*11 Blacks*

# 'AFRICANS'

*Arrested in Miss.*

# SHOOT 3 LAWMEN

THE STATES-ITEM

FINAL

LATE NEWS ★ MARKETS ★ SPORTS

Wednesday, August 18, 1971 New Orleans, La. 10 Cents

—AP WIREPHOTO.

Army demolition expert carries bomb from Republic of New Africa headquarters

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—An FBI agent and two policemen were wounded in a 20-minute shootout today at the headquarters of a black separatist group.

City and federal officers, armed with arrest warrants for four people, went to the headquarters of the group called the Republic of New Africa. They said they were met with a barrage of gunfire when they announced their mission over bull horns.

One of the city policemen was wounded critically.

None of the black separatists was shot.

**SEVEN BLACKS** were arrested at the headquarters when they fled tear gas and four others, including RNA president Imari Obadele, were picked up for investigation a short time later at a nearby house.

Elmer Lindburg, assistant head of the FBI office here, said occupants of the frame house fired with rifles and handguns and officers responded with rifles, handguns, shotguns and tear gas.

Lindburg and city police Chief Lavell Tullos said five men and two women ran out the back door to escape tear gas and they were arrested without additional shooting.

**DIST. ATTY.** Jack Travis said the seven would be charged with assault with intent to kill the officers.

Police Lt. Louis Skinner was reported in critical condition at Baptist Hospital with a head wound and Patrolman Bill Crowell suffered severe loss of blood from a shoulder wound. FBI agent William Stringer, wounded in the leg, was reported in good condition.

The FBI said it had a warrant for the arrest of Jerry R. Steiner, 20, of Detroit, Mich., on a murder charge and city police said they had warrants for the arrest of three others on lesser charges.

Steiner was charged in the fatal shooting of James E. Hiscock, 17-year-old white service station attendant, at Battle Creek, Mich., on June 6. He was shot as he raised his head to watch two holdup men flee the station.

**OFFICERS SAID** the other three were Henry Hatches, sought for fraud; Jesse R. Nicholson, sought on assault charges. AND ?

Police said they did not know whether the four were among those picked up.

Obadele, also known as Richard Henry, 42, of Detroit, was among those arrested a few blocks away at another house. There was no shooting at the second house.

**AFTER THE** headquarters was cleared, officers said they found numerous weapons and two bombs. A demolition team was ordered in from Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg to dispose of the bombs.

Police and FBI agents saturated a

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Officer guards black separatists after shooting in Jackson, Miss.

# Blacks, Police in Shootout

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four-block area around the headquarters but there was no sign of any tensions.

The RNA had used the frame house, located in a black neighborhood a few blocks off the main business district, as a headquarters after failing to get farmland it wanted.

The RNA arrived in the Jackson area last fall and negotiated for a tract of rural land west of here to serve as a capital of the black nation they planned to set up in the South.

The land was dedicated several months ago as El Malik, the capital, but a dispute arose between the RNA and owner Lofton Mason, a black farmer, over the price and the RNA was evicted. The RNA has since said it would retake the property and could not be stopped by force.

Today's confrontation was the second in Jackson area in recent months between members of the separatist group and law enforcement officers.

The first occurred March 24 when officers arrested 10 persons—some of them identified as RNA members—on charges of obstructing justice.

POLICE SAID they then moved in on the disputed farmland in Bolton after occupants barricaded a door as authorities tried to question them about a stolen automobile.

Obadele, who had first set up headquarters in New Orleans after moving his organization south from Detroit where it was founded, arrived in Jackson shortly after that incident.

He called the arrests harassment and said they were intended to disrupt the land dedication which was held March 28 with 150 blacks participating.

Since then, Mississippi officials have complained to the Justice Department about the RNA's announced plan to take over five Southern states.