



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
May 17, 1969

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: INVADERS  
(CONNECTIONS WITH BLACK  
PANTHER PARTY)

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On April 9, 1969, a first source, familiar with certain activities of the Black Panther Party in the Berkeley-Oakland, California, area, across the bay from San Francisco, California, advised that a meeting was held in the Berkeley-Oakland area, Sunday, April 6, 1969, of the Black Panther Party, attended by approximately 35 persons.

(A characterization of the Black Panther Party is attached hereto in the appendix.)

Source one continued that the main speaker who came to the meeting with Bobby Seale, the National Black Panther Party Chairman, was from Memphis, Tennessee. This individual, name not known at the time, was 5'10" tall, weighed about 170 pounds, had a well-trimmed mustache, was light complected, a neat dresser, wore a ring on the little finger of his left hand and was an intelligent speaker. This individual from Memphis spoke of his organization in Memphis called "The Invaders," and said it was about the same as the Black Panther Party. He continued that the white power structure throughout the country would have to be torn down; that some of their main targets would be trains, oil foundries and large shopping areas. He said that a Black Panther Party member, if arrested, should never admit being a member and deny any connection with Black Panther Party because the newspapers would publicize the arrest.

Source one added that during the above meeting it was stated that someone present, exact identity not known, that Bobby Seale and this unknown individual from Memphis,

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Tennessee, were going to Springfield, Massachusetts, reason for the trip and time of trip not known.

On April 21, 1969, Source one advised that it had been ascertained through one of the persons in attendance at the meeting that that person had the name and address of the alleged Memphian who spoke at the April 6, 1969, meeting, and that this name had been ascertained to be that of Louis Welch, 271 Van Ness Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.

Also on May 2, 1969, Source one identified a photograph of Louis Welch as being identical with the individual in attendance at the Black Panther Party meeting in Oakland, California, April 6, 1969.

Continued contacts from the period April 15, 1969, and up through May 16, 1969, with Sources two, three, four and five, familiar with most phases of activities of the Invaders, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that they know Louis Welch and have no specific information to indicate that he made any trip to San Francisco, California, at any time in the recent past, particularly over the Easter weekend, April 6, 1969. These sources all pointed out that Louis Welch has in the recent past been and currently is serving as the co-chairman of the Invaders, a characterization of which is attached hereto; that the address of the Invaders for the past several months has been 271 Vance Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, and that they know of no formal connection with the Black Panther Party. In fact, Source two advised that he personally saw Louis Welch in Memphis, Tennessee, on the evening of April 7, 1969, a Monday. Welch was not working at the time as he had recently injured his finger at the Midwest Dairy Farms ice cream plant at Belvedere, Memphis, Tennessee, where he has been employed intermittently for the past several months.

As recently as May 16, 1969, Source four advised that Welch wears what appears to be a solid gold band, plain



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ring on the little finger of his left hand and wears a gold colored wrist watch on his left wrist.

This same source advised that as early as March 20, 1969, Welch had his injured hand, with the right thumb being heavily taped. The nature of the injury was not known and neither Sources two, three, four or five, was aware of the condition of this thumb as of the Easter, 1968, weekend.

The same sources advised that they have not known of Welch to make any other trips out of Memphis, Tennessee, and have never heard him mention the State of Massachusetts.

Welch, according to Sources two and four, has a small thin mustache and in late March and early April, wore a very thin goatee, which might not normally be noticed by someone who was not intimately familiar with him.

On May 13, 1969, [redacted] Intelligence Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, advised that Louis Welch, also known as Lewis Welch, "The Lock" has Memphis Police Department identification number [redacted]. He was last known to reside at 1429 Greenwood, Memphis, Tennessee. He has numerous miscellaneous arrest records with the Memphis Police Department, dating back to December 15, 1965, for investigation of gambling, gaming, loitering, disorderly conduct, failure to answer traffic summons, malicious mischief. On November 30, 1963, he was arrested on a robbery charge, but released. He was also charged on that date with carrying a dangerous weapon (a rifle) and held to the State of Tennessee. His trial on this charge has not as yet been held.

