'Black Panther' in Cuba Is Called An FBI Agent by Party Chief

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From News Dispatches

SAN FRANCISCO, June 27—The Black Panther party's chairman says a man who complained in Havana that there is a revolutionary lag in the Cuban government is not a Black Panther as he claimed.

In a news conference on the Alameda County Courthouse steps Thursday, Panther chairman Bobby Seale asserted that Raymond Johnson is "nothing but an agent for the fascist CIA and FBI."

Johnson, who was once a Southern University student in Louisiana, hijacked an airplane to Havana in 1968 and told the Associated Press on Wednesday that Panthers have been "isolated and imprisoned" in Cuba.

Johnson, 22, of Alexandria, La., said that American Black Panthers in Cuba—including fugitive party information minister Eldridge Cleaver—are disenchanted with Cuba and want to leave.

Seale said, "We found out yesterday (Wednesday) that he went to Cuba by hijack, which is a good way for the fascist FBI pigs of America to cover up and try to make Cubans think that anyone who hijacks an airplane is not a destructive agent to the Cuban People's Socialist Government."

Earlier in an interview, Seale once again repudiated a children's coloring book that preached violence against police and white merchants.

The coloring book was "unauthorized," Seale said. He charged that Larry Clayton Powell, a party defector who testified before the McClellan Senate subcommittee, printed 1000 copies of the coloring book to use against the party.

A San Francisco police officer told the Senate investigators the coloring book was distributed at breakfasts the Panthers sponsored for children.

"It was first printed in 1968 by a young party member from the Sacramento chapter. He was not politically mature and was not aware of the class position of the Panthers," Seale said.

"When we discovered it, we stopped its printing. We only saw about 25. The rest were copied later by Larry Powell."

Associated Press

Five Black Panthers leave Omaha's Central police station where they were taken for questioning yesterday about disorders.