

6 Arrested in Baltimore Panther Raid

BALTIMORE, From A1

Four other men, including John L. Clark, 30, the defense captain of the local Panther Party, were arrested as they allegedly loaded weapons into an automobile near the Panther office on Aisquith Street. All four were charged with illegal possession of firearms.

Police said they are looking for at least seven other Panthers throughout Maryland in connection with the murder last summer.

The arrests, carried out between 7 and 10 a.m., followed by less than a week the shooting of two white Baltimore policemen, one of whom died. Police officials said today that the arrests were based on information supplied by the FBI in November, but gave no explanation for the time lapse.

Flier Arrest

Marshall Edward Conway, 24, charged with murder in the shooting of the police officer and held in jail without bond in that case since last Friday was charged today as an accessory in the murder last summer.

In the incident Friday, Patrolman Donald Sager was shot to death while sitting in his patrol car. His partner, Stanley Sierakowski, was critically wounded.

Police have not openly linked the shooting of the police officers with the Panthers, but city and state officials have expressed outrage at the circulation in Baltimore of literature explaining how to kill "pig" policemen and make molotov cocktails.

Police said the pamphlets were reprinted from old copies of the National Black Panther Party's weekly newspaper. A spot check by newsmen today in the area where police said the pamphlets were being circulated turned up no sign of them.

Maryland Attorney General

Francis B. Burch obtained a court order today barring further distribution of the anti-police literature. Burch said he planned to meet with U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell next week to "discuss" the newspaper.

"We do not believe it's protected by the Constitution," Burch said. He would not say what action he thought Mitchell could legally take against the newspaper, which is printed in California and distributed nationwide. In Maryland, it is readily available on most college campuses.

There was little apparent reaction to the arrests of the Panthers today among residents of Baltimore's black community. Several people living near the current Panther headquarters building on Aisquith Street, in East Baltimore, said they saw members of the party, only when they saw their newspaper on the street.

Beatrice Q. Adams, a City Council member, who is black, said she knew little of the Panther movement except that "they have had a well-received breakfast program" for poor children of the Baltimore ghetto.

State Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III (D-Baltimore) said he thought the arrests were "ill timed." Mitchell said that if the arrests "had been two weeks earlier, people wouldn't have thought they appeared to be reprisals for the shootings of the two policemen."

Mitchell, who also is black, said he expected no violent reaction to the arrests but he said that black leaders in the city have called a meeting to discuss the situation and keep channels of communication open.

The body of the murder victim, Eugene L. Anderson, was found in Leakin Park in West Baltimore last Oct. 27. At a press conference today, Baltimore Police Commissioner

Donald D. Pomerleau said that investigation showed Anderson had been maimed and tortured before he was shot to death.

The police report of the arrest this morning said that Anderson was tortured on July 10 and 11 last year at 1209 N. Eden St., a former Panther headquarters, and killed the following day. Asked if Anderson had been a police informer, Pomerleau said flatly that he was not.

Charged with murder in Anderson's death are Clarence M. Johnson, 15, Charles Wyche, 36, Irving Young, 26, and Larry Wallace, 21, all of Baltimore. All four waived preliminary hearing and were held without bail pending action by the Baltimore grand jury.

Robert White, a 22-year-old Baltimore resident is charged with assault in connection with Anderson's alleged beating and torture. He was held without bail pending a preliminary hearing. Another woman, Angeline Edison, 20, was arrested on a warrant and held as a prosecution witness.

The FBI said warrants have been issued for Arthur F. Turco, 27, of New York, a lawyer and the only white defendant to be charged; Henry Mitchell of Baton Rouge, La.; Edward Martin, of Washington, and Donald Lee Cox of San Francisco.

All except Cox were charged with assault with intent to murder. Cox was charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Police Commissioner Pomerleau said all the defendants, including seven not yet arrested whose names were not released, were either members of the Black Panthers, sympathizers or hangers-on. Police said they do not believe there are more than 25 active members of the Panthers in the city.

Arrested with Clark in the

firearms case were Willie Joiner, 30; Ronald Davis, 17, and William Coates, 24. All were held without bond pending a preliminary hearing on Friday.

Police said the arrest of Clark and the others charged with the firearms violation was coincidental and not related to the manhunt for persons allegedly involved in Anderson's murder.

Newsmen who followed the police on the roundup said the confiscated weapons included rifles, two shotguns, two handguns and a quantity of ammunition and ammunition belts, pouches and boxes.

Turco, the white lawyer sought by the FBI, was remembered today by Baltimore lawyers for his defense last year of four young Negroes charged with firebombing a supermarket. The four said they belonged to the Panthers.

Turco, a member of the Patriot Party, a white group that supports the Panthers, and has assisted in the defense of the 14 Panthers on trial in New York for conspiracy to blow up buildings and public facilities.

William M. Kunstler, Civil rights lawyer, who is now representing H. Rap Brown in his Maryland arson-riot case (due to come to trial on Monday in Elliott City), made an appearance in the Baltimore Panther case handled by Turco.

An associate of Kunstler in New York, however, said today that Kunstler did not know Turco and has had no other contact with him. Kunstler himself could not be reached for comment.

The arrests coincided with a mass rally held in New Haven, Conn., yesterday, in connection with the impending trial there of Black Panthers charged with the torture-slaying of another Panther whom they allegedly suspected of being a police informant.

At a Washington press conference yesterday a member of the Panther-affiliated National Committee to Combat Fascism denounced the raid as "just another part of the country's mass Panther hunt."

"We will not let people in our community be subjected to such Hitler-type acts," Maurice Lawrence told newsmen.



United Press International

Baltimore police, making a broad sweep of the city against Black Panthers suspected of being involved in a torture-murder, question a suspect. Six persons were arrested and four others are sought on federal warrants.