

Article appeared  
on page, A-5

14 March 1979

*Jones, Jim*  
*orig: Peoples Temple*

# Around the Nation

## **Jim Jones Confidant Shoots Himself at News Briefing End**

MODESTO, Calif.—A onetime confidant of the Rev. Jim Jones shot himself in the head last night at the end of a news conference where he proclaimed: "The Peoples Temple did not die in vain."

Michael Prokes, 32, was taken to Doctors Hospital in critical condition. He was pronounced dead at 10:35 p.m.

Prokes, a resident of Modesto, called a news conference at a motel. He ranted against the U.S. government, and accused the CIA of conducting a "witch hunt" against the cult.

He then calmly walked into the bathroom, pulled a pistol from his pocket and shot himself in the head, reporters said.

Prokes survived the murder-suicide ritual in November when Jones and some 900 of his followers died at a compound in the steaming jungles of Guyana. He was found with two others carrying several million dollars. They said they had been instructed to bring the money to the Soviet embassy.