concern for your  
22 physical security here led me to go down and discuss the matter  
23 with the police and then it is up to the police to decide what  
24 they are going to do and in this case they assigned someone.

25 Mr. Spalatin. Dick, did you hear anything about a Guyanese

1 government official or Guyanese government in general, saying,  
2 Mrs. Hunter had entered Guyana and then lied for her entrance?  
3 She lied to gain entry into the country.

4 Mr. Smeeton. Lied as to the reason why she wanted to  
5 come in?

6 Mr. Dwyer. She may have come in as a tourist.

7 Mr. Spalatin. My question is, have you heard any government  
8 Guyanese official or statement saying she lied to gain entry  
9 into the country?

10 Mr. Dwyer. I don't remember. There was the question that  
11 came up, it became rather moot because the only thing she  
12 wanted to do which <sup>by</sup> this time, by the time we got involved, was  
13 leave. There was a question as to whether or not she had come  
14 in as a working journalist.

15 Mr. Spalatin. But you don't know if there was a statement  
16 to that effect by the Guyanese government?

17 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know if there was.

18 Mr. Spalatin. If there would have been, would it normally  
19 come to your attention?

20 Mr. Dwyer. I would imagine what would have happened, this  
21 is something the Immigration people would have sent to McCoy  
22 and I am sure McCoy probably would have said as much to me. Now  
23 whether he did or not, I don't remember.

24 Mr. Spalatin. In this context, did you become aware of an  
25 individual's name of Pat Small or outside this context?

1 Mr. Dwyer. It is vaguely familiar. I can't think why.

2 Mr. Spalatin. In this context or otherwise?

3 Mr. Dwyer. Pat Small. I may have heard the name before  
4 but I don't remember who she is or he is.

5 Mr. Spalatin. She might have been a Guyanese native.

6 Mr. Dwyer. No.

7 Mr. Spalatin. Affiliated possibly in some way with the  
8 Office of Foreign Ministry in an unofficial capacity.

9 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't know her.

10 Mr. Spalatin. Nothing registers except a vague recollection  
11 of the name.

12 Mr. Dwyer. I was thinking in terms of Peoples Temple.

13 Mr. Spalatin. Not a Guyanese native.

14 Mr. Dwyer. No.

15 Mr. Smeeton. You don't recall her being involved in any  
16 way with Kathy Hunter during this visit of May --

17 Mr. Dwyer. <sup>yes</sup> See, we weren't involved with Kathy Hunter.

18 Mr. Smeeton. I am thinking it might have come up during  
19 discussions. You were involved because of Dick McCoy's  
20 involvement?

21 Mr. Dwyer. At the end of her visit when she requested  
22 consular assistance, but before that, I have no idea, nor, for  
23 that matter, as I say, did I ever meet Mrs. Hunter myself.

24 Mr. Smeeton. You do not recall a Miss Pat Small calling  
25 the embassy during this particular time to bring to your

1 attention Mrs. Hunter's alleged problems vis-a-vis the Temple.

2 Mr. Dwyer. Well, if she had she undoubtedly would have  
3 called the consulate not the embassy.

4 Mr. Smeeton. You do not recall anybody in the consulate  
5 discussing a call from Pat Small on Mrs. Hunter?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Let's put it this way: It is quite possible  
7 that if there was a call from a Government Ministry concerning  
8 Mrs. Hunter regarding Immigration, or whatever, I was probably  
9 told about it. Now the name Pat Small rings no bells at all  
10 with me. Certainly, I know every one of the senior officers at  
11 the Foreign Ministry. If the Foreign Ministry had a problem  
12 with Mrs. Hunter, I certainly would have <sup>expected</sup> received a call from  
13 the man in charge of the American desk or any one of a number  
14 of people to have given either myself or Dick McCoy a call  
15 personally.

16 Mr. Spalatin. During your stay here in Guyana to date,  
17 you have never heard of the name Pat Small?

18 Mr. Dwyer. I hate to say I never heard of her, but I don't  
19 recall.

20 Mr. Smeeton. You can't link it to anything specific or  
21 anyone specifically?

22 Mr. Dwyer. No. Who is she?

23 Mr. Berdes. Off the record.

24 (Discussion off the record.)

25 Mr. Smeeton. We next would like to turn to a cable dated

1 June 6, 1978, and identified as log No. 126, from the American  
2 Embassy in Georgetown, to the Department of State. We would  
3 like to ask you some questions on this, Dick. Before we do, we  
4 would like to provide you with the opportunity to review its  
5 contents.

6 (Pause.)

7 Mr. Smeeton. To what degree were you involved in drafting  
8 that cable?

9 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I sat down and talked about it, the  
10 Ambassador and I sat down and talked about it certainly and I  
11 think Dick McCoy was there, too. We discussed the general  
12 approach of the cable but the Ambassador wrote it himself. And  
13 then gave it to us for our comments and review, and I don't  
14 recall that I had any substantive comments. I think I probably  
15 changed a word or suggested a change of wording or two, or  
16 something like that, more in the editorial sense than in the  
17 <sup>SUBSTANTIVE</sup> (subject) sense.

18 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall what provoked the need or the  
19 perceived need to send such a message to Washington?

20 Mr. Dwyer. It was cumulative. I wouldn't say that any  
21 single instance was alone responsible for it. We recognized  
22 we had a growing concern measured, if only by the volume of  
23 mail we were getting, that we tried to sit down and see what  
24 there was we could do to answer more objectively some of the  
25 questions and inquiries we were having.

1 Mr. Smeeton. You do not link it specifically to the  
2 Blakey episode and the Hunter episode which occurred just prior  
3 to the sending of this message?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly Debbie Blakey's allegations played  
5 a factor or were a factor in this, not only hers but everyone  
6 else's, too. The episode involving Mrs. Hunter appeared to be  
7 not so directly concerned in the sense that Mrs. Hunter was a  
8 journalist looking for a story, rather than a relative concerned  
9 about the welfare and well being of a specific individual at  
10 Jonestown.

11 Mr. Smeeton. For your information, it is McCoy's recollec-  
12 tion that those two specific episodes triggered the June 6th  
13 cable to Washington.

14 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I wouldn't say they triggered it any more  
15 than I suppose the final instrument <sup>612 STRAW</sup> on the camel's back type of  
16 thing, it was a concern we had had for some time and certainly  
17 they were a part of it.

18 Mr. Spalatin. The Stoen case would be another, continuation  
19 of the Stoen cause.

20 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, of course.

21 Mr. Smeeton. You are saying it was an accumulation of  
22 things that caused you to perceive the need at this time to  
23 send this message, I think I understood you to say something to  
24 that effect.

25 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, things were just building up to the stage

1 where we felt it would be desirable to undertake some action  
2 subsequent to this.

3 Mr. Smeeton. So your recollection is that McCoy had  
4 perceived this need first and had brought it to the attention of  
5 the Ambassafor or did he arrive at it simultaneously and  
6 independent of each other?

7 Mr. Dwyer. I would be hard put to say where it came from.  
8 As I recall it, it was the Ambassador's initiative, but I  
9 wouldn't swear to that.

10 Mr. Spalatin. Would it be fair to say, Dick, it was  
11 shared by Mr. McCoy and yourself, as being timely and needed?

12 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, we sat down and talked about it. But as  
13 to who was the first one who suggested we meet at 10 o'clock and  
14 talked about it, I am not quite sure.

15 Mr. Smeeton. There is no division of opinion as to the  
16 need to send it? You felt the point had arrived where there  
17 was the need to do it?

18 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, as you can see, we both signed off on it.  
19 And in this instance, certainly as far as I am concerned, we  
20 had complete conviction <sup>that</sup> it was the right thing to do.

21 Mr. Smeeton. The Ambassador has indicated he was assuming  
22 that there would be a positive response. Did you share that  
23 impression? In his recommendation section of the cable he  
24 indicates, "Assuming the answer to the question posed in the  
25 preceding paragraph is affirmative, we have requested we be

1 instructed to approach the Government of Guyana at appropriate  
2 level to discuss the Peoples Temple," et cetera, et cetera.

3 We asked him about that and there is some debate as to what  
4 he meant is assuming the answer to the question posed in the  
5 preceding paragraph is affirmative as to whether or not he was  
6 expecting an affirmative answer and he replied that yes, he did.  
7 Is that your understanding of that phrase, you were expecting  
8 an affirmative response? It is in the recommendation.

9 Mr. Dwyer. It was my understanding, assuming we ~~are~~ <sup>were</sup>  
10 correct that the host government in international<sup>al</sup> law does have the  
11 responsibility for this group of foreigners located in their  
12 country, that was the question we were assuming, but I think --  
13 I don't know, I guess I would have. It is hard to remember  
14 what I thought then. I did expect a reply that would be more  
15 favorable, I think, and I was wondering why it took so long  
16 to get it. Not that I had any sense of urgency, I just  
17 wondered what kind of discussion we had stirred up in Washington.

18 Mr. Smeeton. Were you of the opinion that a cable of this  
19 kind of a message would provoke considerable discussion in  
20 Washington?

21 Mr. Dwyer. I would have guessed it would have in the  
22 sense that we are dealing, we were dealing with a highly  
23 sensitive organization. We can see now the word paranoid would  
24 not have been misused and we were well aware here, I am sure,  
25 the Department was equally aware, that any such representations

1 on our part to this government would have become known in all  
2 probability to Peoples Temple. I suspect that was a  
3 consideration taken into account by Washington, but I don't  
4 really know.

5 Mr. Smeeton. As I told the Ambassador yesterday or the day  
6 before when we were discussing the very same cable, indeed there  
7 was some discussion in Washington, but one of the problems  
8 Washington had in evaluating the cable and drafting a response  
9 to it was the lack of specific mention of the things that  
10 provoked you to write this cable.

11 Mr. Dwyer. I wonder if they had such a question, why not  
12 ask us?

13 Mr. Smeeton. That is a good question. That is a question  
14 we ask and we continue to ask. As far as we can determine, there  
15 was no dialogue between the Embassy and Washington regarding this  
16 cable.

17 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

18 Mr. Berdes. A complementary question --

19 Mr. Dwyer. We don't talk about such things over the telephone  
20 question.

21 Mr. Smeeton. We understand.

22 Mr. Berdes. Perhaps a complementary question is when the  
23 Embassy did receive a reply, why did it not go back perhaps to  
24 challenge it?

25 Mr. Dwyer. We had made our case. The Ambassador

1 particularly drafted a cable as carefully as he could. I think  
2 he succeeded. We asked for a decision on a specific question  
3 and we thought we had the answer. That is about it. I don't  
4 know what more we could have told the Department that they were  
5 unaware of.

6 Mr. Spalatin. Did the Privacy Act inhibit the drafting of  
7 the final version that went out? Did that result in making it  
8 a general request as opposed to laying out specific events or  
9 items?

10 Mr. Dwyer. I don't think anybody sat down and thought  
11 about this particular cable and the Privacy Act in that kind of  
12 connection, but certainly we have been going on the assumption  
13 that almost anything dealing with this group of Americans could  
14 be made available to them at their request and indeed would be  
15 a public document <sup>and</sup> that the people who drafted the document <sup>had to</sup> be  
16 prepared to stand behind <sup>it</sup> quite possibly completely.

17 Mr. Spalatin. Did you feel the response in log No. 130 to  
18 your request of June 6 that the Privacy Act was a key bearing  
19 in the State Department's response?

20 Mr. Smeeton. Maybe we should show you the response.

21 Mr. Dwyer. I have that.

22 I suppose that is what they are saying, isn't it,  
23 "to be construed by some as U.S. Government interference."

24 Mr. Spalatin. You view that observation as interference  
25 in what?

1 Mr. Dwyer. In the private affairs of American citizens.

2 Mr. Spalatin. Not with interference the Guyanese  
3 Government.

4 Mr. Dwyer. Well --

5 Mr. Smeeton. Internal affairs.

6 Mr. Dwyer. I wasn't thinking <sup>of it</sup> in that context.

7 Mr. Smeeton. I think you can see why it can be interpreted  
8 one or two ways.

9 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

10 Mr. Spalatin. How did you interpret it at that time?

11 Mr. Dwyer. Definitely as the interference in the affairs  
12 of private American citizens.

13 Mr. Spalatin. Peoples Temple presumably.

14 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

15 Mr. Berdes. Is that in turn automatically suggesting  
16 Privacy Act considerations?

17 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I suppose so. Equally <sup>the</sup> Freedom of  
18 Information Act. But we had already weighed here our, made an  
19 evaluation of <sup>how</sup> what an approach to the government would be  
20 regarded by the government. We had come to this conclusion  
21 that whatever result might come about, we should go ahead and  
22 make the approach.

23 Mr. Spalatin. Is it fair to say, therefore, that you viewed  
24 that response as State's concern about possible interference  
25 into the rights of Peoples Temple members, as opposed to

1 interference in the Guyanese Government?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, that is fair to say.

3 Mr. Spalatin. Would you be surprised if some of the drafters  
4 felt that it was intended to mean interference with the Guyanese  
5 Government?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Not now. I would have been a little while ago.  
7 I can see the point you are making here. I wouldn't hold it up  
8 as a model of clarity quite frankly.

9 Mr. Smeeton. What we have here is a breakdown in communica-  
10 tion, I am afraid.

11 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know if it is a breakdown in communication  
12 so much. The important point about the response was that they  
13 said no, don't do it.

14 Mr. Smeeton. But the no is predicated upon not knowing  
15 some things that if they had known them might have given you a  
16 idfferent bottom line?

17 Mr. Dwyer. Such as?

18 Mr. Smeeton. Specific mention of some of the things that  
19 provoked you to send the cable.

20 Mr. Dwyer. Oh, I don't know.

21 Mr. Smeeton. This is the impression we are getting from  
22 testimony from the Department.

23 Mr. Dwyer. Almost all this mail that we were receiving had  
24 copies going to the Department or a lot of it did anyway.  
25 Certainly, all the congressional inquiries came through the

1 Department.

2 Mr. Smeeton. And you viewed those as very specific in  
3 nature?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Oh, surely; yes. Either Sam Smith is being  
5 held against his will or he isn't.

6 Mr. Smeeton. They weren't couched in general terms, these  
7 were specific names, specific cases, you weren't just talking  
8 about a group of Americans generally, you were talking about  
9 specific individuals.

10 Mr. Dwyer. That is right.

11 Mr. Smeeton. Specific episodes.

12 Mr. Dwyer. Right.

13 Mr. Smeeton. You were of the opinion that a reasonable  
14 discerning reader in Washington would have been able to link  
15 those episodes and those cases to the June 6 message to the  
16 Department?

17 Mr. Dwyer. The element of doubt I now have which is  
18 largely as the result of all the discussions we have had since  
19 that time is more a concern of breakdown of communications  
20 perhaps within the Department of State, rather than between  
21 ourselves and the Department. I am not sure that the problem  
22 appeared as big in Washington as it did to us here. I think  
23 that is more a question of anything in Guyana appearing bigger  
24 to us than it does back there.

25 Mr. Smeeton. Are you suggesting things germane to

1 Guyana were pretty low on the priority pole back in Washington?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Of course.

3 Mr. Smeeton. In the grand scheme of things.

4 Mr. Dwyer. Indeed. If there is any sense of priority, they  
5 still are.

6 Mr. Smeeton. With respect to Consular Affairs matters,  
7 which this impacts upon, and the draft response came not from  
8 the political side of the Department so much as the Consular  
9 Affairs Section. In the grand scheme of things from the Consular  
10 Affairs Department, this might have been a rather significant  
11 request.

12 Mr. Dwyer. I am not qualified to say.

13 Mr. Smeeton. As far as I have been able to determine, this  
14 is a rather unique case. I know there are other Americans  
15 living abroad and some of them are involved in religious groups,  
16 but based on what I have learned to date, this was one of the  
17 larger groups and because of the traffic you just referred to  
18 coming into that particular section of the Department, they had  
19 spent a considerable amount of time in addressing a variety of  
20 cases. Therefore, I think it is safe to assume that considerable  
21 knowledge was circulating within the Department on Peoples  
22 Temple and related matters.

23 Mr. Dwyer. As I say, it looks like that from here, but I  
24 am a little bit always afraid of the perennial Foreign Service  
25 problem that the center of the world happens to be in the

1 country in which you are stationed at the moment.

2 Mr. Smeeton. In other words, if this had happened in a  
3 country that in the grand scheme of things might be more  
4 important to the United States, it might have received greater  
5 attention and had been addressed with greater urgency.

6 Mr. Dwyer. Oh, I wouldn't say that. I just really don't  
7 know to what extent this was considered. What you say is quite  
8 accurate, after the fact, I am aware the Department has said this  
9 case got more volume of mail and more attention than any other.

10 Mr. Smeeton. It has been suggested by some in the Depart-  
11 ment -- let's put it this way: We have testimony from the  
12 Department and one individual in particular who was on the  
13 receiving end of this particular cable that they perceived this  
14 as possibly an effort to cover your flanks against the possibility  
15 of something erupting down the pike of a very troublesome nature.

16 How would you respond to that observation?

17 Mr. Dwyer. Having been shot in the flank, I certainly  
18 didn't cover it too well. No, I think this cable represented  
19 our best evaluation of what we could do. The real question is  
20 what do you do about these allegations? We do not have  
21 investigative authority. The security of these people and  
22 their freedom of movement is guaranteed by the government of  
23 Guyana.

24 Our thought on this was let's see if we can't get them to  
25 exercise that authority somewhat more <sup>actively.</sup> [accurately]. That is

1 certainly something we felt should be done, yes, and I think we  
2 would have been derelict not having suggested it.

3 Mr. Smeeton. How do you view the response? Timid?

4 Mr. Dwyer. I am sorry.

5 Mr. Smeeton. Did you view the response of the reply of  
6 the Department of your June 6 cable maybe as timid and ultra-  
7 cautious?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I was disappointed, I would like to have  
9 done it. I don't know whether I would say timid perhaps. More  
0 careful than I thought was required, perhaps.

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1 Mr. Smeeton. To what degree did that response dictate  
2 what you did vis-a-vis the Temple from that point forward?

3 Mr. Dwyer. I don't think it had a great deal to do with  
4 what we did regarding the Temple from that time. We were asking  
5 for instructions to do a specific thing which we had not done  
6 before. So, in that sense, we simply didn't do this one thing,  
7 but as far as the relations with the Temple went, it did not  
8 in any way either inhibit us or ---

9 Mr. Smeeton. To what degree did it affect your discussions  
10 with the government of Guyana regarding Peoples Temple activities?

11 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I am not sure we had, or I personally  
12 had any discussions with the Guyanese government officials on  
13 the specific subject of Peoples Temple.

14 Mr. Smeeton. Not only you but other members of the embassy  
15 staff?

16 Mr. Dwyer. I don't think that it would have made much  
17 difference, but I cannot speak precisely for them. The only  
18 other direct conversation subsequently I had that I can recall  
19 was one with the Chief Justice on the Stoen case, and I did not  
20 feel inhibited.

21 Mr. Spalatin. Dick, how do you react to the observation  
22 that caution was the word within the embassy as a result of the  
23 response of June 23rd, I believe it is.

24 Mr. Smeeton. 26th.

25 Mr. Spalatin. Caution was the word within the embassy as

1 a result of that response.

2 Mr. Dwyer. Caution was always the word. I wouldn't have  
3 said the response did anything more ---

4 Mr. Smeeton. It didn't hamper you down ---

5 Mr. Dwyer. To the extent it confirmed our feelings that  
6 this was regarded as a highly sensitive issue in Washington.  
7 But we were cautious before and we were cautious afterwards.

8 Mr. Smeeton. In essence, what it did, it precluded you  
9 from approaching the government of Guyana at appropriate level  
10 to discuss the Peoples Temple community.

11 Mr. Dwyer. Not to discuss it but recommend.

12 Mr. Smeeton. And to request the government exercise normal  
13 jurisdiction over the community. That was the thrust of that  
14 recommendation. By that denial you were precluded from doing it.

15 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

16 Mr. Smeeton. From that point on, did you ever think about  
17 renewing the request or going back to the Department and saying  
18 that maybe you ought to reevaluate that or did you just accept  
19 it and given the fact you were expecting an affirmative response,  
20 both you and the Ambassador have now indicate that to us, given  
21 the fact you were disappointed, did you consider going back and  
22 asking them to reevaluate it?

23 Mr. Dwyer. Not specifically. I think we probably would  
24 have done so again. I would say by the time we first began to  
25 hear of the proposed visit of Congressman Ryan, why, it made this

1 approach in that context less important for the time being at  
2 least.

3 Mr. Smeeton. But that is several months hence. I am  
4 talking about in the immediate aftermath of this particular  
5 request and given the fact that it was not what you expected.  
6 You didn't sit down and discuss the possibility of renewing  
7 the request or asking the Department to give it further thought  
8 in the hope of maybe getting a different answer.

9 Mr. Dwyer. Well, we discussed it immediately after the  
10 cable came in, but I don't recall the specific meeting where  
11 we discussed it subsequently.

12 Mrs. Bauman. Can I ask though, Dick, did you feel that  
13 you could come back to the Department if subsequent information  
14 should ---

15 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

16 Mr. Berdes. You did not come back to the department,  
17 however, at any time?

18 Mr. Dwyer. We did not. I might add, however, the  
19 Ambassador was in the Department late July and August.

20 Mr. Berdes. Did he raise this at that time?

21 Mr. Dwyer. Next July and August.

22 Mr. Spalatin. July of 1978?

23 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, and August. He was on leave but he was  
24 there briefly.

25 Mr. Berdes. The cable said September. June.

1 Mr. Smeeton. June 6 is the cable from the embassy and the  
2 response is June 26. If I understand Dick, he said the Amba-  
3 sador, subsequent to that time, either July or August, was in  
4 the Department.

