

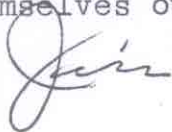
12 February 1974

Hw:

You probably will need this bit of background on the Sympionese Liberation Army. The name apparently is taken from symbiosis, a biological term referring to different life forms living together to mutual advantage. You'll want to examine carefully Fahizah's letter, with attention to the second column where she says the takeover began in 1963 with the JFK assassination and that its end result was Nixon.

I would put this bit of insight down to just a slightly different radical approach, except that these kids apparently have a good supply of cyanide, which is not easily come by. Makes me wonder if they have some influential backing from somewhere far in the background, like someone interested in warning Nixon that a connection can be made. You might try this on for size and let me know how it strikes you. I'm also impressed by the confusion among other radical groups (see the last page of the attached). They appear quite bewildered and really make no attempt to analyze SLA's motives but merely try to take themselves out of the picture by disassociation.

jdw



How some Bay activists

view kidnaping of Patricia

The chronology of SLA's emergence

United Press International

A former leader of the militant Venceremos organization said yesterday that the kidnap of Patricia Hearst, 19, was "counter-revolutionary."

"It will alienate the masses," H. Bruce Franklin, a former Stanford University English professor and an avowed Maoist, said in an interview.

Franklin said the Symbionese Liberation Army used "political language" in its letters to the news media but "nothing in their plan seems to make sense."

"Revolutionaries should try to educate and organize, like the Weatherpeople did. They took action against a specific thing, like the computer in the Pentagon."

"I cannot imagine what political movement the SLA is part of. I blame this on the government in power now in the country. The whole moral fabric of the society is falling apart. We had (Charles) Manson and now we have the SLA."

Actress Jane Fonda said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C., "as an American citizen in this point in time I oppose any form of kidnaping. The New Left does not kidnap and I don't think it's a useful tactic."

And in another interview with radical leaders, David Dubois, editor of the Black Panther newspaper, said:

"This kidnap is antirevolutionary. It sounds to me as if the Symbionese Liberation Army is an arm of the most right wing forces in this country. These people are engaged in a campaign to ignite terror, violence and racial conflict in Oakland because this is the home of the Black Panther Party."

Al Richmond, former People's World editor who broke with the Communist Party after a 45 year association, said, "I generally consider acts like this kidnap as futile but I can understand the enormous inhibition that im-

The Symbionese Liberation Army, now believed to be holding 19 year old Patricia Hearst as a "prisoner of war," had never been heard of before the assassination of Oakland's school superintendent, Marcus Foster, last Nov. 6.

At about 7 p.m. Foster and his chief aide Robert Blackburn emerged from the school district's administration building after a meeting with the Board of Education.

As they reached Blackburn's car in a small, dimly lit parking area in the rear, they were cut down by a hail of cyanide bullets and shotgun blasts.

Foster died almost immediately. Blackburn survived. The three assailants — all young, with perhaps one female — disappeared into the darkness.

The next day, the SLA claimed responsibility, making itself known for the first time.

U.S. Attorney General William B. Saxbe has since termed the SLA "baffling," and says "they're a fanatical group."

"There are indications," he said, "but no firm evidence, that this group extends beyond the Bay Area. People familiar with this group warn that it could show up in Washington or elsewhere."

Their appearances here have been dramatic — murder and kidnap explained in

revolutionary rhetoric — yet they have been so few that authorities still know next to nothing about the army.

Here, in chronological order, are events related to the Symbionese Liberation Army:

Nov. 7 — "Communique No. 1" mailed from San Francisco by the SLA claims responsibility for killing Foster, wounding Blackburn. Says they were executed for promoting a "police in the schools" and student identification tag program. Warns there are execution orders outstanding for all school board supporters of those programs.

Nov. 14 — Oakland School Board drops name tag and police programs from school plans.

Nov. 17 — "Communique No. 2" to the Oakland Tribune lifts the outstanding "shoot on sight" warrant for school board, saying "the fascist Board of Education has made an attempt to heed and respect the rights and wishes of the people by stating that they will not continue to take part in crimes committed against the children and the life of the people."

