

PLOT TO POISON POLICE IS BARED

TP 9/29/67
Deaths of Hundreds of
Officers Was Aim

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — One man was arrested and three others sought Wednesday on charges of plotting to start a race riot and then poison hundreds of Philadelphia policemen.

The plot was concocted this past summer by members of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), a Negro extremist group, said Dist. Atty. Arlen Specter.

Specter said one informant also claimed the lives of the mayor, police commissioner and Specter himself "were to be taken."

During the summer, police here and in New York City arrested 16 RAM members on conspiracy, inciting to riot and plotting to kill moderate Negro leaders.

Members of the group also were named in an alleged plot two years ago to blow up the Statue of Liberty and other American monuments.

LENGTHY PROBE

Already arrested on charges

of solicitation and conspiracy to commit murder, incite a riot and arson, attempted murder and other charges was William James Lyles, also known as Rashied, of Philadelphia, said Specter.

Warrants on similar charges also have been issued for Reginald Cranthum, also known as Yusef, Anthony B. Monteiro, and a John Doe known only as Sakeeb, all of Philadelphia. Specter said Monteiro was a University of Chicago student and has asked Chicago police to arrest him.

The warrants said Specter, followed a lengthy investigation by the police civil disobedience squad with help from the Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation and DA's detectives.

POTASSIUM CYANIDE

Specter said an informant, who identified himself as a member of the RAM, gave his office a 34-page sworn statement Tuesday, bringing the probe to a head.

The informant, identified as Hilton Louis Jones, 22, of Philadelphia, turned over about 300 grams of a substance later proven to be potassium cyanide—"sufficient to kill at least 4,500 persons, according to experts," said Specter.

The scheme was to incite a riot, then put the cyanide in food distributed free to police on riot duty as well as in restaurants throughout the city where "policeman and citizens would be taking food and drink," said Lt. George Fencl, civil disobedience squad head.