5 Mr. Dwyer. In July and August<sup>9</sup>.

6 Mr. Smeeton. Did he raise that particular issue again?

7 Mr. Dwyer. You would have to ask him.

8 Mr. Smeeton. You have no recollection of discussing  
9 with him ---

10 Mr. Dwyer. I think he did.

11 Mr. Smeeton. His raising that with the Department?

12 Mr. Dwyer. I believe he did, but it is easy enough to  
13 ask him.

14 Mr. Berdes. You have described Response 130 as possibly  
15 reflecting care, caution. The State Department would be careful,  
16 I believe, is the word you indicated.

17 Mr. Dwyer. I was asked if I would describe it as timid,  
18 I said, no, I would describe it as careful.

19 Mr. Smeeton. I ask you to examine Log 136.

20 Mrs. Bauman. May we go off the record?

21 Mr. Berdes. Yes.

22 (Discussion off the record)

23 Mr. Berdes. Back on the record.

24 In terms of this embassy's interest in the matters relating  
25 to the Peoples Temple and especially in view of what Log 130

1 reflected of the State Department attitude bordering on caution,  
2 did Log 136, when it arrived in September, strike you as making  
3 it possible for this embassy to continue to be balanced and  
4 impartial or did it suggest you might be tilting toward one  
5 party or another in this context.

6 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't think so. What it asked us to  
7 do was simply go in and approach the government on the process  
8 itself. I think we could and did act properly to inquire about  
9 the process without giving favor to either side.

10 In other words, I think it was quite proper to ask about  
11 when the trial <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ going to be held.

12 No, as I say, I think that is a legitimate inquiry and,  
13 indeed, I asked the same man last night about another case.

14 Mr. Berdes. Would you read that cable and look again and  
15 respond to my characterization of it in terms of asking that  
16 the case be expedited as coming close to, if not crossing  
17 the line, of pressuring the government of Guyana to get this  
18 matter settled and the interest of a lot of other people would  
19 be well served.

20 Does it have inherent in it any of that?

21 Mr. Dwyer. I didn't read into it any more than a desire  
22 to <sup>CAUSE A</sup> ~~be as~~ particularly difficult ~~a~~ case to be wrapped up quickly.  
23 It should be put into the context of what was a very, apparently,  
24 a very rare happening of the Guyanese legal system, for the  
25 Justice in question to turn back the case.

1 Mr. Spalatin. Did you at any time, Dick, think of your  
2 original cable of June 6 or response of June 26 in reference  
3 to this when you received it?

4 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't think either apply. As I say, this  
5 is basically a court case, litigation. What we are talking  
6 about in that exchange was people up there in Jonestown.

7 Mr. Spalatin. They both did have a bearing on Peoples  
8 Temple.

9 Mr. Dwyer. Of course, yes. They are trying a case. We  
10 are trying a case. We are asking simply if there is any reason  
11 why it cannot be resolved more quickly.

12 Mr. Spalatin. If I recall in your original request, you  
13 are asking that normal Guyanese administration and legal process  
14 be applied to Jonestown. In here, the State Department is  
15 requesting that normal judicial Guyanese procedures be applied  
16 to the custody case.

17 Mr. Dwyer. Well, you see what they are asking here is  
18 not for us to go in and tell them to hurry the case up, but  
19 has the case been reassigned and can the case be acted on  
20 expeditiously.

21 There is a fine difference in going in and saying, please  
22 speed<sup>up</sup> up your legal system, to me, anyway, but we can inquire  
23 at least. So, basically, what we are doing is certainly con-  
24 veying the impression that it is our interest that the case be  
25 acted upon speedily and, secondly, what is the status of the

1 case for the record?

2 Mrs. Bauman. A clarifying question, Dick. You did not  
3 see any inconsistency between Log No. <sup>130</sup> 126 and <sup>136</sup> 130 at the time  
4 you received 136?

5 Mr. Dwyer. No, I guess I didn't. I simply did not put  
6 it in context of that June exchange. This has been a case  
7 we <sup>had</sup> have been following <sup>for</sup> some time. At one time I think the  
8 Department had asked us not to speak to the lawyers concerned.  
9 We went back and said, for heaven's sake, we can[not] do so easily  
10 and without fear of seeming to interfere.

11 What we want to do is make sure there be no grounds on  
12 any action taken by this embassy which would have given one side  
13 or the other occasion to claim that the decision had been  
14 influenced by the embassy.

15 Mr. Smeeton. By the time you received this particular  
16 memo, were you of the opinion that maybe an inordinate amount  
17 of time had elapsed from the commencement of this case without  
18 a resolution of it?

19 Mr. Dwyer. What had happened was that it meant that it all  
20 went back to square one and, yes, that was a long time.  
21 Inordinate, I don't know. We <sup>have</sup> had just gone through <sup>A SIMILAR DELAY,</sup> for a  
22 different reason, with the Layton trial. We are back to square  
23 one on that, too. We are even back to preliminary hearings.

24 Mr. Smeeton. Did you ever come across information sug-  
25 gesting that the protracted nature of this case in any way might

1 have been linked to special relationships between Jones and his  
2 lieutenants and maybe possible members of the government?

3 Mr. Dwyer. I have no evidence of that at all.

4 Mr. Smeeton. You are aware of those allegations?

5 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

6 Mr. Smeeton. At the time and subsequent to the tragedy?

7 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

8 Mrs. Bauman. Both at the time and subsequent?

9 Mr. Dwyer. Timothy Stoen, it seems to me, had made  
10 allegations previously that there was undue influence being  
11 brought. I do not remember frankly the context in which I heard  
12 that, whether it was repeated to me by Dick McCoy or somebody  
13 else, but I have no personal first-hand knowledge or any kind  
14 of evidence that that was indeed the case.

15 In fact, if there were going to be influence on the case  
16 one way or another, it would have been simply for the court,  
17 it seems to me, to decide it.

18 Mr. Smeeton. Do you have any knowledge of the circumstances  
19 surrounding Justice Bishop's removal from the case?

20 Mr. Dwyer. None beyond the reason he gave the court,  
21 which I presume <sup>YOU HAVE</sup> -- we sent it to Washington. Basically, that  
22 was for harassment from both sides.

23 Mr. Smeeton. YOU have nothing beyond his statement?

24 Mr. Dwyer. No.

25 Mr. Smeeton. To shed any further light on that particular

1 resignation or removal from the case?

2 Mr. Dwyer. No.

3 Mr. Berdes. Dick, we would like to move now to the period  
4 involving the Ryan codel. We begin with the period preceding  
5 that and ask when you first learned the Ryan codel was coming  
6 to Guyana?

7 Mr. Dwyer. When we received the message from the  
8 Department -- I don't have the date right here; I think that  
9 was the first time. There was a message. The date is on the  
0 message. I just don't remember precisely. I will have to look  
1 it up.

2 Mr. Berdes. What preparations were undertaken here for  
3 the arrival of that codel?

4 Mr. Dwyer. The standard preparations that are made <sup>for</sup>  
5 any visiting congressional delegation anywhere. There is, <sup>for example</sup> just  
6 the cars, hotel reservations. In this case, which is pretty  
7 much standard.

8 In this case, we reserved an airplane because of the interest  
9 in going to Jonestown, although we didn't know <sup>if we</sup> <sup>go</sup> ~~it~~ would ~~be~~ there.  
0 And we conveyed Congressman Ryan's message to Jonestown. We  
1 conveyed that to the Temple ---

2 Mr. Berdes. Was that at Mr. Ryan's request?

3 Mr. Dwyer. No, we did it on our own. They hadn't gotten  
4 it. We were afraid they were not getting it and, indeed, they  
5 did not. Then, the Ambassador had a meeting with the Foreign

1 Minister and discussed it at length with the Guyanese Ambassador  
2 to the United States, Laurence Mann.

3 Mr. Berdes. Were you aware of the briefings that were  
4 taking place in Washington between representatives of the State  
5 Department and Mr. Ryan's staff?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, we were. Not all of the<sup>M</sup>, but we were  
7 very concerned that the Congressman be<sup>AS</sup> well briefed as possible  
8 on the Department's interpretation of the Privacy Act and what  
9 he could expect to learn from us.

10 Mr. Berdes. Did that once again reinforce the notion that  
11 the Privacy Act figured very prominently in this matter?

12 Mr. Dwyer. Well, we were certainly concerned about it,  
13 but looking back on it, I don't know whether it made that much  
14 difference or not.

15 Mr. Berdes. Did it make enough difference, however, for  
16 the embassy here to request a legal representative from the  
17 Department of State accompany the Ryan code?

18 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, we were certainly concerned about that,  
19 and, indeed, we requested a text that could be released publicly  
20 of what our obligations are <sup>UNDER</sup> [of] the Privacy Act.

21 Mr. Berdes. Would you repeat that, what did you request?

22 Mr. Dwyer. We requested from the Department a statement  
23 listing or giving the obligations of the embassy under the  
24 Privacy Act.

25 Mr. Berdes. You had not received anything of that nature

1 prior to the arrival of the Ryan codel?

2 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, we requested it in the context of the  
3 codel's visit. We wanted it very clear, to have a very simple  
4 guideline as to what we could or could not do.

5 Mr. Berdes. Were these guidelines specific to the Ryan  
6 codel or ---

7 Mr. Dwyer. Basically, they were generally for anyone  
8 whatsoever.

9 Mr. Berdes. Were you aware of the fact that the Ryan  
10 staff people in Washington were expressing differences of  
11 opinions as to the State Department's interpretations of the  
12 Privacy Act?

13 Mr. Dwyer. I was not; no. Frankly, we are constrained  
14 to follow our own legal interpretations. I cannot go out and  
15 select the legal interpretation of any ---

16 Mr. Berdes. Of course. My question by no means suggested  
17 that. We are only trying to determine whether the request  
18 for legal counsel was somehow related to the fact there were  
19 already differences of opinion between the Ryan party and the  
20 State Department which may have been transmitted to you and  
21 that, compounding your own concerns and uncertainties, whatever  
22 they may be, about the Privacy Act, in fact, you felt indeed  
23 to ask for legal counsel. Somewhat unprecedented, I would take  
24 it; is that a fair statement?

25 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't think so. Well, there is a great

deal about this whole thing that is unprecedented, certainly.

Mr. Berdes. Indeed.

Mr. Dwyer. In this context, I don't think so. I would have to go back and look at the response we got from the Department again, but I certainly had no indication that before they left Washington, there was a difference of opinion on the interpretation of the Privacy Act.

This question was raised with me and, indeed, we had a cable from Washington reporting on the briefing of the delegation, but the question was raised with me here by Jackie Speier and my answer then was what I said to you, basically; that, number one, I thought this had all been agreed upon in Washington or you had discussed it and Jackie said, "Yes, we had."

"But, then, when I got back to my office or wherever and looked up the law myself and read the law myself," she said <sup>"my own"</sup> mine was different. Whereupon I said, <sup>"D. AM"</sup> "Sorry about that, but my lawyers are back in the State Department. I will be happy to send back immediately any comments you care to make or requests for reevaluation, but I cannot simply accept your interpretation of the law when I have asked for and received our own legal <sup>division's</sup> Department's interpretation."

Mr. Berdes. Is it safe to assume that some of the differences that may have been expressed and to which you just expressed, might have been asserted if a legal representative of the State Department had been ---

Mr. Dwyer. Some of the differences?

Mr. Berdes. Which you just referred between yourself and Jackie Speier might have been averted?

Mr. Dwyer. I suppose so. But as it turned out, we never did go back and ask the Department and, indeed, I never did get from Jackie precisely how she would interpret it.

Mr. Berdes. To the best of my recollection, the response from the State Department to your request for legal counsel was that they were simply too busy and there was a freeze on travel, they were thereby precluded from complying with your request.

Mr. Dwyer. Whatever the reasons were, we didn't have one present.

Mr. Berdes. The bottom line, there was a pervasive concern of the Privacy Act as related to the Peoples Temple here in Guyana.

Mr. Dwyer. Yes, exactly, but also it would relate to any other affair concerning private American citizens.

Mr. Berdes. But not to the degree, obviously, as it did Peoples Temple.

Mr. Dwyer. True, but simply by the sheer size.

Mr. Berdes. When did you become aware that a group of media people would be accompanying Mr. Ryan to Guyana?

Mr. Dwyer. Several days before the visit and I cannot remember whether -- when we <sup>be</sup> came -- aware of it was when the  
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1 manager of the hotel told us that an NBC camera team was coming  
2 in, and that was the first indication, I think, that we had.

3 Mr. Spalatin. At that same time, did you become aware  
4 that the Concerned Relatives were coming down as well?

5 Mr. Dwyer. Well, we were aware that they were coming.  
6 I can't say exactly how many days before. We were aware that  
7 they were coming and, indeed, the Department had told us they  
8 were coming.

9 Mr. Berdes. What was your reaction to the fact the media  
10 was accompanying Representative Ryan?

11 Mr. Dwyer. Twofold. One, what was the relationship  
12 between the congressional delegation and the media? And,  
13 secondly, just who was coming?

14 We had all kinds of problems early on that could have been  
15 averted if we had known these people were coming, who they were,  
16 and we would have made sure they got visas and we wouldn't have  
17 had the problem of the one man being stranded at the airport and  
18 taking a day to go out and get visas.

19 We were puzzled <sup>by</sup> the telegram we did get from the Department  
20 saying <sup>that</sup> a news team may be in Georgetown at the same time as  
21 Congressman Ryan but they will not be "accompanying" him.

22 I remember the phrasing very well because as they all trooped  
23 off the airplane, I asked someone, I think the Ambassador,  
24 I said, I wonder what that meant they were not accompanying the  
25 Congressman, because there they all <sup>ARE.</sup> were. } But that was the

1 real thing.

2 The third point, I was concerned as to whether or not  
3 it would be the Congressman's desire that these people should  
4 go to Jonestown because a visit to Jonestown of the Congressman  
5 and his two staff members was one thing; a visit of a con-  
6 siderably larger group of people, in particular, the media, was  
7 something else again.

8 Mr. Spalatin. That being a logistical matter?

9 Mr. Dwyer. Logisticals entered into it?

0 Mr. Spalatin. The logistics you were concerned about.

1 Mr. Dwyer. Frankly, I doubt<sup>ed</sup> [it] very much if the Peoples  
2 Temple would agree to admit these people.

3 Mr. Spalatin. The accompaniment of having the press go  
4 along with Mr. Ryan to Jonestown, you feared, could inhibit  
5 prospect of Mr. Ryan getting into Jonestown?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

7 Mr. Smeeton. Beyond that, did you perceive them as pro-  
8 voking him in any way, if they did get in, in such a way that  
9 might provoke violence or anything of that nature?

0 Mr. Dwyer. No, I did not. Unpleasantness, perhaps, but  
1 violence, no.

2 (Brief recess)

3 Mr. Berdes. You indicated that among the problems  
4 relating to the media's accompanying Mr. Ryan were certainly  
5 problems; is that correct?

1 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

2 Mr. Berdes. Do you recall Mr. Ryan mentioning that to you  
3 when he got off the plane?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I do.

5 Mr. Berdes. Do you recall your comment to him?

6 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know whether I made any or not. We  
7 will do what we can, I think, <sup>as said,</sup> which we spent most of the night  
8 doing.

9 Mr. Berdes. Did you say anything to the effect, "Well,  
0 that is their problem and they will have to deal with that?"

1 Mr. Dwyer. I am not sure I said that, <sup>it is</sup> which is an accurate  
2 <sup>assessment of what</sup> [thing], which they would have to do.

3 Mr. Berdes. What did you understand Mr. Ryan's purpose in  
4 coming to Guyana? What was his purpose?

5 Mr. Dwyer. Well, there seemed to be some differences. The  
6 first message we had said that he was proposing to come with a  
7 team of specialists, which was to include a psychologist or  
8 psychiatrist; anyway, a whole group of people. Then we under-  
9 stood that Mr. Derwinski was to accompany Mr. Ryan, and,  
0 finally, it was Mr. Ryan himself and then there were some changes  
1 in the staff, too, it seems to me.

2 But, I think his purpose was fairly clear, to see for him-  
3 self whether these allegations were true or false.

4 Mr. Berdes. Pure fact finding mission?

5 Mr. Dwyer. That was my understanding of it, yes.

1 Mr. Berdes. Did you at any time and from any source obtain  
2 the impression that Mr. Ryan was coming here for, among other  
3 purposes, to leave from Jonestown, assuming he was able to get  
4 in, any defectors who wished to leave; did you understand that  
5 part of it?

6 Mr. Dwyer. You are saying, <sup>did</sup> do I understand that he expect<sup>ed</sup>s  
7 to go up and bring people out?

8 Mr. Berdes. That is right.

9 Mr. Dwyer. No, although I suppose, obviously, he was going  
10 to have somebody from the embassy there ---

11 Mr. Berdes. In the time prior to his departure to Jones-  
12 town, did he specifically state that to you, or did you get that  
13 impression from he or Jackie Speiers or Jim Scholleart that that  
14 was the chief purpose or among purposes of his visit?

15 Mr. Dwyer. No. Should the question come up, should someone  
16 want to leave with the Congressman, why, I would have expected  
17 that this would happen, that he would want to make sure people  
18 could leave. But as to the chief purpose to take people out,  
19 no, I didn't know that.

20 Mr. Berdes. Not necessarily his chief purpose, but among  
21 his purposes.

22 Mr. Dwyer. But I think he certainly felt if people were  
23 being held there against their will and wanted to leave, why,  
24 they could come out with him. I am a little confused,  
25 apparently.

1 Mrs. Bauman. Could we go off the record a second?

2 Mr. Berdes. Sure.

3 (Discussion off the record)

4 Mr. Berdes. Back on the record.

5 Mr. Dwyer. As to your differentiation as to a fact-finding  
6 mission and an active role in this process, is that the ---

7 Mr. Berdes. I am trying to establish whether Mr. Ryan  
8 or anyone associated with him adequately conveyed to the State  
9 Department or the embassy that he, perhaps, intended to bring  
10 people out with him. Let me be more specific.

11 Were you aware that Ryan's staff had forms printed which  
12 in effect said, "If you wish to leave with us, simply nod your  
13 head," or something to that effect which they were showing  
14 surreptitiously to people at Jonestown?

15 Mr. Dwyer. No, I was not. You mean, show them a card.

16 Mr. Berdes. That is correct.

17 Mr. Dwyer. No.

18 Mr. Berdes. You were not aware of that even while you  
19 were up there?

20 Mr. Dwyer. No.

21 Mr. Berdes. Do you see the point of my question?

22 Mr. Dwyer. Yes. I am a little startled.

23 Mr. Berdes. The bottom line, you understood Mr. Ryan's  
24 purpose to be chiefly fact finding?

25 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I think he stated that fairly clearly, not

1 only up there in front of the group; " a lot of allegations  
2 he said were made about Peoples Temple, and I am here to see for  
3 myself whether they are accurate or not."

4 Mr. Spalatin. Did he make a statement at that time,  
5 "if anyone desires to leave with me, they can."

6 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't recall that <sup>he</sup> [they] did, but the whole  
7 thing is on television.

8 Mr. Spalatin. Pardon?

9 Mr. Dwyer. His whole remarks are on television.

10 Mr. Spalatin. I am just curious if you recall him saying  
11 that.

12 Mr. Dwyer. No.

13 Mr. Berdes. Relative to the point of their arrival at  
14 the airport and the trip into town, do you recall your conver-  
15 sation with Mr. Scholeart and Miss Speier?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Very well, indeed. I have had occasion to  
17 be reminded of it.

18 Mr. Berdes. Would you relate it to us, please?

19 Mr. Dwyer. I should say I had know<sup>d</sup> Jim Scholleart before  
20 when he was a Foreign Service Officer in Russian language  
21 training while I was in Bulgarian language training, and we  
22 knew each other from that time.

23 He paid a visit to the embassy in Bulgaria along with a  
24 group of language students, so I know<sup>d</sup> him slightly.

25 I was concerned particularly as the group got off the

1 airplane to discover that there were many <sup>[many]</sup> more people  
2 than I had anticipated and that we still had had no reply from  
3 the Peoples Temple as to whether or not they would be willing  
4 to accept a visit by the Congressman and/or any other <sup>PERSONS-</sup> ~~members~~

5 I was told that <sup>Mr. Cochel</sup> ~~they~~ would be staying only a few days.  
6 They intended to leave on Saturday and I expressed my opinion  
7 then, which I, in some ways, continue to hold, that it would  
8 have been far better had <sup>Mr.</sup> Schollaert or someone else come out  
9 here beforehand, do their homework on negotiating with the  
10 Temple as to what conditions were acceptable to Congressman  
11 Ryan and what conditions were acceptable to the Temple and then  
12 let us make the logistical arrangements.

13 At that time, fine, we will have the Congressman come down.  
14 But here we had a case of three or four days and trying to  
15 arrange these things from scratch was pretty difficult to  
16 achieve.

17 We did not know precisely what or how the Congressman hoped  
18 to approach this question. We could not negotiate for him  
19 with Peoples Temple, even if it had been a good idea for us to  
20 do so.

21 That was my main concern. There arose, I think in that  
22 conversation, if not that, a subsequent one, the question of  
23 whether or not the Congressman should have access to records of  
24 <sup>[Peoples Temple of]</sup> our conversations with Peoples Temple members.  
25 This was a question we really <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>quite</sup> sure was going to come up.

1 It had also been behind our inquiry of the Department of  
2 what we could show him and what we could not show him. Jackie  
3 Speier felt we were interpreting these Privacy Act matters too  
4 narrowly.