Jan. 10 — Joseph Remiro, 27, and Russell Jack Little, 24, arrested after shootout with Concord policeman. SLA literature and guns believed used to kill Foster found in their possession. Their van registered to occupant of home at nearby 1560 Sutherland Court, Little holding a key to that house. Both subsequently charged with Foster murder.

Jan. 10, 17 hours later — Deliberately-set fire erupts in that house. When it's out, police discover it's been serving as SLA headquarters. Bombs, cyanide, lists of potential kidnap victims, SLA literature within.

Jan. 11 — Warrant issued for Nancy Ling Perry, who had allegedly been living in house with Little. Charge is arson.

Jan. 17 — Nancy Ling Perry, now calling herself Fahizah, sends "Letter to the People." Explains her philosophy. Tells her "companeros," Little and Remiro, "you have not been forgotten and you will be defended because there has been no setback and all combat forces are intact."

Feb. 2 — Young white woman and black man appear at Patricia Hearst's apartment in Berkeley, asking about units for rent. They are believed to have been casing the place.

Feb. 4 — Miss Hearst kidnaped at gunpoint.

Feb. 7 — Radio station KPFA receives "Communique No. 3" from SLA. It states Miss Hearst, "daughter of Randolph A. Hearst, corporate enemy of the people," is being held as "prisoner of war." She is unharmed and will remain so, it says, unless there is an attempt to rescue her or arrest or harm SLA members. Further communications will follow, it says, and all are to be published in full in all media. "Failure to do so will endanger the safety of the prisoner."

pels social rebels to such acts. An irrational system tends to provoke irrational

SLA's January Letter to the People

A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE

FROM FAHIZAH (former name nancy ling perry)

"TO THOSE WHO WOULD BEAR THE HOPES AND FUTURE OF THE PEOPLE, LET THE VOICE OF THEIR GUNS EXPRESS THE WORDS OF FREEDOM."

Greetings, my comrades sisters and brothers, all love, power and freedom to you. I am very glad to have this opportunity to speak to you, even though I know that what I am feeling cannot be completely expressed in words. You may have heard of me, not because I am any more important than any of you, but simply because my former name has been in the news lately. My name was Nancy Ling Perry, but my true name is Fahizah. What that name

**This is the text of a letter sent to The Examiner and other media postmarked January 17. Large portions were printed in The Examiner on January 19. The full text is printed now because of its pertinence in understanding the aims of the Symbionese Liberation Army.*

means is one who is victorious, and I am one who believes in the liberation and victory of the people, because I have learned that what one really believes in is what will come to pass. So, my name is Fahizah and I am a freedom fighter in an information/intelligence unit of the United Federated Forces of the Symbionese Liberation Army. I still am that, in spite of the fact that I am now being sought for a political action, and in spite of the fact that two of my closest companions are now chained in the Adjustment Center (the prison's prison) at San Quentin concentration camp. I am still with other members of the SLA information/intelligence unit, and I am hiding only from the enemy and not from the people. I have no intention of deserting my commitment nor would I ever try to run away from it, because I have learned that there is no flight to freedom except that of an armed projectile. Although it is the practice of the Symbionese Liberation Army to act rather than talk, I am compelled to speak because I wish to make clear my position and why I am fighting, what it is I am fighting for, what the purpose and nature of the SLA information/intelligence unit is, and why I will continue to fight.

First of all, I think I should tell you something about my background and the evolution of my consciousness. Basically, I have three backgrounds: I have a work background, a love background, and a prison background. My prison background means that I have close ties and feelings with our incarcerated brothers and sisters. What they have taught me is that if people on the outside do not understand the necessity of defending them through force of arms, then it is because these people on the outside do not yet realize that they are in an immediate danger of being thrown into concentration camps themselves, tortured, or shot down in the streets for expressing their beliefs. What my love background taught me was a whole lot of what love is all about, and that the greater one's capacity for love is, the greater is one's longing for freedom. What my work background taught me is that one of the things that every revolutionary does is to fight to get back the fruits of her or his own labor and the control of his or her own destiny.

