

Black Militant Wanted by FBI Plans to Return

From News Dispatches

DETROIT, Aug. 25—Robert F. Williams, a black nationalist who fled the United States in 1961 to avoid kidnaping charges, plans to return to Detroit on a direct flight from London Saturday, attorney Milton Henry said yesterday.

If he does, an FBI spokesman said in Washington, he will be arrested on the spot.

Henry said: "Williams isn't guilty of anything and we feel the justices here are more law-abiding than in some other jurisdictions. We feel he will get a better chance here. That's the reason for flying directly here."

Williams, 44, who has been in exile in Cuba, Red China and most recently Tanzania, is charged with kidnaping Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Stegall during a racial disturbance in Monroe, N.C., in 1961.

Williams allegedly abducted the white couple and held them hostage during racial rioting in Monroe in an effort to gain release of arrested Negroes. The Stegalls told police a group of Negroes stopped their car, ordered them out and held them overnight in a house in a Negro district.

Williams had charged he and his followers were being assaulted by roving bands of white toughs, with police refusing to interfere.

The Stegalls were released unharmed, the unrest subsided and Williams later fled to Cuba via Canada.

He was elected president of the black nationalist Republic of New Africa in 1968 while he was abroad. The RNA seeks to build a separate, independent black nation in five southern states.

From Cuba, Williams broadcast messages back to the United States and wrote a book, "Negroes with Guns," which helped form the definition of self-defense used by some segments of the Black power movement.

In 1965, disgruntled with Cuba, he moved to China. Two years later, he tried to have the charges against him dropped so he could return to the United States. Within the past year, he moved to Tanzania.

Attorney Henry said eight other persons involved in the North Carolina incident with Williams were convicted on a similar charges but the convictions were later overturned. Henry said he believes the federal fugitive warrant still out for Williams will be declared invalid because it is based on the same evidence as the overturned convictions.

Since this warrant should not be outstanding, he said, there should be no extradition to North Carolina.

Williams was elected president of the RNA at its founding convention at the shrine of the Black Madonna in Detroit.

In March of this year, members of the RNA were involved in a shooting incident with Detroit police during their first annual convention. One policeman was killed and another wounded. Four RNA members were injured.

Williams's wife and two children flew to Detroit from London last week. He also has a sister and two brothers in the Detroit area.