

Hoover Warns of Panther-Arab Ties, Says Hijack Is 'Ominous Possibility'

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FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover warned in testimony published yesterday of the "ominous possibility" that Black Panthers may hijack airlines to seek the release of their jailed leader, Bobby Seale.

Appearing before the House Appropriations Committee Nov. 18, Hoover also said there were "extenuating circumstances" that caused Ohio National Guardsmen to fire their weapons, killing four students on the Kent State Uni-

versity campus in May.

Hoover appeared before the committee seeking \$14.1 million in additional funds to hire 1,000 new FBI agents for stepped up activity against gambling, hijacking and extremists.

He testified that Panthers "have substantial connections" with North Korea and Arab terrorists, and reportedly are being "heavily subsidized" by the Arabs.

"Increasing ties between Arab terrorists and Panthers raise the ominous possibility that militants may seek to ape Arab tactics, including airplane hijackings, to gain release of jailed Panther members such as (Party Chairman Bobby) Seale," Hoover said.

Hoover's first public comments on the Kent State shootings said the FBI report on the four deaths "contained both good and bad information concerning both sides of the controversy."

Hoover said the 25-volume report itself drew no conclusions. "There were certainly extenuating circumstances which caused the Guard to resort to firearms," Hoover said. "Perhaps they were not as completely trained as they should have been, but certainly some stated they feared for their lives and then fired; some of the students were throwing bricks and rocks and taunting the National Guardsmen."

Hoover added he had received complaints from all over the country challenging him for having accused the National Guard. "I never accused them of anything," he added.