the People

When I was in high school in 1963-64, I witnessed the first military coup, against we the people of this country. I saw us passively sit by our t.v.'s and unconsciously watch as the militarily armed corporate state took over the existing government and blatantly destroyed the constitution that some of us still believed in. I listened to the people around me deny that a military coup had taken place and claim that such a thing could not happen here. The people that I grew up around were so politically naive that their conceptions of a military coup only recognized those that have occurred in South America and African countries where the military and ruling class took over the government by an open force of arms. But the method of taking over the government was different here. Here the coup was simply accomplished by assassinating the then president John Kennedy, and then assassinating any further opposition to the dictator who was to take power: that dictator is the current president Richard Nixon. In 1964 I witnessed these and other somewhat hidden beginnings of the military/corporate state which we now live in. And I heard my teachers and the government controlled media spread lies about what had happened. I saw the Civil Rights protests, the killings and bombings of my black brothers and sisters and the conditioned reactions of extreme racism in my school and home. When I questioned my teachers about how these occurrences related to the meanings of democracy and freedom that we were told existed to protect us all, the answer I got was that we were better off not knowing the truth about what was happening. I told my teachers and my family and friends, that I felt that we were all being used as pawns and puppets, and that those who had taken over the government were trying to keep us asleep and in a political stupor. I asked my teachers to tell me what happened in Nazi Germany; I asked them to tell me the meaning of fascism; I asked them to tell me the meaning of genocide; and when I began to hear about a war in Vietnam, I asked them to tell me the meaning of imperialism. The answer to all my questions then was either silence, or a reply filled with confusion and lies, and a racist pride and attitude that well, after all, it was all for us.

The experience of living in Amerikkka (underlined) has since taught me the realities of what fascism, imperialism, and genocide mean; and I have discovered the truth about the military take-over and the police state dictatorship, not because I studied about it in college, but because I see it everyday, and because truth is something that is honestly known, as easily as beauty is seen. There is no need for me to relate here everything that I have seen, or everything that I am sure you are already aware of. I am sure, my sisters and brothers, that you realize that the government is now in the rapid and steady process of removing the means of survival from the lower class and giving these benefits to the middle class in an effort to rally support from them. And as the government is removing these means of survival from the people, then naturally the people who have been robbed must in turn take back what rightfully belongs to them, and take back what they need in order to survive. This the current dictatorship calls a crime, whether they take food from the grocery store, or take to the streets to make a speech, or take a gun in their hand to defend themselves.

formation intelligence unit. I fight against our common oppressor, and this I do with my gun as well as my mind. I try to use my mind and my imagination to uncover facts, so that when the SLA attacks it will be in the right place, and that the actions of the more experienced SLA combat units will truly serve to benefit the people and answer their



Fahizah . . . formerly Nancy Ling Perry

needs. The action taken by the SLA combat unit in reference to the Oakland Board of Education was a specific response to political police state programs and the failure of the Board to heed the rights and demands of the people in the community. The specific program was one of the photo identification (similar to the system of apartheid in South Africa), biological classification in the form of bio - dossiers which classify students according to race and political beliefs, internal warfare computer files, and armed police state patrols within the schools. Intensely thorough intelligence operations carried out by one of the SLA information units was able to obtain factual information that Foster's signature was the first to appear on the Nixon Administration inspired proposal for armed police agents within certain Oakland schools and various forms of computer classification of students. Further intelligence revealed that Foster's background included membership on the Philadelphia Crime Commission. Foster's sideman, Blackburn, is a CIA agent. As director of Education in East Africa he worked to implement test programs against black people there, and he trained other agents to carry them out so that he could return to this country and introduce those same programs here. I feel a need to explain this again because I want to make it clear that the SLA was not indiscriminantly issuing death warrants for Foster, Blackburn or anyone else, but rather we were attacking the programs and proposal of which they were the initiators, supporters and first signers. Such an attack was the only means left open to us to demand that the people's wishes be met, and that all such dangerous, genocidal programs be stopped.

The government controlled media has made some reference to the effect that this action was carried out by white people made up in black face. Members of the SLA do not have to make up in black face in order to defend the black community. Since the SLA is a federation formed in the spirit of the United Nations whose command-

ment leadership is composed of representatives of the black, brown, yellow, red and white communities. We have more than enough members from every race to carry out any operation. As revolutionaries we would never disguise ourselves by race, because we would never deliberately act in a manner that would bring further police investigation onto any one race's peoples. But I would like to ask, since when does one have to be black in order to care about the murder of 14 year old Tyrone Guyton by political police state death squads, since when does one have to be white in order to feel for the starving children in Appalachia, since when does one have to be Asian in order to care about stopping the napalming of children in Vietnam, since when does one have to be brown in order to fight against the mass slaughters being conducted by the military junta in Chile???? Since when???? Not since we have come to realize that we are all one in struggle.