5 Then, either then or later, I, then, gave her a copy of  
6 the <sup>Department's</sup> statement that <sup>made in answer to</sup> was our request.

7 The question was, could we talk about our conversations with  
8 private Americans in this country without release.

9 Mr. Berdes. In that same time, I presume in the car on  
10 the ride in from the airport, you also recall suggesting to  
11 Miss Speier and in somewhat strenuous terms, perhaps that she  
12 had been somewhat defficient in her communications with the  
13 Department of State on certain matters.

14 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I began on the Privacy Act. <sup>I +</sup> "This is  
15 our understanding you had been briefed in the Department as to  
16 what we can show you and what we cannot show you. The time  
17 to bring up the questions was in Washington, not here, because  
18 we obviously have no legal means or flexibility of reinter-  
19 preting this.

20 Mr. Berdes. But you did have those guidelines the Depart-  
21 ment had provided you which to refer?

22 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, exactly. Our point was clear, and  
23 Miss Speier's point was that she, as a lawyer, had looked at the  
24 same law and reached a different conclusion than the State  
25 Department lawyers.

1 My problem was that I couldn't, I didn't feel that I could  
2 sit there and argue the law with her. I am not a lawyer, and,  
3 indeed, we had posed the question and we had a response. I just  
4 did not feel that I could discuss or argue the <sup>legal</sup> merits.

5 Mr. Berdes. Would it be fair to say, however, that that  
6 exchange, again, reflected the difficulties relative to the  
7 Privacy Act as they related to the code?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I suppose. That was one of the problems  
9 we had.

10 Mr. Berdes. It was, in fact, the reason you requested a  
11 legal representative to accompany?

12 Mr. Dwyer. Yes. The thing was that we <sup>new</sup> here is a  
13 Congressman coming down to look at allegations being made from  
14 the States about individuals there. We have talked to some of  
15 these individuals.

16 We were fully aware that he <sup>would</sup> be very interested in knowing  
17 what these individuals told us.

18 The question was, could we or could we not tell him?

19 Mr. Berdes. In terms of his access which you could and  
20 could not tell him, we are unaware of the fact if he had a  
21 letter from the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee  
22 authorizing his access to come of those files that he would  
23 have, in fact, been allowed to examine them.

24 Mr. Dwyer. I am not sure I was then or later, but I was  
25 aware of this provision of the law, yes. Am I wrong in thinking

1 there has to be two persons in the delegation? There cannot be  
2 one person by himself.

3 In any event, quite frankly, on a personal basis, it didn't  
4 make a great deal of difference to me or to the Ambassador, I am  
5 sure. The question is simply, what does the law provide and  
6 we will abide <sup>by</sup> ~~with~~ it.

7 Mrs. Bauman. But he did not or his staff did not tell you  
8 that they had whatever was considered appropriate for an  
9 exemption?

10 Mr. Dwyer. They did?

11 Mrs. Bauman. No, I am asking you, you were not told they  
12 did; they never suggested to you they had such a document?

13 Mr. Dwyer. No.

14 Mr. Berdes. Did you or any member of the embassy do anything  
15 to resolve the visa problems of the media at the airport?

16 Mr. Dwyer. We worked all night on it. And I still don't  
17 know the ins and outs of it. Some of these people did have  
18 visas. The NBC people did. They were somewhat -- let's <sup>describe</sup> ~~put~~  
19 it how it happened.

20 After I dropped Miss Speier and Mr. Schollaert off at the  
21 hotel, I got home at probably 1:30, I guess, 1 o'clock. Early  
22 morning, 1 o'clock, perhaps, and the telephone was ringing. It  
23 was our consular officer saying that all the journalists had  
24 gotten in save for one. They were keeping him at the airport  
25 telling him he had to leave <sup>the country</sup> and nobody would tell him why an

1 exception was being made in <sup>his</sup> [that] case.

2 Also, [that] NBC was upset because they would not allow them  
3 to bring the equipment in, but instead insisted they come back  
4 for it in the morning when Customs was open.

5 So, the consul had called up several people there, and then  
6 I got on the telephone and called up the immigration official  
7 at the airport who <sup>c</sup>would not tell me why he would not allow this  
8 man entry into the country.

9 I, then, talked to the police <sup>at the airport</sup> and they couldn't tell me.  
10 They were suggesting it was a decision made at a higher level  
11 than anybody at the airport.

12 They both said they were going off duty and I asked both  
13 of them to remain on duty until I could get on to somebody.

14 At about 3 o'clock in the morning, I got the Chief of  
15 Police out of bed. There had been a question with <sup>of the journalist</sup> [this indi-  
16 vidual of] bringing <sup>by</sup> Buyanese currency into the country, which  
17 is illegal.

18 As I understand, it was just <sup>IGNORANCE</sup> [insurance] on his part, he  
19 even went so far as to declare it on his form. So, obviously,  
20 there was no attempt to smuggle it in. I thought, perhaps, this  
21 might be, nonetheless, the reason why they were holding him at  
22 the airport. So I got [the] Commissioner of Police Barker out  
23 of bed at 3 o'clock in the morning and asked him to please call  
24 the airport and discuss with the [visa] authorities out there  
25 what the problem was with this man and that I would vouch for

1 him if they wanted to release him in my custody. So a half  
2 hour went by. The Commissioner of Police called back to say  
3 he was sorry but this was not a police matter; <sup>it</sup>he didn't have  
4 anything to do with the currency.

5 Anyway, it was not within his area of jurisdiction, meaning  
6 that, obviously, there was some sort of a political reason for  
7 it. So, by this time, it was getting pretty close to dawn.  
8 I waited until the early morning and called up our public  
9 affairs officer and asked him to go over to the Ministry of  
10 Information ---

11 Mr. Smeeton. For purposes of clarification, that would be  
12 Mr. Kibble?

13 Mr. Dwyer. Yes. I said I called him. Maybe the Ambassador  
14 called him. One of us called him and asked him to go over and  
15 speak to the information officer, <sup>or</sup> whoever his <sup>well</sup>contacts in the  
16 Ministry of Information, to see if he couldn't straighten the  
17 question of the visa out.

18 In addition, the other journalists had visas only for  
19 one day. Obviously, they wanted visas for a longer period than  
20 that. I should say this is the standard procedure <sup>to</sup> of journalists  
21 entering this country. They will be given a visa for one day  
22 until the Ministry of Information can determine whether, for  
23 their purposes, it is really legitimate.

24 Anyway, Mr. Kibble finally got the concurrence of the  
25 Ministry of Information and got the man into the country and

1 then got the other visas extended for a five-day period. ~~so~~  
2 shortly after the man came into the country, the Ambassador had  
3 a call from the Minister of Foreign Affairs stating that they  
4 had a complaint from the Peoples Temple here in Georgetown that  
5 one of the American journalists trespassed on to their property  
6 and entered their house without their permission.

7 As it happened, it turned out to be the same fellow. We,  
8 then, got in touch with him through our public affairs officer,  
9 Mr. Kibble, and the journalist's story was considerably different.  
10 He had gone to the house but had not entered it or forced his  
11 way into it. He simply talked with people over the fence.

12 The Ambassador thereupon called the Foreign Minister back  
13 and related the journalist's version of the incident to him just  
14 so no precipitating<sup>and</sup> action would be taken <sup>against</sup> the fellow.  
15 It was, in fact, murky, but they would not take any action  
16 against <sup>him</sup> it. But these are the kind of things that could have  
17 been avoided had we known who was coming and when.

18 Mr. Spalatin. Do you know at this time or even then, why  
19 the first journalist was detained at the airport, the official  
20 explanation, because evidently, the currency was not the expla-  
21 nation, as you understand it, based on what the Commissioner of  
22 Police told you.

23 Mr. Dwyer. I have only heard rumors to that effect from  
24 <sup>among</sup> the group of journalists.

25 Mr. Berdes. In that same sense, did you have any idea as

1 to why the NBC crews visas were terminated and they had to go  
2 through and elaborate effort in getting them reestablished?

3 Mr. Dwyer. They gave them the wrong ones to begin with,  
4 I suspect. Normally, as I say, any journalist coming into  
5 the country has a one-day visa. What happened, in several  
6 instances, these people coming in without any visas, Charles  
7 Krauss, for example, they gave him a week or two weeks visa.  
8 Then somebody caught it and they went around and around<sup>d</sup> up  
9 everybody's visa, everybody's passport and changed them all to  
10 one day.

11 I think they just got the NBC crew along with those. But  
12 in any event, by noon the next day, it was straightened out.

13 Mr. Berdes. Did you subsequently learn of these actions  
14 on the part of the government of Guyana relating to Ron Javers  
15 at the airport and the NBC crew later were in any way insti-  
16 gated or urged by the Peoples Temple?

17 Mr. Dwyer. I doubt it. No, I certainly hadn't heard it.

18 Mr. Spalatin. Why would you doubt it?

19 Mr. Dwyer. I cannot see any reason for Javers specifically.  
20 I don't know whether it is accurate or not. You talked to  
21 Mr. Javers, I take it; I have not. There is some question as  
22 to whether he had announced his intention on the telephone to  
23 the Guyanese Embassy in Washington, <sup>that</sup> Or he was going to go ahead  
24 with or without a visa in somewhat emphatic terms. Conceivably,  
25 it might have been that that did it.

1 Mrs. Bauman. But you didn't hear at the time, you had no  
2 reason ---

3 Mr. Dwyer. At the time, no, in the course of the codel  
4 visit, yes, but not at that time.

5 Mr. Spalatin. Did you ever have any conversation with any  
6 government of Guyanese officials which would lend some credi-  
7 bility to the allegation that Peoples Temple might have had  
8 a hand in any or all of these events?

9 Mr. Dwyer. No. [See, the government of Guyana knew the  
10 Congressman was coming. The Ambassador had conversations with  
11 senior government officials here. I don't see that Peoples  
12 Temple would have had any influence in that.

13 Mr. Spalatin. Wouldn't have had anyone?

14 Mr. Dwyer. I don't see that they would have had any  
15 influence on that. Guyana is not an easy country to get to.  
16 There are a lot of problems and locally, they are very concerned  
17 about their image abroad. They also feel that small countries  
18 in general, and Guyana in particular, have been unfairly  
19 treated on occasion. So they are sensitive about it. This was  
20 quite possibly the biggest influx of journalists [during that  
21 time] in quite awhile.

22 Mr. Berdes. We are familiar, I think, with the details  
23 of the events of November 15, 16, and 17th; the various meetings  
24 which took place with the Ambassador and so on. I, therefore,  
25 ask you to simply isolate any events in that period prior to

Mr. Ryan's departure for Jonestown on November 17th which struck you as particularly significant.

Mr. Dwyer. At the risk of repeating what you have already heard, on Mr. Ryan's first night in town, my wife, myself and the Ambassador had dinner with him. At that time, he explained his interest in the Peoples Temple and, indeed, in cults in general.

I hadn't realized at all until that time that he had a very real personal interest in the Peoples Temple through families <sup>of friends of</sup> for many years. Nor had I realized his own interest in cults or the background he had.

It became apparent for the first time <sup>that</sup> in many ways he and his staff knew a great deal more about Peoples Temple than we did in terms of what had gone on before in California. All this was largely news to us.

As I say, that was of interest to us because we had a little better idea of what he was trying to do and why he was trying to do it.

The only other thing probably, I had a brief discussion with Miss Speier and Mr. Schollaert shortly before the Ambassador and I and the consul met with the Concerned Relatives, but that centered pretty much around the same questions as to interpretations of the Privacy Act.

Mr. Berdes. At any time during that period, did the subject arise in your conversations with Mr. Ryan or any members of his

1 staff, of the possibility of danger inherent in the trip to  
2 Jonestown?

3 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I think it did. I believe Jim Schollaert  
4 asked me if I felt there was any physical danger, and I said,  
5 no, I did not.

6 Mr. Spalatin. Physical danger in the context of violence?

7 Mr. Dwyer. Any chance of violence. I said, no, I can  
8 see there might be unpleasantness or something like that, but  
9 I saw no chance of violence.

10 Mr. Berdes. Did Mr. Ryan ever raise the issue?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't believe he did.

12 Mr. Spalatin. Did Jackie Speier ever raise the issue to  
13 you that you know of?

14 Mr. Dwyer. I cannot remember whether she was there when  
15 Jim Schollaert asked me about it, [but] I don't recall.

16 Mr. Smeeton. Did any members of the Concerned Relatives  
17 party suggest that as a possibility and ask that certain pre-  
18 cautionary measures be taken?

19 Mr. Dwyer. Not to us; no.

20 Mr. Spalatin. To anyone else, are you aware of them making  
21 that suggestion?

22 Mr. Dwyer. No, I am not. We really didn't have all that  
23 much to do with these 14 people. We met with them at the  
24 <sup>Embassy</sup> [Consulate] the Ambassador and myself in the Congressman's pre-  
25 sence met with them and the consular officer scheduled a number

1 of individual appointments with them?

2 Mr. Berdes. Regarding the meeting of the Concerned Rela-  
3 tives with the Ambassador, it is our impression there was a  
4 difference of opinion that arose as to whether the media would  
5 be allowed to participate or cover that meeting. Do you recall  
6 that?

7 Mr. Dwyer. The Ambassador simply said, no, he would not  
8 have the media present during this conversation.

9 Mr. Berdes. Do you understand the reason why that position  
10 was taken?

11 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I think that is a question more appro-  
12 priate to ask of him.

13 Mr. Berdes. What was your understanding?

14 Mrs. Bauman. Did he tell you why?

15 Mr. Dwyer. Simply he felt it was a session that was part  
16 of the normal course of embassy business which is not conducted  
17 with the media present.

18 Mr. Berdes. During the period of November 15th through the  
19 17th at any meeting that you had with Mr. Ryan, did he ever  
20 comment to you on the adequacy or the inadequacy of the State  
21 Department's performance regarding his trip to Guyana?

22 Mr. Spalatin. Or regarding the handling of Peoples  
23 Temple?

24 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't believe he did. However, I did  
25 not see a great deal of him in these three days. He was staying

1 with the Ambassador and spent a great deal of time at the hotel.  
2 So, principally, that dinner was the longest time I had spent  
3 with him except for meetings of the <sup>(CONCERNED RELATIVES)</sup> people.

4 Mr. Smeeton. During that meeting with the Concerned  
5 Relatives and the Ambassador, and I gather you were present  
6 also?

7 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

8 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall anything of significance or  
9 special impact to you that might have been said by the Concerned  
10 Relatives that hit you as being new news or something that prior  
11 to going into Jonestown the next day or two might have heightened  
12 your concern or suspicions about the Temple?

13 Mr. Dwyer. No, I cannot think of any individual thing.  
14 It was a highly emotional meeting. There were at least several  
15 people in tears, verging almost on hysteria. I had an exchange  
16 of comments with Steven Katsaris at the end of the meeting who  
17 said, "you don't understand, these people are brainwashed."

18 I know my daughter would want to leave if I could talk to  
19 her somewhere by myself. My answer was, Mr. Katsaris, "we have  
20 talked to your daughter and she says she doesn't want to talk  
21 to you. She is 25 years old. She doesn't <sup>want</sup> to talk with you;  
22 you want to talk with her.

23 "What do you see our role in this? What do you propose we  
24 do?" He said, well, that he understood that we could not do  
25 anything. I think I said, who should I believe. He said that

1 <sup>it</sup> [he] is very simple, you believe me because I know that these  
2 people are, in effect, brainwashed up there.

3 Mr. Smeeton. Did you find him to be a more credible source  
4 of information than, say, other members of the party?

5 Mr. Dwyer. I have no means to gauge credibility. He did  
6 say at the end of his conversation, "I understand that, <sup>AND</sup> but  
7 I think I understand your legal constraints as well, but I think  
8 that entitles me to take any measures I think necessary to get  
9 my daughter away from Jonestown."

10 Mr. Smeeton. There was nobody who stood out, in retrospect,  
11 as being particularly impressive, persuasive and maybe more  
12 credible than other sources of information.

13 Mr. Dwyer. I think Jim Cobb impressed me as perhaps more  
14 reasonable in his approach. He said very simply he wanted to  
15 go and see his brothers and his sisters and mother, and he  
16 would be quite content if his brothers and sisters and mother  
17 said they were happy there, why, he believes he could accept  
18 their words, which, I might add is precisely what he did.

19 Mr. Smeeton. Essentially he was just asking for the right  
20 to gain access to them. The reason I was interested in the  
21 remarks regarding Katsaris, Dick McCoy has indicated that of  
22 all the people he talked to, Concerned Relatives in particular,  
23 Mr. Katsaris stood out as being one of the more credible and  
24 more impressive sources of information regarding the Temple,  
25 one of the more believable.

1 Mr. Dwyer. Dick knew many of these people and I did not.  
2 This <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ the first time I met them, and I met them all in a  
3 group.

4 Mr. Smeeton. This was your initial contact?

5 Mr. Dwyer. With the Concerned Relatives.

6 Mr. Smeeton. With everyone of the party?

7 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

8 Mr. Berdes. Did you in any way participate in or advise  
9 Mr. Ryan or any of his associates in the negotiations with the  
10 Peoples Temple on the terms of their entry into the compound?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No, I did not. We suggested to the Congressman  
12 when he came here that he might want to have one of his own  
13 staff who <sup>could</sup> ~~can~~ speak for him, talk directly to Peoples Temple  
14 rather than going through us as middleman; he elected to do so.

15 Mr. Berdes. Had it been determined from the outset you  
16 would accompany Mr. Ryan to Jonestown in the event he went?

17 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, pretty much. That, incidentally, is a  
18 matter of record, when an embassy receives word of a visiting  
19 congressional delegation, why, one of the first things it does  
20 is go back and say who will be responsible for the delegation  
21 from the embassy, what member of the embassy has responsibility  
22 for them.

23 Mr. Berdes. Off the record.

24 (Discussion off the record)

25

1 Mr. Spalatin. Dick, I wish you would react to this summary  
2 by an individual as to the meeting we were just discussing in the  
3 Ambassador's office, your reaction to this individual's  
4 perception of the embassy's handling of welfare and whereabouts  
5 questions dealing with their relatives in Jonestown.

6 "Their whole approach to handling the group of concerned  
7 relatives was to show us Jonestown, show us the slides, assure  
8 us that Doug Ellice was going up there regularly, that there was  
9 a channel for people who wanted to come out to come out and  
10 also to allow each of us to have a private meeting with Doug  
11 Ellice to express to him exactly what we wanted him to do for  
12 us in terms of contacting our relatives."

13 Mr. Dwyer. If you mean by the channel, Ellice, yes, that is  
14 a fair summary.

15 Mr. Berdes. Dick, I would like to enter now into the period  
16 of departure from Georgetown on November 17 and the events upon  
17 the arrival at the Port Kaituma airstrip, the periods of the  
18 17th in Jonestown and flowing naturally from that the next day.

19 Before I do so, however, I would like to just state for the  
20 record, there are regrettably few things on which we have  
21 received totally unanimous opinions with one notable exception,  
22 the bravery with which you reacted to the events on November 18th.  
23 A great number of people have asked us to convey to you  
24 personally their high regard and appreciation that you did that.

25 Having said that, may I ask, please, the Ryan party left

1 for Jonestown on the afternoon of November 17th at approximately  
2 2:00 or 2:30 p.m.

3 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, perhaps it might be useful to you if I go  
4 back a little bit before that.

5 Mr. Berdes. Please.

6 Mr. Dwyer. I do not mean to harp on it, but the logistics  
7 in this country <sup>is</sup> a problem, and we had had an airplane reserved  
8 ~~the day before and there had been no agreement on --~~ two days  
9 before, I guess. There had been no agreement as to whether  
10 Peoples Temple was willing to accept the Congressman's visit and  
11 the Congressman was still scheduled to leave on Saturday, which  
12 meant if we were going at all, we needed the plane on Friday;  
13 this was Thursday afternoon.

14 I found the only plane in town that I could, which was the  
15 Guyana Airways Twin Otter, and I had to make a commitment to the  
16 airline corporation that we did need the airplane because they  
17 had to reschedule their internal flights.

18 So Congressman Ryan did decide on Thursday afternoon that  
19 he wanted the plane for Friday. And it was agreed either late  
20 Thursday or first thing, fairly early Friday morning that the  
21 takeoff would be at noon. One of the reasons for the delay was  
22 that the two attorneys for the Peoples Temple, <sup>Mr.</sup> Mark Lane and  
23 Mr. Garry, Charles Garry, were coming in late Thursday night and  
24 they would want to talk to the Peoples Temple. In any<sup>e</sup>vent --

25 Mr. Berdes. Lawyers do have a way of intruding upon matters.

1 Mr. Dwyer. I am sorry?

2 Mr. Berdes. Lawyers do have a way of intruding upon  
3 matters.

4 Mr. Dwyer. In any event, I arrived at the hotel at noon  
5 to pick up the Congressman and Jackie Speier to go to Port  
6 Kaituma. It had been decided there that the two attorneys for  
7 the Peoples Temple were going back to the house in Georgetown to  
8 talk on the radio with Jonestown regarding the visit of the  
9 Congressman and that they would be back by 2:00 o'clock.

10 I said if they get back at 2:00 o'clock, you can count on an  
11 hour to the airport, that will make it 3:00 o'clock, a little  
12 over an hour up there, that is going to make it 4:00 o'clock, it  
13 takes an hour to get into the Peoples Temple. That is 5:00  
14 o'clock, and the airplane has got to takeoff at 6:00 o'clock,  
15 so there obviously is no way you can even go in and come back  
16 the same day, nor is there any guarantee we can find accommoda-  
17 tions, what have you.

