Panthers to Press Genocide Charge

By Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Black Panther Party will formally petition the United Nations to judge the United States guilty of genocide against black Americans, Panther leaders said here yesterday.

The plan, which involves preparation of elaborate historical, political and statistical documents, was outlined at a press conference by Panther education minister Ray Masai Hewitt.

Calvin Hicks, a black sociologist at Bradeis University, said the petition will be based on the definitions of genocide drafted by the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee on Genocide in 1948 and subsequently ratified by most U.N. members, but not by the United States.

Hicks and Hewitt appeared as part of a larger panel of antiwar and civil rights leaders who announced plans for concerted protest activities in 24 cities across the country on Jan. 15—The birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In Washington, the chief activity will be a rally called by the Sothern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization once led by the slain Dr. King. The Rev. Walter Fauntroy, SCLC Washington spokesman, said details of the rally will be announced on Monday.

Most activities in other cities are sponsored by the New Mobiliization Committe to End the War in Vietnam, a coalition of more than 100 peace and civil rights groups.

The 12 persons at yesterday's 80-minute press conference in the Ambassador Hotel represented a broad cross section of political and racial affiliations, ranging from the Panthers to the National Council of Churches.

Several panel members were also noted controversial figures who are, in one phase or another, being tried by the government for alleged draft and antimilitary activity.

Calling themselves "political defendants," they included Fr. Philip Berrigan, convicted of destroying draft files in Baltimore; Jim Hayes, charged with aiding and abetting a military deserter, and Roger Priest, the Navy seaman who is being court-martialed here on charges of soliciting desertion through his undergound newspaper "OM."

Hewitt and Hicks claimed the genocide of black Americans is not being done in the customary way on lining up people and shooting them but by the long historical process of denying them food, money and jobs.

Raids Seen As Boon To Panther Finances

BALTIMORE, Jan. 9—An FBI official said today that recent police raids on Black Panther headquarters in Los Angeles and Chicago have resulted in increased sympathy and financial contributions for the organization.

"The Panthers were on the ropes" until the recent raids, said FBI Inspector Jack Herington during a panel discussion on civil disorders at the winter conference of the Maryland State's Attorneys Association at the Statler Hilton Hotel.

"Suddenly, with all the favorable publicity they (the Panthers) are getting, they are receiving contributions rom people who were knocking them just four months ago," said Herington, who serves as the FBI liaison with various federal and state prosecutors' organizations.

Before the raids, Herington said, the Panthers had used up most of their financial resources for trial and bail expenses.

"I think it's strange that a lot of people in prominent places defend the Panthers today," Herington said. "When they say revolution, they mean revolution."

Herington reiterated previous statements that the FBI is providing the Justice Department with information on the Panthers with an eye toward federal subversion and conspiracy prosecutions. His comments accompanied the showing of "Off the Pig," a movie he described as "a Black Panther training film."

RAY MASAI HEWITT
. . . preparing documents