

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MEMPHIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>3/30/70</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/30/69 - 3/24/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>INVADERS</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA BURL F. JOHNSON</b>	TYPED BY <b>RM</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>RM</b>	

**REFERENCE:**

Report of SA BURL F. JOHNSON dated 12/30/69 at Memphis.

-P-

**INFORMANTS:**

Identity of Source

ME T-1 is [REDACTED]

ME T-2 is [REDACTED]

File Where Located

ME 170-70-Sub

ME 157-1067-1699, 1711, 1712

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

  

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: <b>ALL COPIES REGISTERED MAIL</b> 8 - Bureau (157-8460) 1 - USA, Memphis 1 - U. S. Secret Service, Memphis 1 - G-2, Ft. McPherson, Ga. 1 - NISO, Charleston, S. C. 1 - 11th MI, Nashville 1 - OSI, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 2 - Memphis (157-1067)		Notations  INDEXED FILED 157-1067-1769 180.3
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		
Agency		
Request Recd.		
Date Fwd.		
How Fwd.		
By		

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ME-157-1067

Identity of Source

File Where Located

MR T-3 is [REDACTED]

ME 157-1067-1703, 1764, 1765

MR T-1 is [REDACTED]

ME 170-1040-Sub

LEADS:

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will continue to follow and report on the activities of the Invaders.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

This report is classified "Confidential" because it contains information from sources of continuing value whose identities, if revealed, might compromise their effectiveness and adversely affect the security of the United States.

Copies of this report are being furnished to the U. S. Secret Service and U. S. Attorney, both Memphis, and to the regional offices of the intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces, pursuant to Bureau instructions.

Careful consideration was given to the use of T symbols, and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where it was necessary to conceal the sources.

LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WIRE" WATSON has been placed on the Security and Agitator Indexes.

Cases have been opened on the following:

[REDACTED]

B  
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ME 157-1067

Background information will be developed on these persons and, where appropriate, reports will be submitted.

A report has been submitted on WILBERT JAMES, JR., and the case has been closed. A review of this case does not indicate that additional investigation is warranted at this time.

[REDACTED]; therefore, no investigation of him is being conducted.

The investigative period of this report predates referenced report because information set forth in this report had not been channeled when the referenced report was prepared.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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- 1 - U. S. Attorney Memphis
- 1 - U. S. Secret Service, Memphis
- 1 - G-2, Ft. McPherson, Georgia
- 1 - NISO, Charleston, South Carolina
- 1 - 111th MI Group, Nashville
- 1 - OSI, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

to: SA BURL F. JOHNSON  
MARCH 31, 1970

Office: MEMPHIS

Office File No.: 157-1067

Bureau File No.: 157-8460

INVADERS

Subject: RACIAL MATTERS

Summary: The Invaders, a black militant organization, was founded in Memphis, Tenn., in the summer of 1967. In 3/70 the Invaders had an active membership of 10 members. In 3/70 the Invaders had no headquarters address and maintained no bank account. LANCE WATSON, Prime Minister of the Invaders, attempted to organize a project called "Operation Breakfast" in the fall of 1969 but was hampered by a lack of funds. WATSON and 4 of his followers demonstrated at the Memphis PD in 2/70 protesting police brutality. In 2/70 WATSON indicated that he was attempting to reorganize the Invaders in an effort to make the organization more effective.

-P-

DETAILS:

I. ORGANIZATION

A. Origin

A militant black nationalist group of young Memphis, Tennessee, Negroes, now known as Invaders, was originally formed in the summer and fall of 1967 by three Memphis Negroes, COBY VERNON SMITH, JOHN BURRELL SMITH, and CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE. During the fall of 1967 and spring of 1968, it

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assumed the name of Black Organizing Project (BOP), with subsidiary cells known as Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB) at Owen College; Black Student Association (BSA) at Memphis State University; LeMoyne College Intercollegiate Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NIC, NAACP) at LeMoyne College; Invaders, primarily consisting of high school students and school dropouts; and City Organizers, consisting of young non-student adults; all having a combined average membership of about 100. The ostensible purpose was to create pride in black identity, to teach black culture and black history, and to obtain employment for young blacks.