18 Mr. Ryan discussed the question with Ms. Speier, I believe,  
19 and asked Ms. Speier to call up the Georgetown house of Peoples  
20 Temple and to tell the people there that he was, indeed, going  
21 to Jonestown, to Port Kaituma at least, and if the two attorneys  
22 wished to come, they <sup>SH</sup>would meet them at the airport. This is  
23 what happened. Until that time, we still had no assurances  
24 whatsoever that anybody was going to be agreeable to <sup>the</sup>visit. And,  
25 of course, without their concurrence, why, the visit would not

1 be possible.

2         At the airport, Congressman Ryan and his staff had selected  
3 apparently from the 14 concerned relatives the four representatives  
4 to go with him and the news media. Congressman Ryan called the  
5 group together before boarding the aircraft and said simply that  
6 he was on an official government trip. That he would be delighted  
7 to offer transportation to these individuals going up there, but  
8 he could take no responsibility for their return. They might  
9 have to come back by commercial means if for any reason we  
10 decide to stay over. So that was agreed upon.

11         We got in the Otter. About a half hour out of Port Kaituma,  
12 maybe a little later, the pilot spoke to me and said that he had  
13 gotten a radio message from the tower in Georgetown who in turn  
14 had had a call from the Peoples Temple in Georgetown saying that  
15 the airport in Port Kaituma was unsafe and that the plane <sup>could</sup>  
16 not be able to land. There was discussion then as to whether or  
17 not we should go into Matthew's Ridge and the pilot then said,  
18 well, let's overfly the airstrip at Port Kaituma, which he did,  
19 and landed. He told me later that he had known another pilot  
20 had been in there that morning <sup>or</sup> and the day before and he was  
21 pretty certain the airstrip was all right. But this was  
22 apparently an attempt by the Peoples Temple to discourage the  
23 visit.

24         As we got off the airplane, we were met by several  
25 representatives of the Peoples Temple at Jonestown, including

1 Mike Pro<sup>KES</sup>ex and Tim Carter, a man who I later learned was Jim  
2 McElvane, and Mrs. Trops, and there may have been one or two  
3 others that I didn't know.

4 I turned to Tim Carter -- I might add, Mike Pro<sup>KES</sup>ex was  
5 taking a sound movie of this, and I turned to Tim Carter and  
6 said, Tim, this is Congressman Ryan, or made some attempt to  
7 introduce him, and Tim turned his back on the Congressman and  
8 walked away.

9 The group then huddled over by itself with <sup>the</sup> two attorneys  
10 and came and told us the attorneys could go with them into  
11 Jonestown to determine whether the newsmen and the Congressman  
12 and everybody could indeed come into Jonestown.

13 The lawyers got in the truck and drove off the airstrip.  
14 Then much to my surprise, the truck turned around after five  
15 minutes and came right back again and said they had decided to  
16 take the Congressman, Ms. Speier and myself plus the man from  
17 the Ministry of Information, Neville Annibourne, with them.

18 So we then got into the truck -- Congressman Ryan and  
19 Ms. Speier in the cab of the truck and myself and the lawyers and  
20 the Peoples Temple representatives in the back of the truck -- and  
21 we rode into Jonestown.

22 Mr. Spalatin. Was the air tense or not?

23 Mr. Dwyer. Not terribly. Tim Carter walked over to me in  
24 the back of the truck and said, we don't wish to have any  
25 problems with the embassy, it is just that we don't want this

1 congressman and all those newsmen coming into Jonestown, to  
2 which I made no reply. I understood the attorneys to be urging  
3 the Peoples Temple members to permit the Congressman --  
4 the Congressman was already coming in -- but the newsmen to  
5 come in by virtue of the remark I overheard of Mr. Lane's to the  
6 effect I believe someone asked him what he thought about letting  
7 people in and it happened to be a quiet moment in the back of the  
8 truck, one of the few. And it came through very clearly, "I  
9 would let all of them in except possibly that <sup>[ORCENTY]</sup> man from the State  
10 Department." So I smiled and we went. <sup>SON.</sup>

11 We got there, we were met by Marceline Jones and several  
12 others. We proceeded to the pavillion and sat down and had a  
13 drink while the lawyers went off apparently to talk with Jim  
14 Jones.

15 I might add that on the way into Jonestown, there was a  
16 <sup>TRAILER</sup> tractor filled with logs in the middle of the road that couldn't  
17 be budged. One of the people got off the truck and walked into  
18 the community to get a bulldozer or tractor to pull this trailer  
19 off the road, all of which meant time was going by rapidly  
20 and there wasn't much time at all.

21 Anyway, finally Jim Jones appeared with the lawyers and we  
22 all sat down around the table. Congressman Ryan was introduced  
23 by Marcie and the case he made to Jim Jones briefly and simply  
24 stated was that "I am here because I have heard many things about  
25 Jonestown, some of them unfavorable and some of them favorable,

1 and I am here to see for myself." He said "if people are free  
2 to come and go as they please, I assure you I have no problems  
3 with the community. But," he said, "in view of all the controversy,  
4 what have you, I thought the best way to accomplish this was to  
5 indeed come myself."

6 Mr. Spalatin. Do you know if any of these conversations  
7 were being tape recorded?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Not overtly, I don't. In any event, Jones and  
9 his people discussed it with the lawyers. It is my impression  
10 both lawyers urged -- I should go back and say Congressman  
11 Ryan also urged Jim Jones to permit the press and the concerned  
12 relatives to come in. Jones's response was that people were free  
13 to come and go at any time. They had <sup>had</sup> many visitors at Jonestown,  
14 that there was nothing holding <sup>people</sup> them there, there were no barbed  
15 wire or restraints. Anyone who wanted to leave could just walk  
16 away <sup>and</sup> or indeed people, he said, had left previously, and <sup>for</sup> some of  
17 <sup>them</sup> whom he <sup>had</sup> paid their way back.

18 The question of the press then was discussed at length with  
19 the lawyers. Jones was unhappy about it. He was prevailed upon.  
20 I think, both lawyers agreed he should have the press there.  
21 I think he was prevailed upon by both lawyers to permit the  
22 Peoples Temple -- concerned relatives and the press to come in.  
23 He finally agreed to this with the exception of Mr. Gordon  
24 Lindsay whom he was adamant about. Jones had a copy of an article  
25 that Gordon Lindsay had written about Jones for the National

1 Enquirer, which "was nothing but lies," I believe is what he  
2 said.

3 The truck was dispatched to --

4 Mr. Smeeton. Had you seen that article, by any chance, or  
5 the draft of it? I understand it was never published.

6 Mr. Dwyer. No, I have never seen it. I was curious to  
7 see it. Jones said there were some very uncomplimentary things  
8 about Mr. Dwyer in the article as well. I had some curiosity  
9 as to what it was. If things had not happened the way <sup>they</sup> it did,  
10 I might have asked him to look at it.

11 So the truck was dispatched back to the airport. Meanwhile  
12 I was concerned, again, about logistics, where we are going to  
13 stay, what have you. So Marceline Jones proposed that Congress-  
14 man Ryan and Ms. Speier, myself and a man from the Ministry of  
15 Information, Mr. Annibourne, would stay in Jonestown. The press  
16 and television people and the four concerned relatives would be  
17 invited to have dinner in Jonestown, but would be asked to stay  
18 in the guest house in Port Kaituma for the night.

19 So anyway, that is what was agreed upon.

20 I then asked Congressman Ryan how he would like to proceed,  
21 and he said he simply wanted to talk with individuals one by one  
22 in a private area and --

23 Mr. Berdes. Had he, by the way, submitted the names of those  
24 individuals to whom he wanted to speak prior to his departure?

25 Mr. Dwyer. Had he told me?

1 Mr. Berdes. Had he submitted them to the Peoples Temple?

2 Mr. Dwyer. No, he had not. I do not believe he had.

3 Mr. Berdes. His approach to interviewing the people was  
4 at least in that respect somewhat different, considerably  
5 different than the embassy's consular approach?

6 Mr. Dwyer. To the extent we had not asked nor gave the list  
7 of people he wanted to talk to.

8 In any event, the first one on the list was Brian Bouquet,  
9 which was easily accomplished because <sup>B</sup>Rian was a member of the  
10 Jonestown band and he was standing about 15 feet from the  
11 Congressman. The Congressman then did give a list of several  
12 names to one of the Peoples Temple members as to who<sup>n</sup> he wanted  
13 to see next simply so they could be found wherever they might  
14 be. And his first interview was with Brian.

15 There was a pause after that while he waited for the next  
16 person on his list to be found and to come to the pavillion. I  
17 took the occasion of the pause to ask him what Brian said, and  
18 the Congressman told me that he had asked Brian if he wanted to  
19 go home and Brian had said he was perfectly happy with his wife  
20 in Jonestown. Congressman Ryan then asked Brian if he would  
21 agree to just come back<sup>W</sup> for a weekend to Georgetown to see his  
22 mother -- his mother was one of the concerned relatives. And  
23 according to the Congressman, Brian said he simply was too busy  
24 in making preparations for the Christmas concert and could not  
25 spare the time to come into Georgetown.

1 The Congressman then asked Brian if Brian had any objection  
2 to his mother coming into Jonestown to see him, and Brian said  
3 that if she wanted to come up here, there is no reason to stop  
4 her.

5 I repeat this somewhat at length simply because Brian is  
6 one of two people that the Congressman asked me to talk to  
7 individually, which I did, and I talked with Brian after he talked  
8 with him. He gave <sup>me</sup> pretty much the same information.

9 Following that, as the Congressman would give Peoples  
10 Temple members the names of people he wanted to talk to, he  
11 retired to the far corner of the pavillion where he could talk  
12 with these people in private, and he began his interviewing.  
13 I do not remember whether Ms. Speier at that time was talking  
14 to people separately. I believe she did have some separate  
15 conversations herself with Peoples Temple members.

16 Mr. Berdes. What were the newsmen doing?

17 Mr. Dwyer. They hadn't gotten there yet. At about that  
18 time, after the Congressman had been well into these interviews--  
19 I should add the Congressman and Ms. Speier and myself did go  
20 over and look at the child care center and the school for the  
21 handicapped. The Congressman wanted to get on with talking  
22 privately with the people, which we did.

23 So the newsmen got back after an hour or so after we arrived  
24 and after the decision had been taken to permit them to come in.  
25 All came with the exception of Mr. Gordon Lindsay who had gone

1 back on the airplane, we <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ told, to Georgetown.

2 Dinner was served to us all and then Marceline Jones  
3 announced to -- well, announced there would be a dress rehearsal  
4 of the concert that they were going to put on in Georgetown  
5 over Christmas week for our benefit. She said that there would  
6 be bright lights and television cameras present. If any of the  
7 members of Peoples Temple did not want their pictures taken  
8 for television, why, they <sup>should</sup> simply hold up their hands and the  
9 lights would be turned off and the cameras turned elsewhere.

10 I did not observe anyone objecting to being photographed.

11 The journalists were simply talking to groups of people  
12 about the center of the pavillion. In other words, not very  
13 far from the Congressman, and they put on the show. At midway  
14 point, Marceline Jones got up and addressed the group and said,  
15 as you know, we have an important visitor and we want to welcome  
16 him and we would like to ask him to say a few words to the group.

17 So Congressman Ryan came down and spoke for a few minutes  
18 very effectively. He said that he was there to find out about  
19 the Peoples Temple on his own, that he had known some members  
20 of Peoples Temple, he had found tht he had taught one of the  
21 members, a student of his when he taught school and another had  
22 gone to school with his daughter and he had friends, things in  
23 common with a number of the others. He ended his brief remarks by  
24 saying while he had not completed his investigation in Jonestown,  
25 he had by that time talked to a number of people that expressed

1 to him the view that Jonestown was the greatest thing that had  
2 ever happened to them. And this brought down quite an applause.  
3 It was obvious the people were very pleased to hear this.

4 Mr. Spalatin. How many would you estimate, Dick, were  
5 around the pavillion area?

6 Mr. Dwyer. I think just about the whole group, the whole  
7 pavillion was filled. It was night and I could not see how far  
8 the crowds extended into the darkness, but there were at least  
9 several hundred people there. I am sure there were others.

10 Mr. Smeeton. Was the applause so protracted that you began  
11 to suspect its genuineness?

12 Mr. Dwyer. No, it was spectacular, but I don't see how they  
13 could predict what the Congressman was going to say and it was  
14 very definitely triggered about this remark about Jonestown.  
15 It was not applause coming at the end of his remarks. It was at  
16 this particular point.

17 Congressman Ryan appeared to be a polished public speaker  
18 and had engaged his audience very well and I am sure he thought  
19 about what he might say and this item was taken to be a compliment.

20 He then went back to continue the interviews which he did  
21 throughout the concert. The newsmen were talking with people.  
22 At the end of the concert, Congressman Ryan still had a couple of  
23 people he wanted to speak to that night. I was sitting talking  
24 with just a few people, a few residents of Jonestown whose names  
25 I don't remember. One was a woman who was in charge of the

1 sewing department, or at least was active in making the dolls.  
2 I then got up and walked around the pavillion and the area  
3 around it and I was approached by -- the reason why -- I can't say  
4 I was approached by Vern Gosney -- he came up to me and he said,  
5 "You are from the embassy?" I said, "Yes I am." He said, "I  
6 am very much afraid to stay here; I am frightened. I want to  
7 leave and I want to leave immediately; I want to leave tonight."

8 I asked him his name. I said there was no way I could take  
9 him out that night because I was staying myself, but I would  
10 make sure that I saw him in the morning and if he wanted to leave,  
11 he was welcome to do so.

12 Mr. Smeeton. Did he explain the nature of his fear?

13 Mr. Dwyer. No, he didn't. He was obviously very upset,  
14 very tense.

15 Mr. Spalatin. Were you in a private setting when he gave  
16 you this message?

17 Mr. Dwyer. No, I can't really think if we were actually  
18 in the pavillion or just outside it a little way.

19 Mr. Spalatin. Could anybody else have heard that request?

20 Mr. Dwyer. No one else could have heard it. He was  
21 concerned they even saw him talking with me. Subsequently when  
22 Congressman Ryan had finished his last interview, I went over  
23 to see him and at the same time, or approximately the same time  
24 Don Harris of NBC News came up and I took the Congressman aside  
25 and told him about Vernon Gosney's request to me and then Don

1 Harris -- he had spoken previously with Don Harris. He showed  
2 me <sup>or</sup> Don showed me, I forget which, a note that Don had been  
3 passed from the same person, Vernon Gosney, asking please, <sup>I want to leave</sup> I  
4 don't know <sup>and also</sup> -- Monica Bagby. I don't know the time sequence --

5 Mr. Spalatin. This is a note regarding Vernon Gosney and  
6 Monica Bagby only --

7 Mr. Dwyer. To Don Harris.

8 Mr. Spalatin. Not regarding the Parks family?

9 Mr. Dwyer. No. I don't know, not that it makes any  
10 difference as to the timing of the approach. I rather suspected  
11 that when I told Gosney that I was staying there that night, he  
12 went over and slipped the note to Harris because he was aware  
13 the newsmen were not staying there and were going back to  
14 Georgetown. <sup>Port Kaituma</sup>

15 The Congressman and I decided then that we would put Gosney's  
16 name and Bagby's name on the list of people that he was going to  
17 talk to. And that we would schedule them for the later part of  
18 the morning, the next morning, so it would be fairly close to  
19 when we wanted to go in case there should be any unpleasantness  
20 about their leaving. I asked the Congressman at that time if he  
21 had had any other indications from the people he had talked to  
22 that they wanted to leave. He said he had not, I think he may  
23 have said he had one case he wanted to follow up on. I am not  
24 quite sure. But also that he had a somewhat more serious  
case, he would have the more serious cases he thought late in

1 the morning.

2 But Gosney apparently was the first to approach anyone that  
3 evening. I had been on the radio talking to our consul~~ate~~  
4 the Peoples Temple radio, who was over in Peoples Temple head-  
5 quarters in Georgetown who wanted to know what kind of arrange-  
6 ments we needed for the next day and in general how things were  
7 going.

8 I spoke to him first shortly after the Congressman's speech,  
9 or remarks rather, to Peoples Temple.

10 Mr. Spalatin. To whom were you speaking.

11 Mr. Dwyer. To Doug Ellice, the consul back in Georgetown.

12 Also I should add that the Congressman had prevailed upon  
13 Jones to permit other concerned relatives in Georgetown to come  
14 up, and specifically Mrs. Bouquet and Mrs. Houston, I think  
15 were the two. There may have been others. The original idea  
16 was that they could fly up on the plane that was to pick us up  
17 the next day and go back by commercial means.

18 Later on in the evening, and it seems to me that Jim  
19 Schollaert was <sup>at the Georgetown radio</sup> there, too, because the Congressman talked to him  
20 on the radio and <sup>5</sup> Tim had some question on the concerned  
21 relatives, but this was so substantially later in the evening  
22 that it must have been just shortly before we went to bed. I do  
23 not have a very good idea of the time but it must have been  
24 around 11:00 or so.

25 By that time, I had talked with Mr. Ryan and I had reached

1 the conclusion that if we were going to have two people leave  
2 and if he thought there might be others it would be unnecessarily  
3 complicated to have another group of concerned relatives arriving  
4 the next day in addition to which as long as the Peoples Temple  
5 had agreed to receive them, I felt that they should make their  
6 own arrangements to come up commercially as others had done.

7 But specifically I just did not want any more people arriving  
8 that might, in my view, complicate the Congressman's mission.  
9 And we told, I think it was Jim Schollaert at this time on the  
10 other end of the radio, and I am sure he must have been terribly  
11 confused as to what was happening because I think the Congress-  
12 man finally <sup>said</sup> says Mr. Dwyer says they can't come. I think for  
13 the purposes of Peoples Temple who were doing the broadcasting <sup>he</sup>  
14 said I was concerned about the liability which the committee  
15 might incur by providing a plane for these people.

16 So that pretty much brings us up to the end of November 17.

17 When we went to bed, my feelings were pretty much that it  
18 had been thus far a successful visit rather exceeding my own  
19 expectations.

20 Mr. Berdes. What sense exactly?

21 Mr. Spalatin. What were your expectations?

22 Mr. Dwyer. I didn't really think that they would let  
23 everyone in. I thought Peoples Temple <sup>he</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>would</sup> just simply say no or  
24 at least to the press, to the news media. Once in, I was  
25 concerned that there might be unpleasantness of people being

1 photographed who didn't want to be photographed -- Anyway,  
2 some discussions with the newsmen particularly.

3 By the evening of the 17th, as I say, by bedtime of the  
4 17th, I felt the visit had gone reasonably well. There were  
5 obviously some people who wanted to leave.

6 Mr. Smeeton. Did Gosney's revelation to you that he was  
7 fearful unnerve you in any way or lighten your concern?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Me personally?

9 Mr. Smeeton. There might be others who are harboring the  
10 same fears but didn't have the courage to talk to you.

11 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, of course. I think what was instrumental  
12 in this thing to encourage these people to come out was the fact  
13 there were so many of us up there. There were 18 of us  
14 counting the two lawyers, 16 of us wandering around. Also at a  
15 time when nobody was working. People were in the pavillion or  
16 around the pavillion area.

17 Mr. Smeeton. You reflected on what Gosney had to say. Did  
18 you then reflect on some of the things you had heard Debbie  
19 Blakey and others -- In other words, the information which up  
20 until now had been in the category of allegations as a result of  
that revelation begin to have a little truer ring?

Mr. Dwyer. I can't honestly say so. Gosney made no  
particular allegations obviously in this brief time I talked with  
him. He simply said he wanted to leave.

Mr. Smeeton. He seemed to be obviously scared.

1 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, no question about it.

2 Mr. Berdes. Did that come as a surprise to you in any  
3 way that he expressed a desire to leave more so than he expressed  
4 a fear?

5 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I think it did.

6 Mrs. Bauman. Which were you surprised at, or both?

7 Mr. Dwyer. That he expressed fear.

8 Mr. Berdes. Were you also surprised that he wanted to  
9 leave?

10 Mr. Dwyer. Less so. What had been unnatural, of course,  
11 about Jonestown before out of those thousand people, there  
12 must be somebody there who doesn't like it. That of course  
13 was the point the Congressman was making.

14 Mr. Smeeton. Had you encountered him on your visit of  
15 May 1978?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Gosney?

17 Mr. Smeeton. Mr. Gosney.

18 Mr. Dwyer. No, I can't say that I did. But again I was  
19 new and I have no idea, I must have met 30, 40 people.

20 Mr. Smeeton. I was thinking if you had met him contrasting  
21 his demeanor and feelings about Jonestown in May vis-a-vis  
22 November.

23 Mr. Dwyer. Well, this was just a very brief conversation.  
24 But in any event, as I say, I did not feel at the end of  
25 November 17th the situation was out of hand or that still that

1 there was any question of danger.

2 Mr. Smeeton. You didn't sense any problems with Jones?

3 Mr. Dwyer. No, he had -- he was obviously nervous. He  
4 had said to me regarding allowing the newsmen to come in, about  
5 the attorneys, "I hope they know what they are doing." And the  
6 attorneys and Congressman Ryan stressed, too, Jones even then  
7 before we knew that anybody actually wanted to leave that the  
8 ability of some people, the fact of some people actually leaving  
9 could do <sup>h</sup>noting but enhance his own credibility. So we went to  
10 bed. I shared a house with Neville Annibourne, from the  
11 Ministry of Information. The Congressman stayed up a bit later  
12 I guess, I believe talking with <sup>Ms</sup>Speier, and I am not sure pre-  
13 cisely which cabins the Congressman and Ms. Speier were in.

