Continuance Granted 11 RNA Members

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A circuit judge has granted a continuance of a preliminary hearing for 11 members of the black separatist Republic of New Africa who face murder charges in connection with the death of a Jackson police officer.

Judge James L. Spencer yesterday granted the continuance until Monday on the requests of the defendants' attorneys. The attorneys also asked that a court reporter be provided at the city's expense. Spencer took the request under advisement.

In agreeing to consider the request, Spencer pointed out there is no basis for a court reporter in his court.

THE ATTORNEYS, meanwhile, argued they had not had enough time to consult with defendants and had not been notified of a change in the hearing time. The hearing, set for 4 p.m., was moved up to 2 p.m. No reason was given

Defense attorney William E. Miller was arrested outside the courthouse following the hearing as he read a statement from jailed RNA leader Imari Obadele.

Police said Miller was arrested because he had failed to proceed with appeal procedures following a traffic violation conviction. Miller had been fined $100 and said he would appeal, County Judge Charles Barber said.

MILLER reportedly was released 15 minutes after his arrest, but police officers did not confirm it.

In his statement before the arrest, Miller said that the individual states did not have the authority to prosecute people who are not citizens of that state, saying the RNA declared itself independent in 1968.

The matter should be remanded to the United Nations and thrown into the international area for settlement, he argued, adding that the group's headquarters should be treated as any other government center or residence of a citizen of another country.

MILLER SAID Obadele claimed it was the police and FBI officers that shot first, not the RNA, in the incident Wednesday. Twenty-nine federal and city officers participated in the gun battle at RNA headquarters.