

Did CIA Plan Guyana Deaths?

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WASHINGTON — House Foreign Affairs Committee investigators have called for a new examination of the Central Intelligence Agency's role — if any — in the Guyana Peoples Temple tragedy that ended in the killing of an American congressman and the mass suicide of cultists.

The committee's staff experts urged that allegations made by aides to slain U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan of San Mateo, Calif., be referred to

the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for its review.

The proposal was endorsed by committee Chairman Clement Zablocki, D-Wis.

The investigators acknowledged that the allegations — made at recent subcommittee hearings — are "largely speculative and unsubstantiated." They nevertheless deserve review, it was concluded.

The recommendation came after the staff experts reviewed transcripts of Feb. 20 and March 4

hearings by the International Operations Subcommittee.

The investigators themselves spent four months last year looking into the Nov. 18, 1978, murders that took more than 900 lives at Jonestown, Guyana — and produced their own report 11 months ago.

In general the recent hearings produced no new "substantive information," the staff told Zablocki, but they singled out these six allegations for attention:

● The contention that the CIA

conducted a varied range of "activities" in Guyana;

● The contention that a CIA agent witnessed Ryan's assassination at Port Kaituma Airport;

The contention that the CIA may have violated the Hughes-Ryan Act by failing to report a covert operation in Guyana;

(Hughes-Ryan, largely authored by the slain congressman, requires the CIA report to Congress before spending money on covert operations — as opposed to ordinary intelligence-gathering.)

● The contention that the CIA made a conscious decision to allow the tragic events of Nov. 18, 1978 to occur in order to avoid disclosure of CIA covert activities;

● The contention this alleged reporting failure was conscious and calculated because Rep. Ryan was a co-author of the Hughes-Ryan act; and

● The contention the CIA was used to promote and protect

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