14 The activities began the next morning shortly before dawn.  
15 As you are aware, here in the Tropics, the days are pretty much  
16 12 hours long and it is customary here to pretty much get up  
17 with the dawn as indeed we do in Georgetown. So it is about 6:30  
18 and 7:00. There was a knock on the door with a breakfast tray  
19 for Mr. Annibourne and myself. We had breakfast and got dressed.  
20 I walked over to the central pavillion where Congressman Ryan  
21 was finishing breakfast. I don't know if he was finishing --  
22 anyway, he was having breakfast. We began talking a bit about  
23 how to proceed. I went around and spotted Vern Gosney and  
24 Monica Bagby and they were pretty much in my sight or around  
25 where I knew where they were for most of the morning. I did

1 not speak to them again, as a matter of fact.

2       The question came as to when we should leave. The  
3 television crew had not had much daylight the day before and  
4 were anxious to have as much time as they could. I wanted to  
5 leave about noon and they wanted to leave somewhat later and  
6 we compromised and I agreed we were going to leave anywhere  
7 between 1:00 and 2:00 based on whether the Congressman had  
8 completed his interviews.

9       In fact, the interviews were completed about sometime  
10 between 11:00 and 12:00, I guess. The NBC camera crew had  
11 wanted to have their television interview with Jones at the end  
12 of the visit, because they wanted to ask some, what they  
13 thought would be difficult questions and did not want to  
14 jeopardize the remainder of the visit.

15       Mr. Berdes. Excuse me. At what point did it become  
16 publicly known that some people were intending to leave.

17       Mr. Dwyer. Toward the end of the interviews or perhaps  
18 even after they were completed and --

19       Mr. Berdes. Approximately 11:00 o'clock or so Saturday  
20 morning?

21       Mr. Dwyer. Yes, about 11:00 o'clock, more or less.  
22 Edith Parks approached Don Harris, who then directed her to  
23 me as the man from the embassy, and Mrs. Edith Parks announced  
24 firmly that she wanted to go home with us. Mrs. Parks is an  
25 older woman and she had in Jonestown her son and daughter-in-law

1 and their children. She wanted to take with her her grand-  
2 daughter and a young man who was going with her granddaughter  
3 named Chris O'Neal. These three had definitely decided they  
4 wanted to go. At about this time, we then had five people  
5 who wanted to go.

6 I suggested to the Congressman that we now had come to  
7 the time we ought to alert Jones to this. I went over and Jones  
8 was, I don't know, he was talking with the lawyers. I guess he  
9 was just entering the pavillion, he was walking into the  
10 pavillion, and I asked to speak with him. I said that I wanted  
11 him to know that there were at least several people who did want  
12 to leave with us. He was -- upset, maybe a little too strong,  
13 but he was obviously disturbed and I suggested that we sit down  
14 with the lawyers and the Congressman and talk about it, which  
15 we did.

16 I am not quite sure where in this context, at what time  
17 came the decision of the Parks family that they also wanted  
18 to go, but they did meet together and talk <sup>about</sup> on it.

19 Jerry Parks said he didn't expect to spend the rest of his  
20 life in Jonestown, but he didn't like to leave under this kind  
21 of situation. There apparently was a medical problem, however,  
22 that Mrs. Parks had, Mrs. Edith Parks. So there was no question  
23 but she wanted to go back.

24 Anyway, the family met together and after considerable  
25 discussion they decided they all wanted to come back. Then --

1 well, we had a discussion with Jones and the lawyers were  
2 saying, good heavens, here are now, I don't know how many  
3 people we had by that time, 10 people who want to go back.  
4 What is 10 people out of a thousand or indeed what is 100 people  
5 out of a thousand? It is still only 10 percent. This is a  
6 minor fraction of what you have. It is a credit to the  
7 organization that only these few people wanted to leave.

8 In any event, Jones was concerned, he said they would go  
9 back and tell lies. He said they always tell lies when they  
10 are leaving. He said I don't know why they are lying. By  
11 this time, the whole Parks family was standing there, most of  
12 them, why, it became pretty obvious as to who wanted to go, at  
13 least as far as the Parks were concerned.

14 Jones said he wanted to talk to Edith Parks. Ms. Speier  
15 said to me, no, no don't let him talk to her. I asked Mrs.  
16 Parks if she wanted to speak to Mr. Jones and she said she  
17 didn't mind and obviously she was willing to speak with him.

18 Anyway, Jones did say fine, and sent someone off to the  
19 office and brought back \$5,000, I don't know, whether it was  
20 U.S. dollars or Guyanese dollars, in an envelope with \$5,000  
21 in it to pay for the transportation of these people back to the  
22 United States.

23 Charles Garry was then going to give me these funds which  
24 I sincerely wish I had taken now. We at least would have had  
25 that \$5,000, but I told him no, to turn it over to the Peoples

1 Temple representatives in Georgetown and we would help these  
2 people get tickets and draw on it as required.

3 Then came the question of the Bogues. I am still confused.  
4 I don't quite know who first talked to the Bogues but we quite  
5 obviously had another family. Meanwhile, I got on the radio  
6 and asked Sharon Amos here in Georgetown to call up our  
7 consular officer and tell him I wanted him to be at the airport  
8 when we came back and that there would be some people leaving  
9 with us and I wanted another airplane, I wanted two airplanes.  
10 I didn't know how many seats I was going to need. It had been  
11 understood by me, which I was perfectly willing to enforce, that  
12 we would bump the news media, the journalists in favor of any  
13 of these people to get them out of there.

14 At about this time came Don Harris's interview with Jim  
15 Jones which I did not witness. I was briefed that it obviously  
16 was a strained conversation. Harris had shown Jones the note.  
17 There is really quite little I know of that interview. It comes  
18 more <sup>from</sup> ~~than~~ the television excerpt from it, I think, than any-  
19 thing else.

20 In any event, I was trying to get the airplane, trying to  
21 keep tabs with Ms. Speier as to how many people we now had  
22 and time was getting on. By this time, it was probably 1:30  
23 or 2:00 o'clock. Lunch had come and gone and I did not have  
24 any and so was spared the grilled cheese controversy that grew  
25 up, but I have no firsthand information on that at all.

1 I was becoming concerned that we were not going to get the  
2 truck into town and then have it come back again if we had to  
3 take more people. It looked like we were only going to get  
4 a truckload of people out of there that night because I didn't  
5 think we could do it before dark and after dark the plane couldn't  
6 come in. And we had about that time the Bogues family, the  
7 Parks family, Harold Cordell, Chris O'Neal, Monica Bagby and  
8 Vernon Gosney.

9 Mr. Berdes. A total of how many at that point?

10 Mr. Dwyer. I have to go back, I don't know, I have to go  
11 back and count them up. The figures were changing with somewhat  
12 rapidity.

13 Anyway, as we were getting set to leave, there came a  
14 question of a third family, the Simon family where apparently  
15 the wife wanted to stay and the husband wanted to leave and there  
16 was a question of the children. This was very emotional. Then  
17 there were also some others. I don't know how many others. So  
18 the Congressman and I talked and we decided that we would send  
19 a group off to Georgetown but that Congressman Ryan and myself  
20 would spend a second night in Jonestown just in case there were  
21 others who wanted to leave or wanted to approach us.

22 Now, I don't know how many others there may have actually  
23 been, whether the Simon family -- the Simon family we knew  
24 about -- whether there were actually some others <sup>who</sup> that had  
25 already come to Congressman Ryan or to Ms. Speier. I don't

1 know. I am very curious about <sup>it</sup> and I don't know if I will  
2 ever know, whether any of those who decided to come out with us  
3 were amongst those that either contacted Ryan or Ms. Speier  
4 talked with. I am not sure that they were.

5 Mr. Berdes. Would you put Larry Layton clearly in that  
6 category?

7 Mr. Dwyer. Well, Larry Layton came up and said he wanted  
8 to go, but I don't know whether Larry Layton was on the  
9 Congressman's list. I don't think he was.

10 Mr. Berdes. I see what you mean. You mean whether they  
11 were on the previous list?

12 Mr. Dwyer. The Congressman had a list of people. Quite  
13 frankly, it was very similar to the kind of thing we did, only  
14 he had been working at it much longer than we had. I don't know  
15 how many people were on that list. It may have turned up in  
16 his briefcase. But I would guess there was probably, by  
17 guessing, the material exists, I am sure there were 30 names or  
18 so that he talked with. I am not sure, and what I would be very  
19 interested for my own satisfaction in knowing, <sup>is</sup> whether any of  
20 these 30 people on that list about whom he had been asked by  
21 relatives, whether they had said they wanted to go.

22 Mr. Berdes. I understand.

23 Mr. Dwyer. Because I don't think the Parks were on the  
24 list. I know Gosney and Monica Bagby were not because I put them  
25 on the list myself. Anyway, that is a matter you may wish to

1 address yourselves to, if you can.

2 Mr. Spalatin. I believe you mentioned a little earlier  
3 that Mr. Ryan had asked you to talk to people. Brian Bouquet  
4 and who was the other?

5 Mr. Dwyer. I am sorry, the lawyer.

6 Mr. Spalatin. Gene Chaiken.

7 Mr. Dwyer. Gene Chaiken. We talked about it briefly  
8 yesterday, but for the record, Congressman Ryan had talked to  
9 one of the people on his list, Mr. Eugene Chaiken, who was in  
10 the infirmary and although the Congressman talked to him  
11 briefly, I gather he felt that the conversation went <sup>well,</sup> very good,  
12 and there were other people around in the beds. Congressman  
13 Ryan gave me a letter addressed to Mr. Chaiken from his brother  
14 and his brother had requested that Mr. Chaiken be given this  
15 letter to read and that the letter be returned, not left with  
16 Mr. Chaiken. It was in an envelope, I think, with an airline  
17 ticket and there may have been money in it. So I asked someone,  
18 I forget who now, it may have been Sarah <sup>(Harriott)</sup> Trop, or Harry Trop.  
19 I told her simply I did have one person on my list and I didn't  
20 realize the Congressman also had him on his list, but I would  
21 like to see Gene Chaiken myself. So that was agreeable and I  
22 walked down to the infirmary and asked to see Gene and asked him  
23 if he felt well enough to come outside and sit on the porch.  
24 So we did and we came outside. There were a couple chairs  
25 -- <sup>a</sup> bench over in the corner and I simply handed him the letter

1 from his brother, which I guess there was an extra carbon  
2 copy of it. Anyway, I had read the letter myself. Therefore,  
3 I knew the contents of it. Maybe I just read it with him. As I  
4 recall, the letter suggested that the Congressman's visit would  
5 be an opportunity for Gene<sup>n</sup> Chaiken to leave Peoples Temple easily  
6 and his brother urged him to do so and bring his family. Both  
7 his brother, ~~was~~ (writing the letter) and their mother were very  
8 concerned about them and felt he wanted to leave. Gene  
9 Chaiken read the letter and then just folded it up and said  
10 something to the effect, "I don't ever seem to be able to  
11 convince these people at home that this is my home here and I  
12 am making my life here, and that my family and I are happy  
13 here."

14 I suggested if that were indeed the case, he certainly  
15 could write his family to that effect. He said he would do so.  
16 He also wanted to invite his mother and brother to come out and  
17 visit him at Jonestown.

18 I then asked him if I had his permission to write his  
19 brother telling his brother in the United States of Mr. Chaiken's  
20 conversation with me and he said, yes, I had that permission.  
21 I wrote out a Privacy Act statement on the back of an envelope  
22 saying simply Eugene<sup>g</sup> Chaiken authorize the American Embassy to  
23 correspond with my brother regarding my well-being, or what-  
24 ever. I don't remember exactly what I wrote. Anyway it was  
25 authorization for us to write to his brother. I had Gene sign

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the statement. I can't remember whether I gave it to Congress-  
man Ryan or to Jackie Speier, but I am told that it was in  
the Congressman's effects and indeed I received a telephone  
call from Gene Chaiken's brother in the United States after  
<sup>Jonestown</sup>  
~~Georgetown~~. That was the second of the two people I talked to  
at that time.

1 Mr. Berdes. I think we were at the point of almost  
2 imminent departure from Jonestown.

3 MR. Dwyer. At the risk of repeating myself, we had  
4 decided, Congressman Ryan and I, to remain in Jonestown  
5 that night and talk to anybody else that wished to talk to  
6 us. I was concerned that the message get back clearly to the  
7 embassy as to what we were doing, and I wanted to alert the  
8 embassy independently, if I could, to the fact that they were  
9 going to have a fair number of people descent<sup>d</sup> upon them with-  
10 out any place to stay, what have you. They <sup>were</sup> are going to <sup>have to</sup>  
11 find hotel rooms or something.

12 I also wanted to be sure that everybody got on  
13 the plane all right and got off. So I was going into  
14 Port Kaituma with the group and then would come back to join  
15 Congressman Ryan. I guess I was about the last one to get  
16 on the truck. I was the last one to get on the truck.  
17 Whereupon through inadvertence or not, I don't know, the truck  
18 slid into the mud side of the road into the ditch. We waited  
19 and stood in the back of the truck for the bulldozer to come  
20 or the tractor to come and pull the truck back on to ~~be~~  
21 center of the road.

22 It was while we were waiting that there were shouts  
23 and motion at the pavilion. I got off and ran back to the  
24 pavilion. Congressman Ryan was sitting down, Jones was  
25 there and the two lawyers, Lane and Garry. His shirt was

1 open and he had blood down his shirt and his trousers. I  
2 learned, and it is hard to say from whom, there was considerable  
3 confusion, but I think it was Charles Garry perhaps who told  
4 me that there had been an attack on the Congressman by  
5 a man with a knife, that he, Garry and Mark Lane and a  
6 couple of the others had <sup>intercepted</sup> [interceded] the assailant before he  
7 could injure Congressman Ryan and in the scuffle the  
8 assailant, <sup>who later</sup> was identified to me as Don Sly, had been cut in  
9 the process. It was the assailant's blood on the Congressman  
10 and not his own.

11 The Congressman was apparently unhurt at that time.  
12 The People's Temple members kept the press outside the  
13 pavilion except for one man, Gregory Robinson, to represent  
14 the group. There was indeed by this time a great deal of  
15 tension in the air. The Congressman -- well, first of  
16 all, Jones said I wish they had shot me, I wish somebody  
17 had shot me and the Congressman regained his composure. He  
18 stressed the view that he would nonetheless remain in  
19 Jonestown. He told Jones that certainly the incident was  
20 unfortunate but that he wanted Jones to know <sup>that</sup> while he could  
21 not ignore the attempt on his life, that it would not unduly  
22 -- again, an officious <sup>word</sup>, but it would not completely color  
23 his presentation of his findings in Jonestown to the com-  
24 mittee. And what would be important was that what happened  
25 in Jonestown from then on, the way they took on the attack,

1 showing how much credibility they had that they had with law  
2 and order.

3 I asked to see the Congressman by himself. I told  
4 him very strongly that I felt he shouldn't go back into  
5 Jonestown. I told him that I considered that his presence  
6 there conceivably could contribute to another incident,  
7 which nobody wanted. Not only for his own safety, which  
8 did not play a great part in the Congressman's thinking,  
9 but for that which did occupy his thoughts, that was the  
10 safety and well-being of anyone else in Jonestown who wanted  
11 to leave.

12 To the extent I have any authority over Members of  
13 Congress, I said I will just simply order you to leave.  
14 Congressman Ryan was considerably concerned about leaving  
15 people behind, particularly I suppose this one group of people  
16 that had made known their intentions to leave. After the  
17 attack on him particularly, he was concerned about reprisals <sup>which</sup>  
18 might be taken against these people.

19 He, therefore, asked me if I would be willing to stay  
20 at Jonestown that night and I said I would. So I again urged  
21 him to leave quickly and the two attorneys walked with him  
22 out to the truck and I spoke with Mr. Jones and said that I  
23 would stay the night again if that's agreeable to him. <sup>He</sup> They  
24 said it was. I left my briefcase and the larger of the two  
25 tape recorders the Congressman had, with my briefcase there.

1 I had a change of clothes and a razor. So I was leaving them  
2 there with the presumption that I was coming back.

3 I then ran back and caught up with the Congressman  
4 just about the time he was getting on the truck. There are,  
5 incidentally, photographs of a lot of what I have told you.  
6 The meeting of Jones where we told him, what have you.

7 We road into town. Shortly before we left, someone  
8 came to me, I am pretty sure it is Dale Parks, and warned me  
9 about Larry Layton who, at the last minute, had come directly  
10 to the Congressman and I guess to Jackie. There was concern  
11 in Park's view about Layton being a true defector. I was *enough*  
12 concerned about this to make a point when we got to Port  
13 Kaituma Airport of asking the Congressman to make sure that  
14 the crew of the aircraft, or someone, very carefully check  
15 everybody for concealed weapons or anything else.

16 Mr. Spalatin. Dick, did you see where Larry Layton  
17 was right before he boarded the truck?

18 Mr. Dwyer. No, I think he was in the truck before  
19 I was. I don't know. I have heard different stories that  
20 he was one place or another. But I don't know from my own  
21 knowledge. As a matter of fact, again, I am using these  
22 names, these are the people I <sup>didn't</sup> knew. I didn't know Larry  
23 Layton from Dale Parks, and -- well, I knew Dale Parks  
24 somewhat because I had talked to him in the pavilion, but  
25 several of these other people, I would be completely unable

1 to say who <sup>who</sup> is who.

2  
3 Mr. Smeeton. In this connection with respect to the  
4 gun on Layton, I notice that Juanita Bogue in her reported  
5 testimony here in Guyana with respect to the tragedy at  
6 Jonestown is to have said she witnessed a Temple member  
7 by the name of Joe Wilson passing the pistol to Layton as  
8 the Ryan party prepared to leave Jonestown. Is that news to  
9 you?

10 Mr. Dwyer. It was when it came out at the trial  
11 here, yes. It might have been a little matter for discussion,  
12 I thought, at the time. If I am not mistaken, Juanita, I  
13 think, was one of the children that went into the bush. I  
14 may be wrong about that. I think she was. Whereas she  
15 may have said something, she had been with the group  
16 afterwards, she may have said something at that time. Perhaps  
17 she did say something afterwards. The obvious question was  
18 why didn't she say something at the time. <sup>R</sup> But, anyway.  
19 There were not <sup>at the airport</sup> airplanes when we got there. I was concerned  
20 about that and I asked the driver of the dump truck to take  
21 me and Neville <sup>Armitage</sup> and Niebourne back up into Port Kiatuma to  
22 the office of the Assistant District Officer, Mr. Herbert  
23 Thomas. This was Saturday afternoon and Mr. Thomas was not  
24 in the office, but he was in the little store across the  
25 street from the office. I described to Mr. Thomas what  
had happened at Jonestown and asked him to see if he couldn't

1 try to find a way to get through to Matthews Ridge and he  
2 told me the telephone was down.

3 I was discussing with him what to do about this when  
4 the two airplanes came overhead and came in for landing. To  
5 my surprise, the People's Temple truck when the airplane came  
6 overhead, <sup>t</sup> turned around and drove back to the airport, or the  
7 airstrip. I didn't know why. I presumed they had just made  
8 a mistake -- I had no idea why. I was puzzled about it.  
9 I didn't really know what to think.

10 Anyway, we found another truck that belonged to one  
11 of the patrons of the store there. Mr. Thomas asked the owner  
12 of the truck to come out and drive us down to the airport.  
13 There were several people there, Thomas, a man who I presume  
14 was a constable with a single barreled shotgun. <sup>The</sup> [A] man who  
15 had the truck had two or three children with him, small  
16 children, and then there may have been somebody else in the  
17 back of the truck.

18 Mr. Berdes. Can I ask you, please how much time  
19 had passed between your leaving the airstrip and finally  
20 returning?

21 Mr. Dwyer. It wasn't very long. I would have guessed  
22 25 minutes, half hour call it at the very most. Possibly  
23 less. We spent some time looking for the keys, finding the  
24 guy who owned the truck, and once we found him, he couldn't  
25 find his keys.

1 So, as usually, why, things did not go without an  
2 effort being made.

3 Mr. Berdes. Either your first arrival at the airstrip,  
4 or your second, do you recall seeing a Northwest District  
5 official or constable of any kind with a rifle?

6 Mr. Dwyer. You mean on November 17?

7 Mr. Berdes. Yes.

8 Mr. Dwyer. There may have been one there. There  
9 were a number of people there. Without a uniform, I would  
10 have been unable to identify them.

11 Mr. Berdes. Do you recall seeing anyone carrying a  
12 rifle prior to the actual shooting?

13 Mr. Dwyer. Not beyond the fellow that we brought back  
14 with us in the back of the truck, in the back of the truck  
15 belonging to the man who gave us a lift out to the airport  
16 from the administrative section of Port Kaituma.

17 Mr. Berdes. He had a rifle with him?

18 Mr. Dwyer. Shotgun.

19 Mr. Berdes. Did you ever notice what happened to  
20 that shotgun? He got off the truck, I presume, and  
21 standing there hold the shotgun?

22 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I was told by someone, I can't  
23 remember, that he was hit <sup>in</sup> in the back <sup>of the head</sup> and had his shotgun  
24 taken away from him.

25 Mr. Berdes. You were not an eye witness to that?

1 Mr. Dwyer. No, i have no idea what happened to him,  
2 from a personal standpoint.

3  
4 Anyway, the tractor with its trailer, maybe there  
5 were two trailers, anyway, the trailer and the tractor were  
6 there at the airport, very much to my surprise. I had not  
7 seen them come by on the road although apparently they had  
8 while I was in talking to the Assistant District Officer.  
9 I wondered vaguely why <sup>teh</sup> tractor was there. I couldn't  
really see how many people were there.

