

Black Police Vow Solidarity

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ATLANTIC CITY, June 6— Declaring they are "no longer co-conspirators with white authority," the largest and oldest organization of black policemen in the United States decided here today they will arrest any police officer they see abusing black citizens.

In a series of strongly worded resolutions, the National Council of Police Societies also called on President Nixon to lay down strict guidelines for police use of firearms, condemned their supervisors for laxity in the enforcement of narcotics laws in the black community and committed themselves to "change the racist behavior of white

policemen since we cannot change their attitudes."

The society is the national association of a score of Negro police societies, many of whose members are veteran policemen in such cities as New York, Chicago, Newark, Atlanta and Oakland, Calif.

Society meetings in the past have been largely social gatherings with a sprinkling of discussion of such questions as how to encourage more Negroes to join police forces.

But the society, according to one officer, is "running to catch up" with the increasing militant stand of the black community.

"The black policeman knows the same heel on his brother's neck leaves a heelprint on his

own neck," said Howard Sheffey, chairman of the board and a New York City police sergeant.

Conspirator Role Hit

"We will no longer be co-conspirators with white authority," Sheffey said, reading one of the society's resolutions. "We have resolved to rededicate ourselves to involvement in black community problems."

Giving a practical example of what the new stance means, Sheffey, assigned to Harlem, said, "If I see a white policeman beating a prisoner, I'll place him under arrest for assault."

Disturbed by the recent shootings at Jackson (Miss.) State College, in Augusta, Georgia and at Kent State University, the council called on the President and the Department of Justice to lay down a "sane firearms policy."

The society gave the responsibility for protecting black citizens from excessive use of firearms to the black police officer himself.

The society advised black policemen witnessing excessive use of firearms to "take proper police action," meaning to arrest the offending officer.

The society, which represents 10,000 black policemen and policewomen, urged the adoption of the guidelines for the use of firearms formulated in 1968 by the Task Force on the Police of the U.S. Crime Commission.

'Deadly Force' Rules

The guidelines recommend that deadly force should not be used against any suspect unless the arresting officer's

safety or the safety of bystanders is endangered.

The crime commission recommended that deadly force should never be used "on mere suspicion" or against a felony suspect "when lesser force could be used."

Robert Lamb of the Community Relations Service, a division of the Department of Justice, agreed to present the recommendations of the society's 600 delegates to the department at the request of the society's leaders.

The society said it was calling on the community relations service to assist because "it is an agency that we feel shares our concerns."

The society said in a resolution "the use of narcotics has increased in black communities and nothing has been done to stamp out this evil... Narcotics is yet another silent firearm brought in, sold and controlled by whites to destroy black America."

The members were urged to "move against pushers and others who sell" or support the sale of drugs.

Calvin Allen, president of the Council of Police Societies and a New York City policeman, charged that police officials have failed to administer the narcotics laws in ways that are effective.

"As long as it remains a problem in the black community," Allen said, "it isn't apparently a serious problem. But to black people it is a serious problem and we intend to do something about it."

The council endorsed the candidacy of Kenneth Gibson, who is running for mayor of Newark.