I am a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army information/intelligence unit and that means that my responsibility is to aid the combat units with information, and keep myself armed at all times. I am in a race to learn how to fight, because I am in a race to survive. SLA information/intelligence units have a military/political stance with SLA combat units. What that means is that information units totally support armed struggle. That is to say that all members of the SLA understand that politics are inseparable from struggle, in fact politics have no meaning without armed combat and information units to give politics a purpose.

The Symbionese Liberation Army is unlike many existing political organizations in this country which support the armed liberation struggles of peoples throughout the world, but when it comes to the struggle here in Amerikka, they consistently denounce militancy and revolutionary violence, and in so doing denounce the only means left to the people to achieve their liberation.

I believe that whenever people are confronted with oppression, starvation and the death of their freedom that they want to fight. It has been the history of many political leaders to suppress this will of the people, and to pretend that the people do not have the right to fight, and to pretend that the people will somehow achieve their liberation without revolutionary violence. But the truth is that there has never been a precedent for a non-violent revolution; the defenseless and unarmed people of Chile can testify to that. All members of the SLA recognize that we, right here in Amerikka are in a state of war, and that in a state of war, all must be armed, and understand the true meaning of self-defense. When any member of the people's army strikes out at the murderer of our people and children, we are doing so in self-defense, we are doing so because we are left no alternative, and force of arms is now our only legal means to affect revolutionary justice. However, the natural instincts of many people in our country have become perverted by the conditionings to which they have been subjected, they have been conditioned to be afraid of revolutionary violence. I no longer have these fears because as a comrade of mine named Osceola has taught me, "The only way to destroy fear is to destroy the makers of fear, the murderer and the oppressor." A revolutionary is not a criminal nor is she or he an adventurer, and revolutionary violence is nothing but the most profound means of achieving internal as well as external balance.

I would like to correct and clarify the information given to you by the regime-controlled media and police-state reports associating the Symbionese Liberation Army with the August 7th. First of all, statements about August 7th literature and original communiques being found in the Concord house are completely untrue. The Symbionese Liberation Army is NOT the August 7th; in fact, the August 7th is a counter revolutionary Oakland City and California State police plot to discredit revolutionaries and confuse the people. Freedom fighters act only in the interest of the

people, they do not unnecessarily shoot down a helicopter whose crashing would endanger lives of people in their communities, nor do they credit themselves with events or accidents that occur in which they had no part, nor do

—Continued on Next Page

—From Preceding Page

they issue threats which they are unprepared to carry out, nor do they expose the nature and whereabouts of their forces, as for example in the recent statement issued by August 7th saying that armed guerrilla units existed inside the prisons. The events and communiques associated with the August 7th served only enemy purposes: that is, a state wide fear-down went into effect in the prisons and the people began to think of revolutionary action as that which would endanger their lives and homes. As a member of the SLA I can tell you that the SLA takes full credit and responsibility for its actions, we acknowledge everything that we do, and if we had shot down a helicopter, we would say so, and if I had participated as a decoy in a taxi cab incident I would say so. However, I would like to tell you not to rely solely on my analysis that the August 7th and the Oakland and California State Political Police are one in the same, but instead, just take a look for yourselves. Ask yourselves of the extent to which the police state will go to discredit revolutionaries by labelling all street violence as revolutionary activity and by issuing nothing but threatening communiques and then saying that such threats were coming from revolutionaries. It isn't just coincidence that the week the August 7th issued an idle threat against the life of prison official Procunier, was the same week that the California legislature re-instated the death penalty.