10 The twin Otter was at the airstrip slightly beyond the  
11 tin shed that served as a waiting area. The single engine  
12 Cessna was down towards the end of the runway close to the  
13 road and the truck I was in with the Guyanese officials. We  
14 pulled up close to the tin shed. I got out and walked over  
15 to Congressman Ryan. I seem to think there was someone else  
16 there, but I don't remember who it might have been. I asked  
17 the Congressman whether people had been searched. He said  
18 they had been. Jackie Speier was standing at the steps of  
19 the large aircraft with a piece of paper in her hand, a  
20 checklist, so forth. The television crew were filming the  
21 scene from the back of the tail of the Otter. Presumably  
22 they were being -- I can't remember now how many exactly  
23 they had -- anyway, they were going to stay behind to the  
24 extent <sup>Do</sup> how many seats were necessary *[for the people from Jonestown]*.

25 Jackie, as I say, was checking the people off.

1 I walked over towards the airplane with Congressman Ryan. As  
2 we approached the airplane, I excused myself for a moment and  
3 went over to talk to the captain of the aircraft who was  
4 in the airplane. He had opened the door to the pilot's  
5 compartment. I shook hands with him and asked him what time  
6 he would come back the following day.

7 Just about that time, shots rang out. I had had my  
8 back to the tractor. I had seen nothing previously. I hadn't  
9 seen them take guns out or anything. I guess I must have  
10 glanced over there and to my incredulity, why, there were  
11 people with weapons firing at us. The Congressman and I  
12 ran around the front of the aircraft. I ran around the front  
13 of the aircraft. I thought he did, too. I am aware of a  
14 report, somebody said he went under the aircraft, but I  
15 don't recall that myself. I saw the People's Temple truck  
16 on the opposite side of the runway. I thought at that time  
17 that the people descending from that truck had weapons. I  
18 have since talked with other survivors and I can't find  
19 anybody else who saw those weapons except me. Jerry Parks  
20 on television said he thought they had weapons. Maybe Jerry  
21 saw them. But in my report to the State Department, I didn't  
22 say that there was a crossfire there.

23 I saw Congressman Ryan hit. I didn't know where.  
24 He fell to the ground and curled around the wheels of the  
25 aircraft for protection against the people who were firing

at him from the other side of the aircraft. It <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ my conviction that we were being fired upon from the other direction as well, I fell to the ground on my back <sup>disemboweling</sup> seemingly that I, too, had been hit or killed. And one of those incredible things, I really wasn't <sup>sure,</sup> I couldn't tell when I had been hit, whether I had been hit before I fell down or after. But thanks to the medical profession and the fact the direct trajectory of the bullet indicates <sup>where</sup> they got me, I must have either just hit the ground or as I was hitting the ground <sup>as I was shot.</sup> I lay there as quietly as I could. And the firing continued.

As I said yesterday, the kind of silly things that go through your mind, I was trying to determine whether I made a better corpse with my eyes open or closed. I finally opted for them open just if, for no better reason, some SOB was going to shoot me again, I sure would like to know who it was.

The firing continued <sup>for</sup> what seemed to me to be an eternity, but it couldn't have been more than a few minutes. It paused.

Mr. Berdes. Did you hear those who were firing the weapons say anything?

Mr. Dwyer. Not a word. I don't think they said anything. I just don't think they did.

Mr. Spalatin. What was the distance approximately between you and those people firing at that time?

Mr. Dwyer. Well, they were firing from about where that little shed was over to -- on me personally -- on the far side of the aircraft. So call it 20, 30 yards. I am not much on distances, but I guess that would be about right.

Anyway, I lay there, and then there was a pause in the firing and then I heard a shotgun blast over apparently by the <sup>tail</sup> ~~tail~~ of the aircraft. That was followed by 2 or 3 more shotgun blasts. I am not quite sure. There may have been as many as four.

I might add, when I say a shotgun, I know the difference between a shotgun and a rifle, the sounds they were making. I might also add that there <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ no automatic weapons fired there. Had there been, why, none of us would have lived.

Anyway, the shotgun blast came, and it became suddenly apparent to me what was happening. I fully expected the next one would be for me. Incredibly enough, it stopped and I heard the truck drive off. I remained on the ground trying not to move until the engines of the aircraft were started, and I was lying close under the starboard engine. I still waited a little bit. Then I think I saw Charles Krause get up, someone who I later identified as Charles Krause. Anyway, somebody was getting up off the ground that I could see and I got up, too. I walked over to the Congressman who was obviously dead. I then went around and checked

1 on the others. The Congressman was closest to me, then Don  
2 Harris at the tail of the aircraft; Bob Brown, Steve Sung  
3 had been wounded badly. Walking around the tail of the  
4 aircraft, Tony Katsaris was lying on the ground badly wounded,  
5 and here I became somewhat confused.

6 In any event, we decided to take the wounded over and  
7 lay them in the tall grass in case these people might come  
8 back again. So we carried Miss Speier over and <sup>Tony Katsaris,</sup> ~~Vern Grosney~~  
9 I don't remember whether Steve Sung was carried over or  
10 made it under his own power. We were all very much in a state  
11 of shock. Everybody was off the aircraft except two  
12 pilots and the body of Mrs. Parks who was sitting on an aisle  
13 seat. The body was held in place by the seatbelt leaning  
14 over across the aisle. I had at that time still the possibility  
15 in mind that the aircraft might be capable of flying. For  
16 that reason, I unbuckled the seatbelt around Mrs. Parks and  
17 with the help of an Amerindian apparently who had come from  
18 a close-by house, why, we lifted Mrs. Park's body off and  
19 laid it on the tarmac.

20 I went over then to talk with the pilot of the airplane  
21 who told me that the engines were running so that he could  
22 have radio contact. He said he had radio contact. I did  
23 not ask him or think to ask him whether it was Georgetown or  
24 Matthew's Ridge. I presume it was Georgetown, but I  
25 don't know for sure. He knew the Congressman was dead, but

1 he did not know who the other people were. While the  
2 engines were running, his window was open and he wanted to  
3 close his window so he could hear better on the radio. That's  
4 about when he pointed backward, like I said yesterday, and  
5 I proceeded to walk into the propeller which sliced my shirt sleeve  
6 off and further increased my shock somewhat, but I was  
7 unhurt.

8 In any event, I then went inside the aircraft and  
9 talked to the pilot. I asked him if he could get the airplane  
10 off. He said he had problem with the starboard engine. The  
11 engines were running but he had no power. I had discovered  
12 by that time that one of the tires had been shot out. So  
13 I said to him, do you think you could get it off the ground?  
14 He said he might be able to. I said can you take people?  
15 He said no, he couldn't possibly load. So I lost interest  
16 in the airplane.

17 I went back to the back of the airplane with him  
18 and got the first aid kit off the aircraft. There was  
19 nothing in it but gauze and bandages. Sometime, right  
20 about that time, the man who had driven me down from the  
21 administrative part of town came back and got into his  
22 truck and started to drive away. I tried to restrain him  
23 but the man was literally hysterical; two of his children,  
24 one under each arm.

25 Anyway, he drove away. So we had the gauze, bandages

1 and took them over and tried to bind up as best we could the  
2 wounds of the wounded. I went back over to the airplane and  
3 the pilot from the Cessna had come up to talk to the pilots  
4 in the Otter. I asked him what had happened. Can he fly  
5 his airplane? He said somebody had shot two of his passengers  
6 and thought they had run into the bush, but he thought that  
7 they were both very badly wounded. The pilot was in a  
8 highly emotional state.

9 I then took the manifest from the <sup>otter</sup> pilot, the pilot  
10 gave me the manifest of the previous day of the passengers  
11 who had gone up to Jonestown and I wrote beside each name  
12 on that manifest what we knew of the condition of the  
13 individuals with Charles Krause who <sup>k</sup>new the newsmen on  
14 sight better than I did. I wanted to be careful, of course,  
15 not to inadvertently identify one of the wrong people as  
16 being either alive or dead when the opposite, in fact, was  
17 true.

18 I think it was about there that another vehicle  
19 came down that road. We heard it coming and everyone ran  
20 back into the bush. We hid individually in the bush. It  
21 turned out to be a man, I have no idea who he was, but a  
22 man in a land rover, and I asked him to go up to the town of  
23 Port Kaituma where someone had told me there was a dispensary  
24 and get the paramedic or whoever it was who ran the dispensary  
25 to come down to look after our wounded.

1 By this time I had had a little chance to see the  
2 wounded. Obviously, Jackie Speier was badly hurt. [So was  
3 Vern Gosney], so was Tony Katsaris, so was Steve Sung. Those  
4 were the ones that I was most concerned about.

5 He did go up into the town, but he came back to  
6 say that the nurse was afraid to come down and brought a  
7 package of painkillers, at my suggestion. I don't even know  
8 what they were; morphine tablets, I presume. I thought I  
9 had better go down to the other airplane to see what could be  
10 learned there and see if I could find out what the condition  
11 was there.

12 Krause, I think, was with me or Bob Flick. I am not  
13 sure which. One or the other. As we walked down, I saw that  
14 the Cessna was preparing for take-off and he was taxiing  
15 down the runway. I ran to flat it down. The pilot pointed  
16 over his shoulder at something. I thought they had seen  
17 another People's Temple's truck, that is why they were leaving.  
18 I shouted back to the rest of the group and the rest of the  
19 group his in the bush again.

20 Subsequently, I learned that the pilot's gesture  
21 to me was to indicate he had Monica Bagby on board.

22 There may be some things out of sequence here.  
23 I don't really recall what happened when. But at about this  
24 time, Dale Parks came up to me and said that Larry Layton  
25 had shot [the] two people <sup>in the Cessna</sup> and that he had struggled with Larry

1 Layton and had taken the gun away from him and that there had  
2 been one bullet in the gun left apparently that had misfired.  
3 I asked for and obtained from Dale Parks the revolver and the  
4 bullet which I kept in my pocket. Then Parks noticed that  
5 there was Larry Layton standing over talking to a couple of  
6 Guyanese. We went over and confronted Layton. Parks was  
7 there, Krause was there, and I don't know who else. Layton  
8 refused to make any comments about the shooting and said  
9 something to the effect that he was a resident of Guyana and  
10 he would insist upon talking to counsel.

11 One of the local inhabitants who was standing there  
12 who identified himself as either a former policeman or  
13 off-duty police <sup>man</sup> and another <sup>who</sup> said he had been a former soldier  
14 and asked me what to do with him. I asked them to take  
15 Mr. Layton to town and put him under lock and key until  
16 proper authorities arrived from Matthew's Ridge or wherever  
17 they would be coming from. This was done and that was the  
18 last I saw of Layton.

19 I then again walked down to where the small Cessna  
20 had been and the four military members of the Guyana Defense  
21 Force were standing, Lieutenant Joseph and three soldiers.  
22 The three soldiers were armed with automatic weapons and the  
23 Lieutenant had <sup>an</sup> the automatic pistol. I asked Lieutenant  
24 Joseph why he had not interfered or fired upon the people  
25 who were shooting at us. The Lieutenant said it took them a

1 few moments to get their weapons ready and he was unsure as  
2 to who was shooting at whom. It appeared to him simply  
3 Americans firing at Americans, and before he could reach  
4 any conclusion, the incident was over.

5  
6 He told me that the girl, Monica Bagby, had been  
7 taken on the plane, and I asked him if he saw where Vern  
8 Gosney was. He said no, he had run into the bush. By this  
9 time, several of the children had not come back. Indeed,  
10 I am not sure they didn't get off the airplane and just kept  
11 running, but in any event, we knew we were missing several  
12 of the children and we knew we were missing Vern Gosney. We  
13 knew that Gosney was wounded and we did not know whether any  
14 of the others were wounded.

15 I told the Lieutenant that we would require his cots  
16 to use as stretchers for our wounded. I wanted to  
17 place them in the tent. I might add that the pilot of the  
18 Otter had said to me that he had requested that another airplane  
19 be sent up there immediately. I, therefore, still had hopes  
20 at that time that an airplane might get in there before dark.  
21 And for that reason, I was reluctant to move the wounded very  
22 far away. I was reluctant to move them at all for fear that  
23 -- I say I, we -- would do them more harm than would do  
24 them good.

25 The Lieutenant suggested that we wait until nightfall  
to bring the wounded into the tent. I agreed to do this.

1 We waited then until it got dark, and I don't know what time  
2 it was, it must have been about 7:30 or so. It was good and  
3 solidly dark. I <sup>he</sup> came pretty well convinced that there  
4 wasn't going to be any airplane in there that night. Then  
5 we had to decide -- first of all, we moved the wounded  
6 into the tent. By this time, some of the local community  
7 Amerindians had been in the bush looking for the children.  
8 While they had not found the children, they had found Vern  
9 Gosney. We took a stretcher out and carried him out of the  
10 bush. We were absolutely sure if we had not found him that  
11 night, he probably would never had made it; not that we did  
12 him a lot of good. So we had the four wounded in the tent.  
13 Then we had the rest of the group. There was a question of  
14 what we were going to do with them. Should they try to hide  
15 in the bush; should I go around to the surrounding houses and  
16 ask if they would each take a couple of them in or should  
17 we all try to remain together?

18 I opted for the last option after talking it over  
19 with some of the group. I wanted people together in part  
20 for the moral support they could give each other and in part  
21 because if an airplane did come in in the night, although  
22 I didn't think it likely, I wanted people where I knew they  
23 were and could get them easily. The wounded were left in  
24 the tent because that was where the protection was in the form  
25 of the soldiers. They had agreed to take these people

1 under their protection. I insisted that nothing be put  
2 around the tent. Some people started to pile bags on the side  
3 of the tent. I made them take them back and leave them where  
4 they were. It <sup>would</sup> had become immediately apparent to these  
5 people if they came back, these people were, in fact, hiding  
6 them. I mention this only because I suppose this played  
7 a contributory role in looting of a lot of the odds and ends.

8 Bob Flick, I think, and someone else, maybe it was  
9 Krause, stayed with the wounded while I went over with the  
10 remainder of the group and talked with the lady at the tavern.  
11 She agreed to let us stay there and indeed she and her  
12 husband made available to us their own living quarters up  
13 above the public area of the tavern. So I assembled the  
14 group and gave my "25 cent" inspirational lecture and then  
15 walked back over to the tent to relieve Krause. Bob Flick  
16 insisted on staying at the tent to attend the wounded through-  
17 out the night.

18 At one point, Mr. Thomas materialized, the  
19 Assistant District Officer, suggesting that tin cans and oil  
20 might be selected to form a landing guide should an  
21 airplane decide to try to come into the airport. I don't  
22 know whether he had actually said any word whether that might  
23 be a possibility or not. Looking back on it, probably not.  
24 But it was his way of being prepared.

25 So anyway, I went back and Bob Flick and I sat out

1 in front of the little tent. The soldiers were standing  
2 guard and we made ourselves as useful as we could to the  
3 wounded. We had had a few bottles of rum and water and that  
4 was about it. They <sup>were</sup> collectively and <sup>individually</sup> extraordinarily brave  
5 people. There were no tears, no hysteria, <sup>for</sup> what must have  
6 been the most horrible night of their lives.

7 I couldn't read my watch and I really don't remember  
8 if I did ever determine what time it was. It must have been  
9 about 2 o'clock in the morning the land rover appeared from  
10 the Port Kaituma area saying that they had telephone  
11 connections with Matthew's Ridge. The <sup>superior of the</sup> Lieutenant was on the  
12 telephone and wanted to talk to him and I asked the Lieutenant  
13 who was his superior. He said his superior was Major  
14 Ronald Johnson. I had known Major Johnson slightly. We  
15 had had dinner together a few nights before. I insisted on  
16 going with the Lieutenant up to Port Kaituma to talk with  
17 the people at Matthew's Ridge.

18 I talked to Major Johnson and asked him where the  
19 troops were. He said that they had had some problem in  
20 finding <sup>an engine for the train.</sup> a driver. Finally they got him off as soon as they  
21 found him, but the troops were instructed to dismount <sup>from the train</sup> within  
22 five miles before Port Kaituma and walk into Port Kaituma.  
23 I said this made me very unhappy because I was concerned  
24 now about the dawn. I felt that if another attempt were to  
25 be made on the lives of these people, it would most likely

1 be made at dawn or whenever an airplane was coming in to take  
2 them out. I had nightmares of another airplane coming in  
3 to take these people out and suddenly ten guys getting up from  
4 the bush and performing the whole massacre all over again.  
5 And I had instructed the group under no conditions <sup>ever</sup> if they  
6 had heard a 747 come into Port Kaituma that night, they were  
7 not to stick their noses out until we had assured the security  
8 of the airstrip.

9  
10 Anyway, so I was upset with Major Johnson whose  
11 caution I am sure was militarily commendable. He said there  
12 were two land rovers coming in from Matthew's Ridge with police  
13 officials in them. I said fine. I will speak to them and  
14 tell them we will meet them down by the airport and then turn  
15 around and get the land rover to <sup>fetch</sup> the soldiers.

16 The land rover came in and with <sup>Assistant Superintendent</sup> the assistance of  
17 Dennis Smith of the police on it. By this time, Lieutenant  
18 Joseph told me the Guyanese military was -- I had relayed  
19 my concern to him and he and I prevailed upon Superintendent  
20 Smith to get down there and get a few of these <sup>soldiers</sup> people back  
21 so I could be assured of the security of the people down  
22 at the airport.

23 The troops arrived about, oh, half hour after dawn,  
24 I guess, it was very close to dawn and then they got in a  
25 little after dawn. I don't know the company strength;  
about 120 of them. They were deployed with machine guns along

1 each side of the runway there and field patrols were sent  
2 out into the bush. By this time, as always, it began raining,  
3 and I appropriated <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ squad of soldiers to <sup>guard</sup> ~~take a few of~~ the  
4 people back <sup>at</sup> ~~up to~~ the tavern. At least a few of <sup>The soldiers</sup> ~~them~~ were  
5 out of the rain.

6 At this time, I really was convinced we had nothing  
7 more to fear from Jonestown immediately. We had begun to  
8 hear rumors in the night about suicides. We had no hard or fast  
9 information, but the police had information. The question  
10 was, was there a group of Temple members who, as survivors,  
11 were convinced of having the job of staying alive and going  
12 out and hunting down the enemies of the People's Temple <sup>amongst whom</sup> ~~which~~  
13 we felt sure we were high on the list.

14 We still were not sure what was the status. Also  
15 one of the reasons for moving people indoors the night  
16 before was <sup>that</sup> I had been told by an Amerindian fellow who  
17 knew the area that there were or are trails in the back  
18 of that airstrip that ~~goes~~ through the <sup>h</sup>ungle to Jonestown  
19 and that there were Amerindian families there, one of whom  
20 at least had a child at Jonestown, <sup>who could guide them</sup>

21 Therefore, that far end of the airport runway might  
22 not offer us much protection or warning against another  
23 attack as I hoped it would.

24 By this time, the soldiers were there and the  
25 police were there. We were sitting there simply awaiting

1 the arrival of the airplane. The military did bring in a  
2 paramedic with them. He looked at, I don't know whether he  
3 or she actually, I don't remember now, I know he did look at  
4 the wounded. Whether he did anything or could do anything  
5 for them, I don't know. I don't know what kind of medicines  
6 he may have brought with him.

7 At the crack of dawn, once the airport was secured --  
8 I could understand the desire of the Guyanese military to make  
9 sure the airport was secure before sending in another  
10 airplane. I felt strongly that the first airplane in would be  
11 the target if any of these guys were left. I simply did not  
12 want another shoot out, nor did I want another disabled  
13 airplane in the middle of the runway which would have closed  
14 the airport.

15 The first airplane did not get up there, however,  
16 until 10 o'clock in the morning. It was one of those yellow  
17 Guyanese Defense Force Islander aircraft, the same model  
18 that we flew up to Jonestown on yesterday, at Port Kaituma  
19 yesterday, the seats had been taken out of it, but, unfortunately,  
20 no one had taken the time to put in some blankets or mattresses  
21 or anything else. It was just the bare floor.

22 It appeared Jackie was the most seriously hurt, so  
23 we put Jackie on the airplane. I can't remember if it was  
24 Tony Katsaris or Vern Gosney. I think it was Tony Karsaris  
25 that went <sup>next</sup> out on that airplane. There just was not that much

1 space for people to lie down back there, <sup>Neither</sup> nor Jackie, nor  
2 Gosney, for that matter, were capable of sitting up.  
3 Steve Sung, however, could sit up. So we put him aboard, too.

4 Then that airplane took off and I was reasonably  
5 assured of a continual flow of airplanes. I was told a  
6 larger airplane, another Otter, would be in very briefly.  
7 The police asked me to go and supervise the removal of the  
8 valuables from the dead, which I did. I had asked one of  
9 the journalists to go with me, but <sup>he</sup> I didn't feel he could do  
10 it [anyway]. So I collected what I could and gave the items  
11 belonging to the NBC crew to, I guess I gave them to Krause  
12 who gave them to Bob Flick, <sup>this was not in accordance with</sup> and in violation of our consular  
13 <sup>procedures</sup> regulations, but I simply had no way to carry these things  
14 around with me.

15 I took Congressman Ryan's watch and whatever else  
16 he had on him. He didn't have much else on him, as I recall,  
17 and his briefcase which I had had from the night before.

18 Somewhere around there, I realized I was still  
19 walking around with a revolver in my pocket. I turned that  
20 over to the police. Then we went back and started to arrange  
21 how we would get the rest of these people out. About this  
22 time, an embassy officer arrived who had flown into Matthew's  
23 Ridge with the troops and flew over in the first helicopter  
24 with the Commanding Officer of the military.

