

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-448006)

DATE: 5/22/68

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (100-4542) (P)

*Re Memphis airtel
BOP*

*Return to
Adair/ma
fcb*

SUBJECT: COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST-HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE

Re Bureau airtel to ME 3/4/68.

90 DAY PROGRESS LETTER

I. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

A. The Memphis Office is presently attempting to locate suitable young Negroes who are not presently engaged in Black Power activities at Memphis with a view of developing them as informants and placing them in contact with local cells of the Black Power organization at Memphis, Tenn., known as "Black Organizing Project" (BOP).

B. Consideration is being given to contacting responsible leaders of various Negro organizations at Memphis, including the NAACP, the War on Poverty program, Memphis Interdenominational Ministerial Association, Memphis Community on the Move for Equality (COME), Memphis Women on the Move for Equality Now (WOMEN) and "Memphis Cares" organization.

The purpose of such contacts would be to inform the responsible leaders of the above-mentioned organizations of the real aims and purposes of the Black Power organization at Memphis known as BOP, it being noted that various leaders and members of the BOP at Memphis, Tenn., have worked in and with the above-mentioned organizations. In addition, information has been obtained by the Memphis Office BOP has hopes that funds for their activities may be derived from one or more of these organizations.

- (2) - Bureau (RM)
- 5 - Memphis
 - (1 - 100-4542)
 - (1 - [REDACTED])
 - (1 - [REDACTED])
 - (1 - [REDACTED])
 - (1 - [REDACTED])
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C. The Memphis Office has made contact with several young Negro males who are veterans of military service and is giving consideration to attempting to develop these Negroes as informants of the Memphis Office and to have them enroll at Memphis State University. It is noted that indications are that BOP activity at Memphis is becoming more and more centered among the black military in attendance at Memphis State University. Indications are that the intelligent leadership directing the Black Power activities at Memphis will emanate from Memphis State University.

II. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS BEING EFFECTED

A. INTERVIEW PROGRAM

The Memphis Office has since the first information was received indicating the existence of a militant Black Power organization at Memphis been interviewing all persons allegedly either a member of such an organization or who have been approached to join such an organization. The initial interview is followed within two weeks by a follow-up interview, and this interview is usually followed by a series of weekly or bi-monthly telephone contacts with these individuals, who have recently joined with Black Power organizations at Memphis, Tenn.

B. PLANNED FAILURE TO INTERVIEW KNOWN MEMBERS OF BLACK POWER ORGANIZATIONS

The Memphis Office has purposely refrained from interviewing certain known members of BOP at Memphis in an effort to cast suspicion on these persons as possibly being FBI informants.

C. The Memphis Office continues to furnish selective information regarding certain BOP leaders at Memphis to the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department with the request that local authorities keep an eye on these individuals.

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D. The Memphis Office has furnished on a very selective basis certain militant statements and aims of BOP leaders to trusted liaison sources in order for the real aims and purposes of the BOP at Memphis to become common knowledge.

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E. The Memphis Office has furnished to trusted newspaper contacts at Memphis printed material issued by the BOP at Memphis and distributed by the BOP which shows their militant action and aims.

F. The Memphis Office on a highly selective basis has furnished the names of known BOP militants who are enrolled at Memphis State University to [REDACTED]

In addition to the above, the Memphis Office is working very closely with the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department in an exchange of information dealing with Black Power movement at Memphis,

III. TANGIBLE RESULTS OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

The interview program has been effective, as it has resulted in development of three informants who are connected with the BOP at Memphis. In addition, it has resulted in the leaders of the BOP at Memphis furnishing a certain amount of information regarding BOP activities to the Memphis Office. It has apparently created difficulties in recruiting on the part of BOP leaders, inasmuch as [REDACTED] has advised SAC of the Memphis Office that our interviews have caused many young Negroes to be afraid to join BOP and are creating financial problems for the BOP.

In addition, information has been received from informants that the deliberate failure to interview certain known members of the BOP has resulted in a distrust on the part of the BOP toward those members not interviewed by the FBI.

