

# Letter Tells Of Berrigan Plot Strategy

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By Betty Medsger

Washington Post Staff Writer

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1—The Rev. Philip Berrigan, s  
in a letter allegedly sent from  
3 Lewisburg Federal Peniten-  
tiary in June, 1969, advised  
that a project to bomb tunnels  
in Washington, D.C. "should  
have priority for the winter of  
1 '70-'71."

Urging activists to enlarge  
t their area of action in the East  
and Midwest, the letter adds,  
e "... the district is still the  
illusive Golden Fleece."

Father Berrigan and six oth-  
y ers are on trial here for con-  
v spiracy to bomb the heating  
system under federal build-  
v ings in Washington, to kidnap  
presidential adviser Henry A.  
1 Kissinger and to raid federal  
f offices.

"Since resources appear to  
g be available for the subterra-  
d nean project in the district,  
s this should have priority for  
l the winter of '70-'71," said the  
st letter, read in court by chief  
8 prosecutor William S. Lynch.

n The reading came during  
e testimony of Boyd F. Douglas,  
the ex-convict and chief gov-

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ernment witness. He has, testi-  
fied that he smuggled out of  
the Lewisburg facility numer-  
ous letters between Father  
Berrigan and Sister Elizabeth  
McAlister, a nun from New  
York who is also a defendant.

After 2½ days of testimony  
by Douglas, parts of 16 letters  
have been read in court, nine  
of them today.

The letter on "priority" also  
suggested that activists should  
go to West Virginia "and trash  
(raid) the rural boards. It  
might take a couple months."  
The organizing of "mobile  
strike teams" also is men-  
tioned.

Douglas' testimony has in-  
dicated that he played a com-  
plicated role in the alleged  
bombing conspiracy. He has  
testified that he was filing ev-  
erything he learned about the  
alleged conspiracy with the  
FBI, while promising to partic-  
ipate in the action and giving  
lessons on explosives to the  
prospective participants.

Today, he said that during  
the first week in July, 1970,  
"(the Rev. Joseph Wenderoth  
told me he was going to try to  
obtain plastic explosives from  
Indian Head Naval Supply  
area in Maryland.

"I brought up the use of pri-  
mer cord. I told him it was a  
rope-like substance that could  
be wrapped around a tree, or  
conduits in our case, and not  
make a large explosion like  
dynamite or plastic explosives.

"He told me to relay to Phil  
Berrigan that they were work-  
ing on the project and it  
would be carried out as  
planned as per his instruc-  
tions," said Douglas.

Douglas said he learned on  
July 16, 1970, that the Catholic  
activists had chosen Feb. 22,  
1971, as the date they would  
bomb the tunnels. Marjorie  
Shuman, a former nun living  
in Washington, was the source  
of that information, he said.  
An unindicted co-conspirator  
in the case, Miss Shuman, ac-  
cording to Douglas, was intro-  
duced to him by Father Wen-  
deroth as "a gal for the Wash-  
ington action."

Douglas figured in another  
letter read today. "The local  
minister without portfolio has  
emerged as the best thing  
here since polio vaccine," the  
letter said of the informer.  
"His ministrations have been

no less than providential and,  
given the setting here, very  
nearly heroic."

The letter also allegedly ex-  
presses the priest's hope that  
convicts could be enrolled in  
the "movement . . . A regular  
influx of ingenious and reli-  
able ex-cons would make a re-  
sounding blow for public in-  
tegrity," the letter says. "They  
know the law and order peo-  
ple like we'll never know  
them."

U.S. District Judge R. Dixon  
Herman took under advise-  
ment today a defense motion  
that asked FBI Director J.  
Edgar Hoover and Federal Bu-  
reau of Prisons Director Nor-  
man Carlson to provide back-  
ground data on Douglas.

The government maintained  
that the request for Douglas'  
record plus other records per-  
taining to the criminal prose-  
cution of persons who smuggle  
letters in and out of federal  
prisons, was "unreasonable  
and oppressive." The defense  
contended that the govern-  
ment had supplied only a  
small portion of Douglas' rec-  
ord.