

Rap Brown Trial on Charge Of Intimidation Is Set in La.

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NEW ORLEANS, June 3 — A federal judge set Jan. 18, 1971, as the trial date for black militant H. Rap Brown on charges of intimidating an FBI agent.

William Kunstler, arguing Brown probably had not fled the country to escape an earlier trial date for which he forfeited bond in Maryland, said: "I suspect Brown hasn't reached a place of last refuge yet, or he probably would be speaking out. If he is still alive, he is probably hiding underground in the U.S."

The intimidation charge, resulting from threats allegedly made on a black agent outside a New Orleans courtroom during a February, 1968, hearing on other matters, is just part of the complicated legal tangle in which Brown is involved.

Missing Since March

The former chairman of SNCC has been missing since March and has been placed on the FBI "most wanted fugitive" list.

There is a possibility the trial may never materialize,

depending on the outcome of a July 23 hearing also granted today by Federal District Judge Alvin B. Rubin.

Kunstler is asking that the intimidation indictment be dismissed because the court, in failing to move toward a trial in 20 months, has denied the defendant's right to a speedy trial under the Sixth Amendment.

Kunstler said he did not know Brown's whereabouts. The lawyer said he last talked to Brown's wife four days ago and that she said she did not know where he was.

Friends Died in Blast

His wife has said she last saw Brown March 8 when he left their New York home to go to a hearing in Maryland in connection with an arson case that grew out of a 1967 speaking engagement in Cambridge, Md.

Two of Brown's friends died in a car explosion as the case was due to begin.

In a news conference in the lobby of the court building, Kunstler disputed rumors that Brown might be in Algeria.

"It is apparent that this defendant, after seeing the fate of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Fred Hampton and countless other militant black men, has decided not to appear in a notorious public place where he too will be subject to similar dangers," Kunstler said.

Brown originally came under the jurisdiction of federal courts in New Orleans on a charge of transporting firearms across a state line. He was convicted on the firearms charge and given a five-year prison term and fined \$2,000.

This case was appealed to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and was remanded to the lower court for a determination as to whether certain

government wiretap conversations were relevant to the case.