The house in Concord, Calif. was a Symbionese Liberation Army information intelligence headquarters, nothing more. The house was set on fire by me only to melt away any fingerprints that may have been overlooked. It never was intended that the fire would totally destroy the premises, because there was nothing left there that was of any real consequence to us, nor was there any material left behind that could stagnate the functioning ability of The SLA to carry on the struggle. The reports that mass armaments were found in that house is a lie. It is an attempt to frame my 2 comrade brothers and it is an assertion to cover up the fact that there were no weapons found there. All that remained were 3 broken BB guns, a couple of malfunctioning gas masks, a few research books, and several liberation posters on the walls. Also, let me tell you that no one living or coming to that house was a part of the SLA combat forces. This can be easily verified; first of all, everyone in SLA combat forces is offensively armed with cyanide bullets in all weapons that they carry; and up until today this had NOT been the case for SLA information/intelligence units or any any support units, at that time all units but combat were only defensively armed with hand guns and carried no cyanide bullets. Secondly, we can easily verify that the ballistics on the .380 now in the hands of pig agents do not match those of the weapon used in the attack on the Oakland Board of Education. Information/intelligence units or any support units were never allowed to possess or have any contact with combat unit weapons. Beginning January 11th however, a directive was issued by The SLA and The Court of the People stating that as of that date, all units of The Symbionese Liberation Army are to be heavily, and offensively armed with cyanide bullets in all their weapons. I would like to convey the word, to my 2 captured companeros: you have not been forgotten, and you will be defended because there has been no set back and all combat forces are intact.

There really are no words available to me to express what I feel about the capture of my two companeros. They are in a concentration camp now because none of us were offensively armed, and because I was not aware that they were under attack. But my beautiful brothers, as we have

learn from our active participation in struggle, not from political rhetoric, so we won't cry, but simply fight on, and right on with that. A comrade of mine, Bo, says something that I'd like to leave you with:

"There are two things to remember about revolution, we are going to get our asses kicked, and we are going to win."

"DEATH TO THE FASCIST INSECT
THAT PREYS UPON THE LIFE OF
THE PEOPLE."

Fahizah

HEARST ABDUCTION PRECEDED BY MAN'S

NY Times FEB 7 1974
He Later Got Free After His
Car Was Used for Girl

NY Times
By WALLACE TURNER
Special to The New York Times

BERKELEY, Calif., Feb. 6—
Two kidnappings, not one, were
committed here Monday night
and two white women, not one,
helped the two black men who
abducted 19-year-old Patricia
Hearst in the second kidnapping,
investigative sources said to-
day.

The first kidnapping was of
Peter Benenson, 31, a mathe-
matician employed at the Law-
rence Berkeley Laboratory at
the University of California, the po-
lice said. He was left tied in
his car after it was used in the
abduction of Miss Hearst. He
untied himself and walked
away before the police found
his car.

Mr. Benenson's name entered
the investigation yesterday
when the police said it was his
1963 convertible that had been
used to take away Miss Hearst,
one of the five daughters of Mr.
and Mrs. Randolph Apperson
Hearst. Her father is president
and editor of The San Francisco
Examiner and chairman of the
board of the Hearst Corpora-
tion.

Seized at Apartment

Miss Hearst was taken
screaming from her apartment
near the university campus at
about 9:20 P.M. Monday by
two black men and a white
woman. Her fiancé, Steven A.
Weed, 26, tried to rescue her
and was beaten until he was
semiconscious.

The police said there had
been no demand for ransom or
other contact from the kidnap-
pers. A family spokesman said
there had been crank calls that
needed to be checked out.
Agents of the Federal Bureau
of Investigation said they had
investigated leads that they did
not describe.

The Berkeley police circu-
lated photos of persons sought
for questioning, including some
identified with militant politi-
cal organizations.

Yesterday the police said

they had found Mr. Benenson's
convertible abandoned a few
blocks from the building in
which Miss Hearst lived.

In early reports, the police
said they feared for Mr. Benen-
son's safety because evidence
indicated he might have been
assaulted. The police found two
sacks of groceries in his car,
and another sack and its con-
tents scattered around his
driveway. Later, the police
said Mr. Benenson had been
found at his sister's home,
where he spent the night.

Questioned and Released

Today the police said Mr.
Benenson had been questioned
and released and insisted that
he wanted to avoid news in-
terviews. They said that he
had been attacked, forced into
his car, driven to Miss Hearst's
address, bound and gagged and
put on the floor of the car
where he heard the commotion,
including gunfire, and then was
left in the car when it was
abandoned.

Mr. Benenson did not see
the faces of the kidnapers,
investigative sources said.