Summary

The program of furnishing selected information re BOP activities and leaders to the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit has resulted in the receipt of a great deal of intelligence information and has also disrupted BOP activities and has proven to be a financial burden to the BOP. Information furnished for the most part has been restricted to known violations of laws, such as the failure to have current automobile inspection stickers, failure to have cars properly registered, plans to recruit at local high schools during school hours, etc. This has enabled the Memphis Police

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Department to effect several arrests of the leaders of the BOP at Memphis, and according to [REDACTED] has created a financial drain on their resources. In addition, Memphis has an excellent relationship with the newly-formed Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department and furnishes the identity of known BOP members, along with their activities, to this Unit. This also has resulted in several arrests of BOP members. This relationship has resulted in the Memphis Office receiving valuable intelligence information from a police undercover officer who is a member of the BOP at Memphis.

The furnishing of public source information to various newspaper contacts and liaison sources has resulted in various newspaper articles in local newspapers which have to some extent exposed the actual aims and purposes of the BOP.

IV. DEVELOPMENTS OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INTEREST

Since the inception of investigation of militant Black Power organizations at Memphis, one fact stands out. The militant Negro organizations at Memphis have a common need of funding. Interviews with Black Power militants, informants and sources of information indicate that the primary objective of these Black Power groups is obtaining funds for their organizations, and indications are that they are turning to the Federal Government, private foundations and/or local businessmen as a source of these funds.

One method of raising funds currently being used by the organization known as Black Organizing Project (BOP) is to indicate to various established groups in Memphis, Tenn., that this organization (BOP) can control and prevent violence by militant young Negroes provided they are given sufficient funds, but if no funds are forthcoming, the leaders of the BOP claim they will be unable to control the militant Negro youths in Memphis and destruction will result.

It should be noted that information received by the Memphis Office indicates that the BOP actually has no appreciable control over young militant Negroes in Memphis, that there is no organizational control exerted by the BOP and that the only apparent common bond among the militant Negro youths seems to be a hatred of the white race.

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summary
[REDACTED]
that he expects to receive funding from either the Labor Department, the Health, Education and Welfare Department, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the National Council of Churches and/or one of the various private foundations who furnish money for "worthy causes."

The following changes have been effected in the Black Nationalist Movement in the Memphis Division:

At Memphis, Tenn., a Black Power group which has been in existence for the past several months has recently been known as Black Organizing Power. It has recently been determined that the correct name currently being utilized by this group is Black Organizing Project (BOP). This organization consists of five cells which are known as: (1) Afro American Brotherhood (AAB), (2) Black Student Association (BSA), (3) LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), (4) Invaders, and (5) City Organizers.

As recently as 4/18/68 a Confidential Source advised that the AAB is composed of students at Owen Junior College, Memphis, publishes a mimeographed paper periodically, entitled "Afro American Brotherhood Speaks," and has about 12 members on the planning, coordinating and strategy committees.

Informants have advised that the BSA is composed of black students at Memphis State University, is the sponsor of programs aimed at political and cultural awareness as black spokesmen with the administration, and publishes periodically a mimeographed sheet entitled "Black Thesis." The BSA has about 20 members on a steering committee.

The LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the NAACP is composed of students at LeMoyne College, has about 20 members and promotes political and cultural awareness. Being the campus base for NAACP operations.

The Invaders is comprised of high school students throughout the city of Memphis and provides these students with a cultural awareness and knowledge of political importance of youth in Memphis. The Invaders has members that are high school dropouts, and as of 4/18/68, there were approximately 15 members of the group known as the Invaders.

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The City Organizers is composed of young adults concerned with the problems in the black community and consists of college graduates as well as high school dropouts and people with educational backgrounds in between these two extremes, most of whom are unemployed. As of 4/18/68, this cell had about 20 members.

Proposed counterintelligence operation by the Memphis Office will be set out in a separate letter requesting Bureau permission to institute these proposed operations in the near future. The Bureau will be kept advised of all developments in this matter.