

Panthers Reject Furniture, Police Say

By Lee Linder

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 2 (AP)—Police Commissioner Frank L. Rizzo said today that furniture and appliances removed from three Black Panther centers in dawn raids

Monday in a search for guns and explosives are being taken back—but the Panthers refuse to accept them.

Rizzo loud and angrily denied a published report that he had apologized to the Panthers for the seizure of furniture and appliances—including refrigerators filled with food—and that his men had violated his orders.

German Smokers

WIESBADEN, West Germany, Sept. 2—West Germans puffed their way through 58 billion cigarettes, 1.6 billion cigars and more than 1,000 tons of pipe tobacco in the first six months of this year, the Federal Statistics Bureau said here today.

exceeded his orders by unnecessarily destroying property.

“That was not my orders,” the newspaper quoted the commissioner. “I apologize for that.”

Rizzo heatedly denied that statement. “We had business there,” Rizzo said. “My men didn’t hurt anybody. I had three guys shot. They had opportunities to blast those lunatics but they didn’t do it.”

He said he ordered mimeograph machines, typewriters, records, papers, and money taken from the buildings. “The furniture and the appliances are going back,” Rizzo said. “But they don’t

want it back. Our trucks are there to put it back and they refuse to accept it.”

A telephone call to the Panther center in West Philadelphia brought this response from a woman member: “Nobody has brought anything back here. Who’s kidding?”

Residents Join Cleanup

Rizzo said the furniture would be returned, the appliances reinstalled and the Panthers reimbursed for any illegal damages to their property. He said 14 guns were found, about 1,000 rounds of ammunition and stacks of literature exhorting, “Kill the pigs.”

All the center were back in business Tuesday after neighborhood residents joined in the cleanup. They are used not only as party information branches but also as homes for party members. A Panther spokesman charged that the raids, in the wake of shootings last weekend that left one policeman dead and three others wounded, were an attempt by Rizzo to “squash” a national Panther convention scheduled to open in Philadelphia this weekend.

The gathering, which the Panthers call their “Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention,” is scheduled to open Saturday night in the 4,500-seat gymnasium of Temple University’s new sports complex.