

Aug 23, 77

Dear Sueda & Herbert

It was a great pleasure to hear your voices on the telephone Sunday. We were happy to hear you, & glad that your trip was rewarding.

You probably will be busy these first weeks after your return - reacquainting with your grand circle of friends.

Our major travel plans have sort of evaporated for this year but we are still planning & trying to get away for two weeks to So. Calif. the same trip we planned for last year & for Feb. but we aim for the end of Sept. or Oct. We will make it yet, we do look forward to seeing you again and many of our friends. In your absence a rather

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unhappy story broke in the newspapers
about the "People's Temple" Apparently
Jim Jones got a bit too much exposure
of late as an appointee to the S. F.
Housing Commission and then the
newspaper the Temple was circulating in
the neighborhoods - For certain some one
was out to attack Moscow for the
appt. of Jones to housing commission
and Jones was apparently vulnerable.

He subsequently has resigned the Commission
the New West magazine Aug 1 issue &
Aug 15th issue first opened the
story - and then the newspapers went
on the band wagon - I enclosed many
of the clippings - the story hit two Sunday
editions of the Chronicle front page story

It blasted the Temple wide open
& Jim Jones tactics - most of the
stories came from ex members & from
other sources. It's hard to tell what
is the truth as Jones is in Guyana
now and there was no confrontation
of what the facts really are but
all that said, we guess that the "Temple"
indeed left itself open for that event
with all its secrecy - and we do
surmise (based on the fragmentary contacts
we had) that there is a certain
substance to the charges but then
again all these "so called church
groups" practice similar patterns
maybe not to the extreme that the
"People's Temple" produced - they really

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went out on the limit with all
their project & methods of keeping
the group in tight control. The
church claimed to help a lot of people
and different causes with the money they
collected - but at what a price to the
followers of the church - Jim Jones was
their god who could do no
wrong - as Mao in China & Stalin in Russia
the line of truth is so hard to find
where is the truth? under a blanket of
such secrecy & methods of control -
How the project in Guyana will work out
is another story - but in a way I now ^{the} ^{best}
We haven't heard from Phyllis & these ^{are} ^{the} ^{most} ^{needed}
We hope to see you soon and hear all
about your trip Our love & regards
Bill & Peggy -