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Rev. Jones Was CIA Agent, Suit Alleges

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—Survivors of the Peoples Temple tragedy and relatives of the dead followers of the Rev. Jim Jones sued the federal government Wednesday, claiming it conspired in the deaths of more than 900 cult members.

The suit for personal injury and violation of civil rights charges that former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and former CIA Director Stanfield Turner participated in a conspiracy with Jones to control temple members who held socialist beliefs.

The suit alleges that Jones was an "employee, servant, agent or operative" of the CIA from 1963 until his death along with 912 other temple members in a mass murder-suicide in Guyana.

The mass deaths were ignited by the assassination of Rep. Leo Ryan, who was visiting the jungle colony to investigate charges that Jones was using physical and mental abuse to control his flock.

The suit charges that the CIA knew "that they had commissioned James Warren Jones to embark upon a plan to control and to ultimately massacre members of the Peoples Temple."

Monika Bagby, Thomas Bogue and Teena M. Turner, wounded in the Nov. 18, 1978, attack on Ryan, filed the suit in U.S. District Court, joined by relatives of several cult members.