25 I might add, before the helicopter could come in,

1 they had to place portable fuel dumps there because the  
2 helicopter didn't have the range to make the round trip without  
3 refueling. Then there was the question, <sup>is</sup> was the Parks family  
4 and the Bogue family -- who, first of all, were very  
5 frightened of going back to Georgetown. They had said there  
6 was a group of People's Temple members, specifically the  
7 basketball team, in Georgetown and that this group consisted  
8 of people they considered might be capable of attacking them.  
9 They were sure these people had been assigned the duty of  
10 going to the Georgetown Airport and killing them as they get  
11 off the airplane at Georgetown.

12 By this time, of course, I was not thinking too  
13 clearly and I said, where do you want to go? They didn't  
14 want to go to Port of Spain because they said there were  
15 People's Temple members there; they were afraid of going to  
16 Caracus<sup>w</sup> because of People's Temple members there.

17 Finally, I simply had to say, the only airplane  
18 service I am running, unfortunately, goes only to Georgetown.  
19 They are well aware of <sup>your</sup> their concerns there, and I had passed  
20 through the pilot of the first plane the message, and to the  
21 military, that these people are concerned about whatever may  
22 be happening in Georgetown. Anyway, I finally convinced them  
23 they must go to Georgetown.

24 Then the question was about the children. We still  
25 had the children in the bush and we couldn't find them.

1 I spoke to the Deputy Commander of the Guyana Defense Force  
2 who was on the scene and told him about that. He assured  
3 me, I feel quite sincerely, that he would have his men go  
4 out and make a sweeping search for the children.

5 I had talked to a couple Amerindians before and I  
6 talked with the Assistant Superintendent of Police Smith who  
7 was the senior police officer there at the time and he  
8 promised his cooperation.

9 I also feel he was quite sincere.

10 In any event, it was agreed that Dale Parks and one  
11 of the Bogues would stay behind and help find the children.  
12 They did so.

13 About that time, Jim Cobb came out of the bush. He  
14 had been in the bush all night where he had fled. On the  
15 second airplane that came in, we put the remainder of the  
16 wounded and I think we got one or two other people on as  
17 well. So on the third airplane, we had just about enough  
18 seats for the remainder of the group. This was getting on  
19 toward the middle of the afternoon by then. I had realized  
20 that the other embassy officer had been sent to send me  
21 home, but it kind of looked like we weren't going to make it  
22 and we had not yet had permission to move the bodies. So  
23 we were preparing to spend another night up there. Indeed,  
24 I had called my wife on the telephone. Amazingly enough,  
25 I got through to her and told her we would be back Monday

1 morning. But, finally, one of the Islanders did come back,  
2 I don't know, he had enough time to go <sup>back</sup> up and turn around.  
3 We went over. The troops were beginning to move out. The  
4 Guyanese soldiers placed the bodies in the body bags. They  
5 put them in the airplane behind us, <sup>they</sup> we had taken the seats out.  
6 We flew back to the same airport that we flew out of yesterday.  
7 A hearse from the mortuary and an ambulance <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ there waiting  
8 for the bodies. They unloaded the bodies and then ~~they~~ <sup>we</sup>  
9 went home.

10 Mr. Berdes. Dick, did you make note of the time  
11 at which the shooting started? Can you subsequently re-estimate  
12 that time?

13 Mr. Dwyer. Well, as I said yesterday, to continue  
14 on a little bit here, I went home that night and I took a  
15 shower and fought off the embassy nurse who was trying to get  
16 me over to the hospital that night. She gave me a tetanus  
17 shot. I briefed the Ambassador about what happened. Then  
18 I went to bed.

19 The next day, I came into the office and dictated  
20 basically the story I have told you now. Then I went over  
21 to the hospital and checked in. Although I did not send this  
22 story out immediately, it was dictated the next day. And  
23 in that story, I said that the shooting occurred about 4:30  
24 and that apparently was wrong. I would guess now it <sup>were</sup> ~~is~~ close  
25 to 5:30. I had thought the airplanes had gotten up there

1 about 4 o'clock. I was since <sup>proved</sup> wrong. I <sup>had</sup> asked the Guyana  
2 Airways <sup>asked</sup> what time the log showed for the landing. They said  
3 shortly before 5 o'clock. 4:47, I think.

4  
5 Anyway, basing that on the fact when they came in  
6 when I was up at Port Kaituma at the Administrative Center  
7 there, I would guess that probably not over a half hour elapsed  
8 from the time the airplane landed to the time the shooting  
9 began. Maybe less, which would make it somewhere around  
10 5:30, 5:15.

11 Mr. Berdes. How much daylight remained?

12 Mr. Dwyer. It gets dark pretty regularly by 7 o'clock.

13 Mr. Berdes. Approximately an hour and a half after  
14 the shooting it became dark?

15 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, civil airline regulations here  
16 prohibit taking off or landing at unlighted airstrips after  
17 6 o'clock. That's a somewhat arbitrary time, of course, and  
18 not made for emergency situations, obviously. But by  
19 7 o'clock, it was pretty dark. Well, we don't change much  
20 in the course of a year, and we are about the same season  
21 of the year now as we were then in terms of daylight hours.

22 Mr. Berdes. At any time during that night of  
23 November 18th, did you learn from anyone of the events that  
24 were transpiring at Jonestown?

25 Mr. Dwyer. One of the officials there or one of the  
people there told me that a man had walked into Port Kaituma

1 and said they were committing suicide. I found out about  
2 it shortly before I went up to Port Kaituma to the Administra-  
3 tive Center there.

4 Mr. Spalatin. Which, I believe you said, was around  
5 2 o'clock, as I recall?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, although that is pretty much a  
7 guess. It may have even been as late as 3:00. The first  
8 land rover came in while I was up there.

9 Mr. Spalatin. Did you discuss that report with any  
10 of the defectors?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No, good heavens not. No, I am sure I  
12 didn't.

13 Mr. Spalatin. Did any of the defectors volunteer  
14 that from their knowledge of People's Temple that a suicide  
15 was going on?

16 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, I think they did.

17 Mr. Spalatin. In this same time frame?

18 Mr. Dwyer. You see, for almost the whole of the  
19 night, I was out on the airstrip with Bob Flick. Now I know  
20 this happened because it was told to me afterwards. I know  
21 I heard about the suicides while I was up there. Whether  
22 People's Temple survivors, defectors had told me of this before  
23 I heard about it, I am not quite sure.

24 Mrs. Bauman. But did someone tell you afterwards,  
25 one of the defectors?

1 Mr. Dwyer. I heard it, I know, from some of the  
2 journalists who were talking. I don't remember whether anyone  
3 specifically told me, but it was by this time they were  
4 saying what would happen.

5 Mr. Spalatin. In any of your conversations, prior  
6 to the shooting, of Dale Parks going from Jonestown to  
7 Port Kaituma, did he indicate to you that mass suicides were  
8 going to take place or could take place?

9 Mr. Dwyer. No. I don't have any recollection of  
10 that at all.

11 Mr. Berdes. Were you in any position to communicate  
12 that knowledge to officials at the embassy here in Georgetown  
13 during that night?

14 Mr. Dwyer. No, not here in Georgetown. I had no  
15 communications with Georgetown at all.

16 Mr. Berdes. Did you subsequently learn that the  
17 Guyanese officials in Port Kaituma had relayed the information  
18 about the --

19 Mr. Dwyer. I am sure they did, but exactly who it  
20 might have been, I don't know. When I went up to use the  
21 telephone, there was one of the People's Temple members there  
22 and, I think it might have been Rhodes. That was the first  
23 hard knowledge that I had that that had taken place.  
24 I don't know how long he had been up there. He was hiding  
25 in the toilet, actually. I don't know if they had him locked in

1 there or what.

2 Anyway, he was obviously frightened of people coming  
3 in from Jonestown, as I was too.

4 Mrs. Bauman. You saw him at your two in the morning  
5 trip?

6 Mr. Dwyer. I saw a man there, I didn't ask him his  
7 name, who said they are all going to commit suicide.

8 Mr. Berdes. At what time did dawn arrive on Sunday  
9 morning approximately?

10 Mr. Dwyer. About 6 o'clock, a little thereafter.

11 Mr. Berdes. Shortly before the first contingent of  
12 troops arrived --

13 Mr. Dwyer. Just about that time.

14 Mr. Berdes. Were larger contingents --

15 Mr. Dwyer. About a half hour the land rover went out  
16 and got the soldiers and brought them back. So they got  
17 there before the main body that had been instructed, as I  
18 say, to dismount and march in the last five miles.

19 Mr. Smeeton. Dick, we always conclude these sessions  
20 with sort of a potpourri of questions that don't fit into the  
21 general part. We will conclude on that note.

22 One of the parts of the investigation that we focused  
23 on quite a bit is with respect to the allegations that  
24 certain members of the Government of Guyana might have been  
25 compromised by People's Temple. Do you have any information  
relating to that?

1 Mr. Dwyer. I have no firsthand information at all on  
2 that.

3 Mr. Smeeton. You are aware of the allegations?  
4

5 Mr. Dwyer. I am aware of the allegations.  
6 Parenthetically, I might add that there is not much else to  
7 do in Georgetown on a recreational night but to talk about  
8 your neighbors and friends and people you don't know. But  
9 I have no proof, no personal knowledge of that.

10 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall having any discussions  
11 with Dick McCoy regarding this?

12 Mr. Dwyer. We might well have exchanged the latest  
13 gossip. I don't remember specifically. I certainly don't  
14 recall him ever telling me that he had a specific case in  
15 mind. I will say that there was an instance with the Stoens  
16 before I arrived where their visas were cancelled for whatever  
17 reason. The Ambassador had to go directly to the Foreign  
18 Minister to get them reinstated. Why this may have taken  
19 place, I can only speculate.

20 Mr. Smeeton. With respect to Richard McCoy, you  
21 have also heard the allegation made about him with respect  
22 to the possibility he had been compromised by the People's  
23 Temple. Based on your knowledge of Richard McCoy, what is  
24 your response to that allegation?

25 Mr. Dwyer. I am furious. There is absolutely no  
germ of fact to it. McCoy himself is one of the more upright

1 people I know. If you were to take all the consular officers  
2 I have known in 20-odd years of the Foreign Service and say  
3 which officer do you think would be less likely to be com-  
4 promised in any way or form, I would put Dick McCoy at  
5 the head of the list.

6 Mr. Smeeton. Would you also find him to be a  
7 reasonably discerning officer, speaking in particular of his  
8 ability to perceive something?

9 Mr. Dwyer. He has had a long experience in consular  
10 work. He had long experience in investigative work before  
11 that. I think I would have a hard time finding an officer  
12 of his rank such as this position requires here with that  
13 much experience. It was unusual that we had a man with that  
14 kind of experience.

15 Mr. Smeeton. Would you characterize Doug Ellice  
16 and Dennis Reece as being relatively discerning officers?

17 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I can understand what you are  
18 driving at, and to the extent we all obviously missed the  
19 whole boat as far as violence and suicide, I suppose we can't  
20 claim to be discerning in that sense. But, yes, I think they  
21 are good officers. They were, as I was, aware that the  
22 allegations had been made. Part of the purpose of their trip  
23 there was to attempt to prove or disprove them.

24 Mr. Smeeton. With respect to the trip that Mr. Ellice  
25 and Mr. Reece made on November 7th, we took note of a cable

1 which was received on the 5th of December which conveyed  
 2 more or less their findings to the Department. Among other  
 3 things, it is noted in that cable that Jim Jones seemed to  
 4 not be too well; among other things his speech seemed to be  
 5 slurred. I wonder if you recall having any conversations with  
 6 Mr. Ellice regarding that before your own departure to Jonestown?

7 Mr. Dwyer. We had been told on several occasions by  
 8 members of the People's Temple, Mr. Ellice and Reece were  
 9 told that Jones was sick and, if I am not mistaken, this was  
 10 one of the reasons why they had asked that the Congressman's  
 11 visit not take place at this time.

12 Certainly the Congressman was aware of this. My  
 13 own experience of Jones on the 17th and 18th of November,  
 14 I didn't find that he slurred his words. He had lost weight,  
 15 but then he had been probably somewhat portly. He complained  
 16 of a fever and, indeed, People's Temple members had told me  
 17 that he had run a fever of 104 degrees for days, which I am  
 18 not sure is quite possible. But things with regard to Mr.  
 19 Jones were always <sup>stated</sup> done in superlatives. I did not feel he  
 20 was without leave of his senses. He was on the 17th and 18th,  
 21 if anything, highly nervous, but then again I didn't find that  
 22 surprising.

23 As time wore on, I was getting a little nervous myself.  
 24 But in his conversations, he seemed not to be able to con-  
 25 centrate to the degree he did before. <sup>Only</sup> One time ~~he~~ had <sup>2</sup> seen

1 him before that <sup>Mr.</sup> afternoon <sup>JD</sup> (on) May 10th, I would be reluctant  
2 to base any medical sound conclusions on two meetings with  
3 a man, one in a rather calm environment, the second in a  
4 very turbulent environment.

5 Mr. Smeeton. I note that Reece's and Ellice's cable  
6 indicates that they also were told he was suffering from a  
7 fever of 105 degrees and he had also suffered a heart attack.  
8 He was wearing a white gauze mask and that during his con-  
9 versations, the speech was markedly slurred and they also took  
10 note of the fact that neither his forehead nor his palms  
11 were perspiring and mentioned to each other they did not think  
12 that he had the fever that was claimed.

13 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know that. Obviously, I am not  
14 the one to ask for a medical opinion.

15 Mr. Smeeton. With respect to Tim Carter's alleged  
16 defection --

17 Mr. Dwyer. Tim Carter's --

18 Mr. Smeeton. Tim Carter allegedly defected from the  
19 Temple several weeks before the tragedy of November 18.

20 Mr. Dwyer. This is the first I have heard about it.

21 Mr. Smeeton. This is news to you?

22 Mr. Dwyer. This is news to me.

23 Mr. Smeeton. You are not aware of the fact that  
24 Al Mills contacted members of the Concerned Relatives party  
25 that was part of the party that came to Georgetown with the

1 Ryan delegation? You are not aware that they were contacted  
2 to that effect?

3 Mr. Dwyer. No, I was not. I was aware Tim Carter  
4 was in the United States; he told me he was.

5 Mr. Smeeton. You were not aware of the fact he was  
6 masquerading or advertising himself as a defector?

7 Mr. Dwyer. Absolutely not. I hypothesized myself when  
8 he had told me he had been in the States that his trip  
9 probably was part of an effort to scout out the opposition  
10 or to find out what was going on possibly in connection with  
11 the Concerned Relatives, but I wasn't aware he had been in  
12 the States, I don't think, until I saw him up in Jonestown.

13 That explains, incidentally, an exchange I overheard  
14 between Jackie Speier and Tim Carter who apparently referred  
15 to it, which was simply to the effect, "Well, you were  
16 hardly truthful" or something "during your trip to the States."  
17 Today is the first I have heard this. I can't imagine that  
18 anybody --

19 Mr. Smeeton. We have had testimony from Mr. Mills  
20 indicating that that was his story.

21 Mr. Dwyer. Who is Mills?

22 Mr. Smeeton. Mr. Mills heads a group of Concerned  
23 Relatives in the San Francisco area, and when Mr. Carter  
24 returned to California weeks prior to the tragedy, he indicated  
25 he had defected and gave several reasons as to why he

1 defected. During the course of this alleged defection, he  
2 learned a lot about the pending trip to Guyana, who would  
3 be participating in it, so on. Just for your information.

4 Mr. Dwyer. Unfortunately, in many ways, these  
5 people were often better informed than we were.

6 Mr. Smeeton. Do you have any information germane  
7 to the lease arrangement with the Government of Guyana that  
8 is worth sharing with us?

9 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't think so.

10 Mr. Smeeton. We have received a specimen of the lease.

11 Mr. Dwyer. Whatever documentation we have you do  
12 have --

13 Mr. Smeeton. We have never seen the lease per se, but  
14 we have a specimen alleged to be similar to what was executed  
15 between the Government of Guyana and People's Temple.

16 Mr. Dwyer. I haven't seen anything more of that  
17 material sent in.

18 Mr. Smeeton. Have you ever had any discussions with  
19 former Foreign Minister Fred Wills regarding People's Temple?

20 Mr. Dwyer. No, I haven't <sup>you</sup> see, he was no longer  
21 Foreign Minister by the time I arrived.

22 Mr. Smeeton. I was thinking you may have run across  
23 him in some way other than in a formal capacity.

24 Mr. Dwyer. I talked to him on the telephone once.  
25 He left the country shortly thereafter. As a matter of fact,

1 he called the wrong number. He tried to call the Ambassador's  
2 private number. Instead he got my private number.

3 Mr. Smeeton. With respect to Mark Lane, did you  
4 ever have any conversations with him that are worth sharing  
5 with us in the context of this inquiry?

6 Mr. Dwyer. Yes -- I don't think there is any  
7 conversation I had with him up in Jonestown that is of any  
8 significance.

9 Mr. Smeeton. Did he suggest to you, for example,  
10 not to eat the cheese sandwiches or anything like that?

11 Mr. Dwyer. As I think I testified a little earlier,  
12 I forewent lunch that day, so I had no occasion --

13 Mr. Spalatin. That wasn't per the suggestion of  
14 Mr. Lane?

15 Mr. Dwyer. No; no. Lane had been in town in  
16 September and he had been up to People's Temple. He had come  
17 back and given a press conference. One of our contacts here  
18 kindly made, I don't know if it was his personal tape or the  
19 radio station made the tape available to us, and we  
20 transcribed the press conference. It is there somewhere in  
21 your records, I am sure. I was having lunch at the Pegasus  
22 that day with a group of Guyanese and as I came out of lunch,  
23 I saw Tim Carter standing in the lobby with a man that I did  
24 not know, but I guess <sup>it</sup> might be Mark Lane.

25 During my lunch at the Pegasus, this, I might add,

1 is the Rotary Club, I almost hesitate to say it, but I  
2 usually have lunch with the Rotarians on Wednesday [and I am  
3 the only non-Guyanese member,] and one of these Guyanese  
4 friends at lunch described to me some elements of Mark Lane's  
5 press conference, which I had not heard at that time. But  
6 basically his comments regarding the theory of conspiracy,  
7 that there was a conspiracy against Jonestown and that the  
8 conspiracy included the American Government and the intelligence  
9 agencies and other things.

10 So although I had not heard the press conference, I  
11 stopped on my way out, I saw Tim Carter, went over and said  
12 hello to Tim Carter and Tim introduced me to Mark Lane. I  
13 said I heard you had a very interesting press conference. He  
14 either simply nodded his head or simply said yes. And that  
15 was that. Basically this material is in my statement.

16 Mr. Smeeton. What I was going to say, I didn't want  
17 to interrupt your train of thought, is there anything beyond  
18 what you reflect in the statement?

19 Mr. Dwyer. That is probably more accurate because  
20 I couldn't remember when some of the telephone calls came.

21 Mr. Smeeton. I didn't want to interrupt your  
22 thought. Beyond your statement, there is nothing you can  
23 recall as you reflect on?

24 Mr. Dwyer. No, I had absolutely no other contact  
25 with him.

1 Mr. Smeeton. Let me go off the record.  
2 (Discussion off the record.)

3  
4 Mr. Smeeton. It has come to our attention during  
5 the course of this investigation that the existence of the  
6 Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act and the  
7 requirements of both of these Acts impacted upon the embassy's  
8 ability to report as candidly as they might have if those two  
9 Acts had not existed with respect to matters germane to  
10 Jones, People's Temple and Jonestown. I wonder if you would  
11 respond to that observation based on your own personal involve-  
12 ment with People's Temple and reporting back to the Department  
13 in Washington regarding People's Temple.

14 Mr. Dwyer. Certainly the fact that almost any  
15 information about the People's Temple and its members could  
16 become public information, it was a factor in the <sup>case</sup> we took  
17 to write the cables or write reports. The Privacy Act by  
18 itself was not too restrictive on us in the sense that when  
19 these people talked to us, they would sign a release.

20 So the release <sup>w</sup> could <sup>apply</sup> comply to specific individuals,  
21 but it obviously included ourselves.

22 We would be very careful about making any judgments,  
23 any personal judgments that could not have simply the backup  
24 of facts. In essence, simply as the Privacy Act has been  
25 interpreted, we simply cannot endanger a man's reputation  
and figure you stand behind some kind of immunity from these

1 requests.

2 Mrs. Bauman. So you would say you were careful;  
3 is that how you would characterize your attitude?

4 Mr. Dwyer. That's correct. We would refrain from  
5 speculations about what somebody had rumored.

6 Mr. Smeeton. We had testimony indicating the possibility  
7 that somebody related to People's Temple might file a Freedom  
8 of Information request had a bearing also on the candor with  
9 which certain things were reported to the Department regarding  
10 the Temple.

11 Mr. Dwyer. It was not really a question of candor;  
12 it was a matter of being absolutely sure of the facts. Again,  
13 we go back to the fact that not only are we operating under  
14 the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act, but we  
15 are also enjoined from the reporting of private activities of  
16 private American citizens. This covers a pretty broad range.  
17 I would be very careful before I made any speculation  
18 public about the private concerns of the Americans abroad to  
19 ensure, number one, that I have the right to be interested  
20 in this and, number two, that I can back up what I say.

21 Mr. Spalatin. Does that reality have the impact of  
22 potentially not giving State the full picture of what was going  
23 on a matter --

24 Mr. Dwyer. I don't know really. Whether it would  
25 mean a difference to the denouement and Jonestown, I am not

1 quite sure. I said in part in <sup>my</sup> testimony regarding my conver-  
2 sation with Jackie Speier and Jim Schollaert that, in fact,  
3 with regard to them, the Privacy Act, as it turned out, did  
4 not prove an important limitation, in my opinion, to their  
5 investigation if only because as we discovered, they knew  
6 a great deal more about the People's Temple than we did.  
7 So in that sense, I don't feel that the Privacy Act caused  
8 us to withhold <sup>informatics</sup> from the Congressman and his staff.