On May 13, 1969, a sixth source familiar with certain personal history data concerning Louis Welch advised that as Louis Welch, Jr., male Negro, born July 22, 1941, at Memphis, Tennessee, Welch enlisted in the United States Army, [redacted], 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, regular Army number RA [redacted] was honorably discharged July 15, 1963, at Fort Hood, Texas, as a private first class (p) E-3 and gave as his residence at time of entry 1447 Eason Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

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Also on May 13, 1969, JOE GREEN, Assistant Manager, My Furniture Company, 1445 South Bellevue, advised that Louis Welch, Social Security Number [REDACTED] this being the same number which was maintained by source six, worked for him as a driver for a few months in 1967, was laid off due to laziness, was married to one Rose Welch, had two small children, lived at 1388 East McEmore at the time, claimed he previously worked at Scott Auto Parts, ostensibly Memphis, for a period of eight weeks and had worked for a period of six years, dates not shown, at the Alexander Home Improvement Company, 1447 Eason Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

It will be noted that according to source six, as early as 1959, Welch claimed that he had an uncle, J. C. Alexander, and had been working for this uncle as a brick mason, the uncle living, allegedly at 1306 South Parkway East, Memphis, Tennessee.



BLACK PANTHER PARTY

According to its official newspaper, the Black Panther Party (BPP) was started during December, 1966, in Oakland, California, to organize black people so they can take control of the life, politics, and the destiny of the black community. It was organized by Bobby George Seale, BPP Chairman, and Huey P. Newton, BPP Minister of Defense. Newton is presently serving a sentence of 2 to 15 years on a conviction of manslaughter in connection with the killing of an Oakland police officer.

The official newspaper, "The Black Panther," which further describes itself as the "Black Community News Service," states that the BPP advocates the use of guns and guerrilla tactics in its revolutionary program to end oppression of the black people. Residents of the black community are urged to arm themselves against the police who are consistently referred to in the publication as "pigs" who should be killed.

"The Black Panther" issue of September 7, 1968, contains an editorial by BPP Minister of Education, George Mason Murray, which ends with the following:

"Black men. Black people, colored persons of America, revolt everywhere! Arm yourselves. The only culture worth keeping is a revolutionary culture. Change. Freedom everywhere. Dynamite! Black Power. Use the gun. Kill the pigs everywhere."

Included in the introduction to an article appearing in the October 5, 1968, edition of "The Black Panther" is the statement. "...we will not dissent from American Government. We will overthrow it."

Issues of "The Black Panther" regularly contain quotations from the writings of Chairman MAO Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China and feature MAO's statement that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The national headquarters of the BPP is located at 3106 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California. Branches have been established at various locations throughout the United States.

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BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),  
also known as Black Organizing Power,  
Afro-American Brotherhood,  
Black Student Association,  
Invaders,  
Lemoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the  
National Association for the Advancement  
of Colored People (NAACP),  
City Organizers

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On April 18, 1968, a first source advised that a black power group in Memphis which has been in existence for several months has until recently been known as Black Organizing Power. It is now known as Black Organizing Project (BOP), also known as Black Organizing Power, with five cells or parts, known as (1) Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB), primarily consisting of Owen College students; (2) Black Student Association (BSA), primarily consisting of Memphis State University (MSU) Negro students; (3) Lemoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the NAACP, consisting of Lemoyne College students; (4) the Invaders, consisting mostly of high school dropouts; and (5) the City Organizers, comprised of young adults.

AAB has about 12 members; BSA has about 20 members; the Invaders has about 15 members; the Lemoyne group has about 20 members; and the City Organizers has about 20 members.

Source one advised that the BOP attempts to create pride in black identity, attempts to teach and promote the teaching of Negro history, and to promote black culture and obtain more employment for young Negroes.

The Executive Secretary of BOP is Charles Laverne Cabbage.

On February 16, 1968, Charles Laverne Cabbage personally acknowledged being leader of BOP, claiming he is the impetus of black power in Memphis, Tennessee, and that BOP's purpose is to stimulate in the young Negroes a sense of black identity, black pride, and black consciousness. He said his group follows the teachings of student Non-Violent



Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leaders H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael but that BOP did not necessarily exist as a formal SNCC unit. Cabbage further admitted he had made statements such as "Memphis should be burned" and "Memphis should have a good race riot," but claimed he did not mean these statements literally, merely endeavoring to shock the community into doing something to help the black race.

On February 27, 1968, a second source advised that at a public meeting on February 26, 1968, the BOP Chairman John Burrell Smith told a Negro audience, "We've got to do some fighting," and "You'd better get some guns. You're going to need them before this is over. You can't pray your way out."

On June 6, 1968, the second source advised that BOP primarily consists of about 30 to 35 young college and high school students and school dropouts, unemployed and not looking for work, who continually preach hatred of the white race and capitalistic economic system and advocating and predicting violence by blacks. The over-all plan of BOP, according to source two, is to scare the Memphis community leaders, both black and white, into fearing black militancy. The BOP leaders then hope to convince the community to fund them as a form of subtle blackmail whereby BOP can prevent racial violence. Source two said that BOP is more interested in publicity and money than in direct action, but is nevertheless preaching violence in an effort to scare the community.

APPENDIX

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