

Missing cult survivors still in jungle

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Survivors of the Jonestown cult suicide, menaced by flesh-eating piranhas and other deadly

perils of the tropical rain forest, eluded a manhunt in the nearly impenetrable Guyanan wilderness for a third day Tuesday.

At the jungle site of the mass suicide, the corpses of 409 members of the American religious sect lay decomposing in the equatorial sun. U.S. military officials were planning to airlift the bodies to the United States, but a State Department spokesman in Washington said they instead may be buried at the Jonestown camp if the Guyanese government authorizes it.

by in Georgetown for the evacuation operation.

Estimates of the number of sect members who fled the Jonestown camp Saturday during the ritual of mass self-destruction by poison ranged from 375 to more than 775. Stephan Jones, son of the Peoples Temple sect's fanatical founder, the Rev. Jim Jones, estimated some 500 had gone into the inhospitable forest.

Jim Jones ordered the mass suicide, a ritual he code-named "White Knight" and which he had practiced with his loyal followers, after sect members ambushed and killed Rep. Leo Ryan of California and four members of a

Ryan-led party that made an investigative visit to the camp.

Jones was one of three persons who died of gunshot wounds, apparently self-inflicted. About one-quarter of the dead were children, some babies whose mothers reportedly fed them the brew of Kool Aid and cyanide.

The 19-year-old Stephan Jones, who denounced his father as a "man obsessed," told reporters Tuesday his greatest concern now was for the well-being of those who fled into the jungle, apparently unwilling to destroy themselves along with their suicidal master.

making the news

From Associated Press reports

SALEM — The growing interest in exploring Oregon for oil and gas prompted the state Land Board on Tuesday to adopt formal rules for the leasing of mineral rights.

The rules abandon the first-come-first-serve leasing system that has been used in Oregon in favor of public oral bidding.

"It used to be that the first person who applied could lease the land," said Bill Cox, head of the state Lands Division. "I don't think industry large or small likes oral bidding, but Oregon is one of the last remaining states to adopt it, so they're used to it."

Cox said industry objects to oral bidding because "they don't want the other guy to know where they're exploring."

SUMTER, S.C. — If the MIG-23s sold by Russia to Cuba can be used to launch nuclear warheads, then the United States should have a "showdown," says Gen. William Westmoreland, former Army chief of staff.

Westmoreland, retired and living in Charleston, gave his views in an interview Monday with the Sumter Item.

Describing Russia's sale of 18 or 20 MIG-23s to Cuba as a "big problem," Westmoreland said that if the airplanes are designed for nuclear weapons, "I'm sure Mr. Carter will be faced with the same thing that Kennedy was, during the Cuban missile crisis."

"This has the seeds of a confrontation," Westmoreland said. "Hopefully, only a verbal one... There is more at stake than appears on the surface."

The Soviets have said the MIGs sold to Cuba are strictly defensive aircraft.

PORTLAND — Federal mediators said talks aimed at a break in the protracted pulp and paper workers strike began Tuesday afternoon between Georgia-Pacific and its 500 employees at the Toledo mill.

More than 1,500 members of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers are on strike at three GP mills in Washington and Oregon.

About 15,000 members of the AWPPW have been on strike at 30 mills in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California since summer.

Union spokesman Bob Webb reported Tuesday that negotiations between Louisiana-Pacific and its 380 members in Ketchikan, Alaska, again have broken off.

Mideast split on Palestinians

By The Associated Press

The Israeli Cabinet gave unqualified approval Tuesday to a draft peace treaty with Egypt put forward by the United States but rejected Cairo's demands for a timetable on resolving the Palestinian question. Egypt recalled its chief negotiator from the talks in Washington for consultations after the Israeli decision.

Egyptian officials said before the Cabinet's announcement in Jerusalem that a treaty will not be signed unless Israel changes its position on a timetable.

"The Egyptian government is studying the situation in light of the Israeli Cabinet decision," Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil told The Associated Press.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin informed reporters in Jerusalem of the Cabinet's decision and said Israel "is prepared

to sign the treaty of peace... if Egypt is ready to act likewise."

The draft was worked out 10 days ago between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Sources said the text is almost identical to one the Cabinet rejected Oct. 25.

The Egyptians are trying to pin

Israel down to timetables on movement on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. Begin says the latest Egyptian proposals for a timetable are inconsistent with the Camp David accords worked out in September. He said Sunday Israel "will never accept timetables."

Nader group pushes for Darvon ban


WASHINGTON (AP) — Ralph Nader's Health Research Group asked the government Tuesday to ban the painkiller Darvon and related compounds, charging it "is the deadliest prescription drug in the United States."

An analyst at the National Institute on Drug Abuse said there are indications that propoxyphene, widely promoted under the trade name Darvon, actually kills substantially more people across the country than the illicit drug heroin.

Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of the Nader group, told Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano Jr. that the relatively mild painkiller ought to be banned immediately as "an imminent hazard to the public health."

In a simultaneous petition to the Justice Department, Wolfe said if propoxyphene is not banned, it at least ought to be restricted as a so-called Schedule II drug, which would set production limits and prohibit refilling of prescriptions.

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