After the kidnapers left him
alone in the car, Mr. Benenson,
badly frightened by their
threats, untied himself. He was
reportedly so intimidated by
the threats that he failed to
notify the police of what had
happened.

Instead of going home, he
walked more than a mile to
his sister's home.

Two white women, one
armed, attacked Mr. Benenson
as he was removing his gro-
cery shopping bags from his
car, an F.B.I. official said late
today, in confirming a report
published in The Oakland Tri-
bune.

Reportedly Not a Witness

From the time he was bound
and gagged and put face down
in the back of the car, Mr. Ben-
enson was not a witness to
much that happened, the F.B.I.
said.

Other investigative sources
said it appeared that the sec-
ond woman had remained out-
side during the kidnapping of
Miss Hearst. Then she drove
one of the two cars that the
authorities believe were used—
the convertible in whose trunk
Miss Hearst was taken away,
and a white station wagon that
followed the convertible. The
authorities believe the bound-
and-gagged girl was transfer-
red to the station wagon, which
was the eventual getaway car.

Dear Jim,

2/17/74

In direct answer to your SLA question of 2/12/74 I am again in the position of siding with Ockie rather than ancient Chinese subtleties which I might find exquisite and applicable to other situations. The simplification to which I reduce it can have several forms, the simplest he needs no warning like this. A variant is what I once heard Dean Andrews say in trying to comfort a client, "The don't hit by Western Union."

However, your inference that this group has connections I buy, with little question.

I did not follow the story in the printed press, caught what I could not avoid in electronic reporting, which was more than enough to make me wonder. My attention to TV can be closer because I do not general work at the desk to it. Instead I do such chores as wrap packages. Often the radio goes while I do other things, hoping to have attention captured by an item of particular interest.

By the acts it claims this is a terrorist not a revolutionary group. Its words mean nothing when there are acts for interpretation. But its words also can be analyzed, and this one reading tells me that it has its own jargon that is plagiarized and a rhetoric that lack reason or logic. It claims that what is without verification can be verified and then this alleged verification is Fahizah's bald allegation, no more.

Before seeing any of this I was disturbed by the Hearst kidnapping, per se and because of the overtones. Then the demands, which are clearly impossible and excessive enough to guarantee non-compliance. And contrary to Fahizah's representations, the innocent is the victim, not those to whom guilt can be attributed. If they were sincere, why didn't they nab Hearst himself?

Without doubt Fahizah's representation of her high-school thoughts of and following 1/22/63 are genuine. They are also quite common. That they come to mind today can be as easily attributed to other things as to burned-in feelings. (The outpouring here continues. Yesterday a call from an unknown woman in Maine to say ~~xx~~ that having just read the WW series she is writing Muskie and Congressman in outrage and with demands. Or, the subject is in many minds, from the young to the cops.) It is today commonly available, is often in the underground press and in some books.

However, her interpretation of the coup as to put Nixon in as dictator is both too cute and wrong. How about, the man it did put in and his policies? Accidents can explain Nixon thereafter. HHH didn't miss by that much is but one example. Or, she does not tell it as it is.

Not even in radical terms, where the difference that came with Nixon is at most in degree.

If I had to give a single opinion it would be that in some way or through some means this groups serves police interests. Fear of reaction may dominate the confused reaction of accepted radicals. The moving finger had not yet write as they have to see it. I think this is correct and requires caution.

I am prejudiced in matters like this by a long abhorrence of violence by anyone for any political reasons so my judgement may be biased. My earliest recollection of the political means of which I approved is Carlson's account of how the Mao forces treated their Japanese and other prisoners. It was non-violent and it was political and it was constructive. So I am not impressed by the claims made for violent acts. They can be sincere and I might not credit them simply because I regard them as wrong.

In the case of SLA, which seems to have sprung from nowhere, it can't be a large force and I do not regard the acts for which it claims responsibility as in any sense revolutionary. They are inevitably unproductive, even when they can be credited with a temporary accomplishment, and the one interest they are guaranteed to serve is justification for repression.

You are correct in your comment on cyanide. I would add what the hell do they need it for and why the hell do they have it? To be sure that a missing bullet hitting the wrong target kills the innocent?

Glad to have an insight. The letter did not attract my attention if the Post used it.

Thanks, HW