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## Another Hair-Raising Scheme Fell Through For FBI Here

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 — Some agencies have a thing about beards.

The Central Intelligence Agency thought Fidel Castro's beard was one of the secrets of his charisma. So the CIA proposed slipping a depilatory into Castro's boots to make his beard fall out.

The plan fell through, just like a plan on beards forth by the St. Louis office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In 1969, FBI memos show, agents saw "a scathing article" against beards in Muhammad Speaks, a Black Muslim newspaper. The article was by Elijah Muhammad, the Muslim leader. He condemned beards as "germ-carriers" and said they were "non-modern."

Wouldn't it be clever, the St. Louis FBI thought, to send that article around?

(Anonymously, of course.) If the black militants who wore beards saw it, the article would cause friction between them and Muhammad the FBI thought.

Hence, the proposal: Would the FBI headquarters in Washington kindly ask all field offices to send to the Chicago office (where the newspaper was published) the names and addresses of all black militants, throughout the United States, who wear beards?

Headquarters responded on July 23, noting that the article had already received wide distribution. Further distribution, headquarters said, "would not have sufficient effect to justify the expenses."

—Robert Adams