9 Mr. Spalatin. Did you not say before that the  
10 drafting of the June 6 cable was very much drafted in line  
11 of trying to stay in concert with the Privacy Act and that,  
12 therefore, was drafted in general terminology as opposed to  
13 citing specific cases or incidents?

14 Mr. Dwyer. The record will show, but I don't recall  
15 I cited specifically the Privacy Act. It was meant <sup>as</sup> to ask a  
16 general principle.

17 Mr. Smeeton. For purposes of clarification, you  
18 may be thinking of Ambassador Burke's testimony which essentially  
19 said that and made that impression, it was a major fraction  
20 in the way he words that particular cable.

21 Mr. Dwyer. I wouldn't be surprised.

22 Mr. Smeeton. Mr. McCoy, incidentally, has indicated  
23 that a lot of information that he possessed on the Temple  
24 that wasn't reported in written traffic he supplied orally.  
25 I don't know if he supplied it within the embassy. When he

1 visited Washington, for example, he would provide people in  
2 the Department in Washington who were interested in People's  
3 Temple with a lot of information he felt legally prescribed  
4 from putting in the traffic or putting in the cable.

5 Mr. <sup>Dwyer</sup> [Smeeton] Well, I return to the point that to the  
6 extent the information is relevant and documented, then I  
7 have no problem with putting it in a cable. I have a lot of  
8 problems in putting things in cables that are of the quality  
9 of, say, the allegations made against Dick McCoy himself. I  
10 sincerely hope that some of these people who have propagated  
11 these allegations against McCoy will do so in print. I hope,  
12 therefore, McCoy will be able to secure the cost of his  
13 college education of his children, or thereabouts. And that  
14 is exactly the kind of thing that you have to think about.

15 Mr. Smeeton. I have one other item. It pertains to  
16 Dale Parks and his efforts to leave the country after the  
17 tragedy. I would just like to quote a few excerpts from his  
18 statement.

19 Mr. Dwyer. His statement to you?

20 Mr. Smeeton. His statement to us in the context of  
21 this inquiry, and I will just excerpt from it because it is  
22 rather lengthy. He says, "I spent five and a half weeks  
23 literally fighting my way out of the country. If it hadn't  
24 been for a Guyana lawyer through my local lawyer in Washington,  
25 D. C., we would still be sitting in that country. I said

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a while ago I have no respect for anybody in the embassy down there except for Mr. Dwyer. I was lied to, refused my passport. I was refused travel documents, refused travel arrangements." I asked him to be more specific and he mentioned a number of people in the embassy that he dealt with. He also indicates that he expressed his concern with you, but indicated that you were convalescing from your bullet wound, so on, and was unable to really maintain much contact with you.

I wonder, in view of this testimony, if you could shed further light on his allegations that the embassy didn't come to his assistance. I might add, maybe if I can find one other observation that he makes. Mr. Berdes asked him what was the explanation he received from the embassy for refusing his exit from the country. He said, "There was a constant throwing of responsibility back on the government and the government would throw it back on them. After two weeks of deliberating with them, I finally decided to get a lawyer to fight my battle. I have a U.S. lawyer and one here that worked with him in San Francisco who acquired a lawyer in Guyana to represent us there, represent our civil rights."

The upshot of this is it took five and a half weeks to achieve this and he expressed a strong disenchantment with the embassy. I would like to provide you the opportunity to respond to that.

1 Mrs. Bauman. Dick, excuse me, do you have any first-  
2 hand knowledge of this matter since you were convalescing  
3 during the time?  
4

5 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, i.e., Dale Parks called me after  
6 I got out of the hospital. He called me once when I was in  
7 the hospital and I think basically it was please help me  
8 leave the country. My response to that was, as far as we are  
9 concerned, it is not up to us; it is up to the Guyanese  
10 authorities.

11 At that time, I think the Guyanese authorities were  
12 holding the whole group as material witnesses. Then after  
13 I got out of the hospital, at one time he called me and said  
14 he couldn't get his passports. I said, all right, I instructed  
15 the consul to give them their passports. We have no right to  
16 withhold a passport from an American citizen beyond legal  
17 grounds. So there were no legal grounds. We are not supposed  
18 to hold on to anybody's passport. As far as we were concerned,  
19 there was no problem with any of these people.

20 Ellice <sup>has</sup> had gotten the background on this and  
21 details on it. I would like to say a few things there.  
22 Dale Parks was a pillar of strength to his family and to his  
23 colleagues. The fact he retained a lawyer had absolutely  
24 no bearing on his case with us, an American lawyer <sup>or</sup> and a  
25 Guyanese lawyer, absolutely no bearing whatsoever. Whether  
this was instrumental in getting the Guyanese Government to

1 permit him permission to depart is another question. In fact,  
2 he did leave very shortly after the preliminary hearing of  
3 this murder case was over. I believe his <sup>grand mother</sup> brother had left  
4 before.

5 So the only problem there was getting reservations  
6 for this fairly large group of people on the airplane and also  
7 (the) Pan American's insistence that sky marshalls be aboard  
8 any of these planes. So it takes us a while, or takes Pan  
9 American a while to get the sky marshalls from New York down  
10 to Guyana and Port of Spain for any one of these individuals  
11 leaving.

12 I might also add that we had at that time some  
13 80 odd survivors here. A consular officer was in contact  
14 with the Parks family group just about on a daily basis.  
15 They were staying at the Park Hotel which is all of 25 or 50  
16 yards from the consulate. I am sorry to hear that. My  
17 wife went out and collected from the embassy families clothes  
18 to put on their backs. She took three of my brand new T-  
19 shirts; she could have at least taken three of the old ones.  
20 Nancy Mason went around. There was a fair amount of clothing  
21 the embassy people had given to these families because they  
22 simply had nothing. We made the embassy nurse available to  
23 them. She was treating some ailments, minor aches and  
24 illnesses.

25 Now in fairness, these people had emerged from the

1 jungle after an experience unlike anything that even I can  
2 imagine. Dale had lost his mother <sup>at</sup> [and] Port Kaituma. He  
3 was remarkably brave about it. They were under tremendous  
4 strain. They felt strongly, I think, that they had a preferred  
5 status as compared to the other 60 odd People's Temple members  
6 here in Georgetown. The ones who were here or ones that had  
7 come out. There is no way legally that we could give one  
8 group of American citizens services that we couldn't give  
9 to the other group. To anybody else, for that matter. I  
10 think they were feeling, because of what these particular  
11 people had suffered, that they should have had special dis-  
12 pensation of some kind. But to say that nobody in this embassy  
13 did anything for them is not accurate.

14 Mr. Smeeton. Do you recall Mr. Parks or any other  
15 members of his family asking the embassy to talk to the  
16 appropriate Guyanese authorities about speeding up or  
17 expediting the court proceeding so they could leave the  
18 country as soon as possible?

19 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't recall that, although he may  
20 well have done so. Not to me specifically. In fact, the  
21 proceedings were speeded up.

22 In the Chronicle yesterday we saw the case of a  
23 man being sentenced. The case has gone on for two years. This  
24 is not exceptional. In that sense, these things have occurred.  
25 As a matter of fact, in parliament the other day, one of the

1 opposition complained that the government was giving preferential  
2 treatment to these people now on trial.

3 Mr. Smeeton. Do you have any information on Jones'  
4 purported plans to move the whole community to the Soviet  
5 Union?

6 Mr. Dwyer. No --

7 Mr. Smeeton. We had one report that it was allegedly  
8 going to take place in the very near future.

9 Mrs. Bauman. Had you ever heard such a report?

10 Mr. Dwyer. It appeared in the newspaper, the document  
11 they found up there.

12 Mrs. Bauman. But prior to November 18?

13 Mr. Dwyer. Prior to November 17-18, the only thing  
14 I recall is Mark Lane's letter to Congressman Ryan which I  
15 believe referred to the group going to a country unfriendly  
16 to the United States, or something to that effect, and that  
17 it was just before the Congressman got here, I am not even  
18 sure when I became aware of that, whether it was after or  
19 before November 17. But this whole experience with the  
20 Soviet Union just further increased my wonder of the  
21 capabilities of my fellow human beings.

22 Mrs. Bauman. You never had any discussions with  
23 your Soviet diplomatic counterparts here in town regarding --

24 Mr. Dwyer. People's Temple?

25 Mrs. Bauman. People's Temple in general or their

1 desire to move to the Soviet Union?

2 Mr. Dwyer. No, nothing with the Soviet Union.

3 I certainly would have asked about that, I think, out of  
4 just sheer orneriness, but I did ask the Second Secretary of  
5 Soviet Embassy -- Jones had told me in May that they had  
6 people from the Soviet Embassy visit Jonestown. The next time  
7 I saw one of the officers from the Soviet Embassy I asked him  
8 had he been to Jonestown and what did he think of it? He  
9 was careful to point out that, no, he had not been to  
10 Jonestown, nor had members of the Embassy been to Jonestown.

11 Now this is May, mind you, after my May visit, but that the  
12 TASS correspondent had been there and had told him about it.  
13 So that was the only contact with the Soviets.

14 Mrs. Bauman. Did you have any discussions with the  
15 Cuban diplomatic counterparts regarding People's Temple?

16 Mr. Dwyer. No, <sup>w</sup>he see very little of the Cubans.  
17 We don't have formal diplomatic relations with the Cubans.

18 Mr. Spalatin. Dick, do you have any evidence there  
19 was a PT conspiracy to assassinate Representative Ryan you  
20 can share with us?

21 Mr. Dwyer. No, if I had anything, I sure would have  
22 told everybody.

23 Mr. Spalatin. Do you know anything, can you sub-  
24 stantiate to any degree the story that there was a shipment of  
25 cyanide sometime shortly before November 14th or before

1 November 18th to Jonestown?  
2

3 Mr. Dwyer. No, I know nothing about it.

4 Mr. Spalatin. Have you ever heard of that story?

5 Mr. Dwyer. I have heard it in the press. One of the  
6 journalists of the several hundred we had down here --

7 Mrs. Bauman. After the fact?

8 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

9 Mr. Spalatin. You don't have any evidence to  
10 substantiate that story?

11 Mr. Dwyer. No. We have almost nothing in the way of  
12 documentary evidence.

13 Mr. Smeeton. You don't recall any discussions with  
14 Harold Cordell regarding that? He is the alleged source of  
15 this information.

16 Mr. Dwyer. No, I don't. But again we had all these  
17 survivors and even our [motley] crew of shot up newsmen were  
18 still being newsmen. Shot up as they were, they spent the  
19 better part of the night talking to these people, which I  
20 did not. Maybe on reflection I should have sent the newsmen  
21 out and gone in there myself.

22 Mr. Smeetin. It was Tim Reiterman's article in the  
23 San Francisco Examiner which disclosed that as a result of  
24 an interview he had with Harold Cordell.

25 Mr. Dwyer. As you can appreciate better than I,  
I am having problems now remembering where I heard things.

1 Mr. Spalatin. Do you have any evidence that People's  
2 Temple shipments from the United States to Guyana did not  
3 undergo normal scrutiny by Guyanese officials?  
4

5 Mr. Dwyer. Well, I only have hard evidence to the  
6 contrary on at least this one occasion that the Guyanese  
7 officials, again according to Jones, and we subsequently  
8 confirmed it with the Director of Customs, that the Guyanese  
9 officials did indeed tear down their whole shipment that  
10 time and looked at it all.

11 Secondly, it may be of interest to you that Customs,  
12 subsequent to November 18, had gone through 30 cases of  
13 Jonestown effects, crates.

14 Mr. Spalatin. They hadn't been delivered yet, I  
15 presume.

16 Mr. Dwyer. No, there are some 117 here that we know  
17 of. Everywhere we look, another one seems to turn up some-  
18 where. But of those 117, the Customs to date have been  
19 through 33, I think, 32 or 33. We have had a consular officer  
20 there at all times to determine what is in the crates and  
21 to express our interest in the effects, the personal effects  
22 of any people who are dead.

23 In these 32 crates thus far, the Customs officials  
24 have confiscated a book on how to make love, a few bottles  
25 of brandy that is illegal and a <sup>handker</sup>dummy with some <sup>dummy</sup>bullets of  
some kind. I don't know whether they were toy bullets.

1 Anyway, they weren't real bullets. They were dummy  
2 bullets. Anyway, that is out of the 33 crates.

3 Whether or not these people were subjected to  
4 customs on the articles they brought in, I can't say this.

5 Mr. Spalatin. You heard of the allegation but you  
6 have not been able to substantiate it?

7 Mr. Dwyer. I am unsure -- I have not specifically  
8 asked Customs officials. My idea was that somehow it had  
9 come in duty free.

10 Mr. Berdes. In response to the last question, you  
11 said you had hard evidence that 36, 38 crates had been inspected  
12 by the Guyanese Customs officials?

13 Mr. Dwyer. Yes.

14 Mr. Berdes. It is only to the effect they had told  
15 you --

16 Mr. Dwyer. No, these are subsequent to November 17.  
17 We have all these crates on the docks. The question is what  
18 do these crates contain. Do they contain personal effects  
19 of dead Americans, in which case there is <sup>our responsibility</sup> ~~the possibility~~  
20 to assume control of the property. Of these 117 crates that  
21 we know about, we had sent a consular officer down to go  
22 along and inspect them with --

23 Mr. Berdes. I understood. Apparently I misunderstood  
24 the Guyanese had at some point informed you prior to  
25 November 18th that they had opened some crates.

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Mr. Dwyer. They had opened crates prior to November 18.

Mrs. Bauman. Did you know that prior --

Mr. Dwyer. They told me they did.

Mr. Berdes. That is your form of hard evidence, they told you?

Mrs. Bauman. When did they tell you?

Mr. Dwyer. Subsequent to November 18. This had been raised with me by Jones on May 10th. Jones claimed that the shipment had been opened and because it had been opened, they lost a great many items to pilferage.

Mr. Spalatin. Did you ever have a conversation with Joseph Mazor?

Mr. Dwyer. No.

Mr. Berdes. In the hierarchy of things relating to the State Department and Embassy, is there some ranking in which consular affairs appears, in your mind?

Mr. Dwyer. I am sorry, are you thinking of vice consul, consul, consul general?

Mr. Berdes. Not so much in that sense, but in the sense of the --

Mr. Dwyer. I understand what you are getting at. *Do a*  
Consular officer <sup>a</sup> ~~is~~ considered second class Foreign Service officers? No, not in my mind particularly. Certainly I think Dick McCoy is, for example, an outstanding officer.

1 He not only was consul here, but for a period of three months,  
2 he was in charge of the embassy during a difficult period in  
3 our relations. I think there is a feeling of <sup>some</sup> [my] officers  
4 that they do not particularly like the work. I would [not]  
5 personally find myself much more interested in the economic  
6 side of things [than I am] <sup>or</sup> on the political side of things.  
7 But there are people, quite competent officers, who prefer  
8 that kind of work. Consular officers have the opportunity,  
9 which normal reporting <sup>offices</sup> sometimes <sup>do</sup> [does] not, of being of  
10 direct assistance to people and at the end of the day knowing  
11 that you accomplished something that actually helped someone.  
12 When you sit down and write a political report, why, it  
13 goes into the large file of the Department of State and only  
14 rarely are you ever able to know directly that your assessment  
15 of the situation had a bearing on it.

16 Mr. Berdes. In your estimation, is the mechanism  
17 within this embassy adequate for the exchange of information  
18 between the consular section and the political or the Foreign  
19 Affairs section?

20 Mr. Dwyer. Very definitely. Ambassador Burke has  
21 a particular interest in consular affairs. He always <sup>has</sup> had  
22 ever since his early days in the Foreign Service when he  
23 himself was a consular officer. He knows consular affairs  
24 as well or better than any Ambassador I have served under.  
25 And that goes back quite a few years. Dick McCoy, particuarly,

1 because he had been the officer with the longest service in  
2 Guyana, contributed not only to normal consular work and what  
3 have you, but <sup>we</sup> ~~is~~ considered a valuable asset to the embassy  
4 for his assessment of Guyanese affairs in general.

5 We have three staff meetings a week <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~ which the  
6 consular ~~is~~ is always present or his deputy unless some reason  
7 he just can't make it. Let me go on to say, too, that there  
8 is no telegram on consular affairs or anything else that  
9 goes out of this embassy that the Ambassador does not see and  
10 he reviews, as do I, on a periodic basis once or twice a  
11 month the correspondence of the consular section -- a large  
12 part of this is immigration matters concerning people who want  
13 to get visas, a great deal of traffic with lawyers and what  
14 have you. Standard routine consular correspondence which,  
15 as I say, we look at this after the fact.

16 Our standing policy has been if you have any doubt  
17 at all, come ask us, or better yet, come ask us anyway.

18 Mr. Spalatin. Was there any opinion within the  
19 embassy in the summer of 1978 as to the likelihood of which way  
20 the Stoen custody case might go?

21 Mr. Dwyer. No. By August of 1978, Bishop had tossed  
22 in the towel. So we are not talking about a very long period  
23 of time. But I certainly had no great feeling for the matter,  
24 and I would not have wanted any embassy officer ever to discuss  
25 the case outside of his official duties or outside the embassy.

1 Mr. Spalatin. Were you aware of any opinion within  
2 the embassy January and February 1978?

3 Mr. Dwyer. I wasn't there.

4 Mr. Spalatin. I am saying were you aware -- you  
5 weren't here -- but did anybody relate to you what the opinion  
6 of the embassy people might have been back in January and  
7 February of 1978 in any conversation you might have had after  
8 your coming to Guyana that you can recall?

9 Mr. Dwyer. You mean on the Stoen case?

10 Mr. Spalatin. Back in January 1978, where it was  
11 going at that time, going to the Stoens, going to the Jones,  
12 or just didn't know?

13 Mr. Dwyer. I don't recall anybody making a comment  
14 to me. That would be strange, in January we thought something --

15 Mr. Spalatin. Nothing comes to your recollection  
16 at this time?

17 Mr. Dwyer. No.

18 Mr. Spalatin. In a background briefing paper prepared  
19 by the legal affairs office, as I understand it, for  
20 Mrs. Watson during a visit of Ambassador Burke that he made  
21 to Washington in February of 1978, there is one on the Stoen  
22 custody case. In it, it makes the following observation --

23 Mrs. Bauman. Excuse me, is there a log number on  
24 that?

25 Mr. Spalatin. There is no log number on it. It was

1 submitted to the committee February 28, 1979, correspondence  
2 of Mr. Robert E. Dalton to the committee in the name of  
3 Mr. George Berdes.

4 Mr. Berdes. In partial response to the Chairman's  
5 request of February 2 of 1979.

6 Mr. Spalatin. "Based upon the progress of the dispute  
7 to date and personalities involved both SCS and the Guyana  
8 desk believe it likely that the court proceedings in Guyana  
9 will drag on for an indeterminate time. Furthermore, it is  
10 our private opinion that custody of John Victor very likely  
11 could be awarded to Jim Jones."

12 Mrs. Bauman. What is the question?

13 Mr. Spalatin. The question is what is his comment to  
14 that?

15 Mr. Dwyer. I have no comment to make. My only  
16 concern really was that the case be settled fairly. It was  
17 obligation enough to try to assume that without trying to pass  
18 judgment on the facts.

19 Mr. Spalatin. I guess the presumption I take from  
20 that, people in State would potentially make such a private  
21 opinion, potentially, based on information that comes from  
22 the field. I am not saying that is a safe assumption or not.

23 Mr. Dwyer. The desk officer had been out here shortly  
24 before that. Indeed, McCoy had been back there about that  
25 time.

1 Mr. Spalatin. Pursuant to that, I believe.

2 Mr. Smeeton. The date of this meeting is February 23  
3 between Ambassador Burke and Mrs. Watson?

4 Mr. Dwyer. Yes, but McCoy was back there at that  
5 time.

6 Mr. Smeeton. In February?

7 Mr. Dwyer. February or March. I don't remember it  
8 directly, but he was there before I came here. Anyway,  
9 I am not sure.

10 Mr. Smeeton. Just one final question. We have  
11 covered an awful lot of ground here today. As we conclude,  
12 do you want to offer anything else within the context of  
13 this inquiry that we should be aware of?

14 Mr. Dwyer. I would hope the record would show  
15 clearly that Leo Ryan was a very brave man. I say it myself  
16 because I was the only one there <sup>was</sup> [the] last few minutes [of] <sup>at</sup>  
17 Jonestown. Whatever may have been his purpose in going there  
18 with me and the questions you asked me earlier, there was no  
19 doubt in my mind that in the time immediately preceding his  
20 death, his full intention and thoughts were the people he  
21 was going to help there. That's all I have.

22 Mr. Berdes. Mr. Dwyer, I know Chairman Zablocki  
23 would want us to convey to you his personal high regard,  
24 his respect for your work in connection with the Ryan code --

25 Mr. Dwyer. I am sorry, sir, who?

1 Mr. Berdes. Chairman Zablocki, and his respect for  
2 you personally, the work you have done with this entire  
3 matter. I know it has been a long and difficult day for  
4 you in many respects. We appreciate your time and your effort.  
5 On behalf of Mr. Zablocki and the entire committee and  
6 ourselves, we wish to express our thanks and appreciation.

7 Mr. Dwyer. Thank you.

8 (Whereupon at 6:08 p.m., the interview was adjourned.)  
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