(ME T-1, 3/18/70)

B. Headquarters

As of December 10, 1969, the Invaders had no headquarters address. LANCE WATSON, the leader of the Invaders, resided on a part-time basis at the residence of his grandmother, 333 Webster, Memphis; part-time at the residence of his mother, 1709 South Parkway East, Memphis; and part-time at the Trumpet Motel, 380 South Second Street, Memphis. His main base of operations was at the home of his mother, 1709 South Parkway East, and most business matters concerning the Invaders were handled at the latter address.

(ME T-1, 12/10/69)

As of March 20, 1970, LANCE WATSON, Prime Minister of the Invaders, resided at 1031 North Watkins, Apartment 3, Memphis, Tennessee, where most business matters concerning the Invaders are conducted.

(ME T-2, 3/20/70)

C. Officers and Staff

LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON is the Prime Minister of the Invaders and is assisted by MICHAEL STARKS.

(ME T-1, 3/18/70)

(ME T-2, 3/20/70)

D. Finances

As of March 19, 1970, the Invaders maintained no bank account and had no known sources of income.

(ME T-1, 3/18/70)  
(ME T-2, 3/20/70)

E. Membership

In March, 1970, the membership of the Invaders was composed of ten active members who are as follows:

NATHANIEL NESBITT JOHNSON  
MICHAEL JEROME STARKS  
WILBERT JAMES, JR., also known as "Top Cat"  
ARLANDO WARMSLEY, also known as Tony  
DONALD PIGFORD  
TYRONE HOSEA MC NAIRY  
LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON  
LOUELLA JACKSON  
WILLIE WARFORD  
ELGIE WILLIAMS

(ME T-1, 3/18/70)  
(ME T-2, 3/20/70)

II. ACTIVITIES

On December 16, 1969, LANCE WATSON and other members of the Invaders attended a meeting at 449 Patterson, Memphis, at which time they discussed possible candidates who are favorable to the black community in the Memphis area.

(ME T-2, 12/17/69)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on December 30, 1969, at the Trumpet Motel, 380 South Second Street, Memphis. At this meeting a committee on police brutality was discussed and WATSON stated he intended to become a member of this committee.

(ME T-2, 12/31/69)

During mid-December, 1969, WATSON was heard discussing the reorganization of the Invaders.

(ME T-3, 12/17/69)

On the evening of January 15, 1970, a memorial service was held in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Ellis Auditorium, Memphis, Tennessee. LANCE WATSON and other members of the Invaders were observed at this meeting.

(ME T-1, 1/16/70)

On January 15, 1970, CACHEATUH SMITH, a former member of the Invaders, was heard to comment that the Invaders is for all practical purposes a dead organization. SMITH stated that the organization exists in name only and is what LANCE WATSON says it is at a given time.

(ME T-1, 1/15/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on February 9, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Apartment 3, Memphis. At this meeting a "trial" was held regarding LOUELLA JACKSON, who was believed by some of the members of being dishonest. After the trial they decided to use her only in workshop programs.

(ME T-3, 2/9/70)

In mid-February, 1970, LANCE WATSON was heard to comment that he intended to reorganize the Invaders in order to make the organization more effective.

(ME T-1, 2/11/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on February 11, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Apartment 3, Memphis. At this meeting a "rap session" was held at which time the members present discussed the history of the black race, sex, and ways in which the white man has tricked and used the black people. At this meeting WATSON stated he was going to reform the Invaders.

(ME T-2, 2/11/70)

(ME T-3, 2/12/70)

ME 157-2037

LANCE WATSON and four of his followers demonstrated around the Memphis Police Department on February 26, 1970, protesting police brutality.

(ME T-4, 3/2/70)

WATSON attempted to organize a project called "Operation Breakfast," in the fall of 1969 which was designed to provide the morning meal for underprivileged school children in the black ghetto areas of Memphis. This project was hampered by a lack of funds.

(ME T-1, 3/3/70)

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