

Jones could not tolerate failure

PORT OF SPAIN (Trinidad) Nov. 25.—Jim Jones, the cult leader who died with almost 800 American disciples in a Guyana jungle camp suicide and-murder massacre "could not tolerate anything that suggested failure", a Guyanese journalist who knew the self-styled bishop said in an interview here today, says AFP.

Sports broadcaster Joseph "Reds" Pereira, who was last in the Jonestown farm commune a fortnight ago to coach a basketball team said he had known members of the People's Temple sect for four years and found them normal.

He suggested that the cult leader must have "lost control of himself" after some commune members tried to get away from the commune during the fatal visit last weekend by Californian congressman Leo Ryan, who was shot along with three journalists before the mass slaughter.

"If it was one person or 20 persons, who wanted to leave the commune that to Jones was a defeat, a disaster, a betrayal", Reds Pereira said. "Obviously there must have been a deterioration in Jones".

The Guyanese broadcaster described the sect chief as very soft-spoken, mature type of individuals. When he spoke to Jim Jones two weeks ago he added, "He was a little tense, but I attributed that to the responsibility he was carrying".

Mr. Pereira described the members of the farm labour camp as "a group who always talked about non-violence and condemned the violence in America".

"They wore normal clothes", he said.

"I found them liberal in their views and very outspoken about the conditions in America".

"Outside of Guyana", he added, "You might have the impression they were a very weird group who were allowed to come into Guyana and do their own thing, but I think if you had met them yourself you would be very surprised at what has happened".