

U.S. Rejects Sedition Trial For Militant

RALEIGH, N.C., Oct. 23
(AP) — State government sources say the federal government has turned down a request by the North Carolina Attorney General's office that black militant Robert Williams be tried on federal sedition charges instead of state kidnaping charges.

These sources said Wednesday that top state officials including Gov. Bob Scott and Attorney General Robert Morgan requested the U.S. Attorney General's office to take over the case.

"We had hoped that the whole case would just go away," said one state official. "We insisted that the federal government prosecute Williams so that we wouldn't have to go through all the trouble it will probably mean if he's tried in the state."

Williams was charged with kidnaping after a white couple told police they were held captive two hours in Williams' home in Monroe during a racial disturbance in 1961.

Williams slipped out of Monroe before an arrest could be made. He left the country and spent eight years in Canada, Mexico, Africa, Cuba and Red China before returning to the U.S. in September.

On his return, Williams was arrested in Detroit by FBI agents on a federal warrant of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. North Carolina has initiated extradition proceedings.