

Washington awaits return of Ethiopian crash bodies

State plans memorial service for Leland

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — The bodies of Rep. Mickey Leland and eight other Americans were flown home in flag-draped coffins Tuesday, two weeks after they died in a plane crash while on a humanitarian mission.

The coffins were loaded onto a C-141 transport after a two-hour airport ceremony and left Addis Ababa shortly after noon. Officials said the aircraft was expected in Washington about 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, after an overnight stop in Frankfurt, West Germany.

In Washington, the State Department said it planned a memorial service Wednesday at the Lincoln Memorial. Leland's family plans a private service in Houston.

Leland, the other Americans and seven Ethiopians were killed Aug. 7 when their chartered plane crashed into a mountain en route to the Fugnido refugee camp near the Sudanese border. All 16 aboard are believed to have died instantly.

Fugnido is one of four camps run by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees that house more than 300,000 Sudanese who fled famine and civil war in their country. Leland, a 44-year-old Texas Democrat, was chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger.

Searchers found the crash site a week later. Retrieval of the bodies from the mountainside, and identification, took nearly another week.

At the memorial service in Addis Ababa, Leland was eulogized by U.S., U.N. and Ethiopian officials as a man of compassion.

Parents of crash victim hire lawyer to investigate

HOUSTON (AP) — The parents of New York investment banker Ivan Tillem, who died in the Ethiopian plane crash that also claimed the life of Rep. Mickey Leland, have hired a prominent New York lawyer to sue those responsible for the crash.

Jacob Fuchsberg, a former New York State Court of Appeals judge, said Monday he was hired by George and Irene Tillem to sue whoever is determined to be at fault for the deaths of Tillem, Leland and 14 others.

Leland, Tillem and others were killed Aug. 7 when the Twin Otter plane, en route to a refugee camp in western Ethiopia, crashed into a rugged mountainside near the Sudan border.

"We're just at the beginning of our investigation," Fuchsberg said.

Leland's wife, Alison, told the *Houston Post* that she had not heard about the pending suit.

"I don't know anything about it, and I'm not a party to the suit," she said Monday evening.

B-CS residents show concern over issue of local Satanism

By Phillip Sulak

Special to *The Battalion*

Satanism and other occult religions seem beyond the realm of reality for most people. They assume something of that sort would occur in California, or New York; Bryan-College Station and the rest of Texas would not be involved.

Or so was thought before Mark Kilroy was murdered in Matamoros as part of a cult ritual. Satanism does exist in Bryan-College Station, but whether or not it's a problem is the question.

Bob Wiatt, head of security at Texas A&M, said that to his knowledge the only instance of any satanic activity on the A&M campus, or for that matter in Brazos County, occurred in 1986 when a group of Bryan High School students were caught in Rudder Tower with an altar set up and a display of books and teaching materials associated with Satanism.

"All they were charged with was criminal trespass," Wiatt said.

He said that there is probably quite a bit of activity, if all of the role playing games, the heavy metal music, the buying of the literature associated with Satanism and the graffiti in the A&M steam tunnels are included. But, he said he isn't sure that any of this indicates participation in cult activities.

"At what point does it transcend normal interest?" Wiatt said. "It depends on the involvement of the individuals and whether they make it the focus of their lives."

Wiatt also said that Satanism itself isn't a criminal act, unless the participant gets into a ritual that humiliates individuals. This is covered by the state laws on hazing.

Wiatt is unwilling to say whether Satanism will lead to other crimes.

"Is there an interest in this subject because it is so widespread, or is it so widespread because we are showing so much interest?" he said.

"There are believers in all things, such as Satanism, UFO's and Elvis. There is possibly more participation in this activity than we think. But that's not to say there is more to it."

Lou Sloat, director of the Ritual Crime Task Force, said his group acts as a clearing house for any crime that appears ritually oriented. But, he said, he is not an authority; there is too much to know.

Sloat said on average, every high school in Texas has a student who could be called a dabbler. A dabbler is usually someone young, who is in the experimental stage of Satanism, whether that be Dungeons and Dragons, reading Satanic material, or involved in other acts without getting too involved in the rituals.

Eventually a dabbler can become part of a Satanic

group, which could involve a "mainstream" religion, such as Church of Satan, or a self-styled cult.

"The self-styled cults tend to be unorthodox," Sloat said. "And the most dangerous. They make up 80 percent of the crime we could call ritualistic."

In the past two years, Sloat said, six ritual crimes have been investigated in Texas.

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— Bob Wiatt

Ben Crouch is a sociology professor at A&M. He is emphatic that he isn't an expert on the subject, nor steeped in data. Not yet, anyway.

Crouch's specialty is criminology, specifically the penal system. He has been questioning virtually every juvenile that has been institutionalized in the state for criminal acts.

The study is being funded by the Texas Commission on Substance and Alcohol Abuse and originally dealt only with substance abuse. On the suggestion of a friend, he added a set of questions on satanic activity.

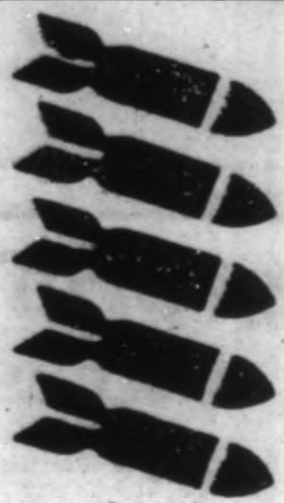
From what he has learned so far, Crouch said, "There is more smoke than fire."

"I am, as a sociologist, skeptical as to whether we have a serious phenomena. Not participation, but consequential, such as a crime threat."

He said he does not understand supposed "experts" who throw out undocumented statements, and he doesn't see a correlation between criminal activity and Satanism.

"Satanism is neither necessary or sufficient to produce delinquency," Crouch said. He said he thinks that coming from a bad home environment is a more likely cause for the juvenile offender.

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