

Malcolm X's Slayer Calls Two Innocent Though Convicted

By LESLIE MAITLAND

A man who confessed to killing Malcolm X in 1965 but said that his co-defendants were innocent, is again trying to exonerate the two others. All three were convicted of murdering the black nationalist leader at a Harlem rally.

Thomas Hagan, also known as Talmadge Hayer, said in an affidavit filed in State Supreme Court in Manhattan yesterday that the two others, Thomas 15X Johnson and Norman 3X Butler "had nothing to do with this crime whatsoever." Instead, he said, he was aided in the slaying by four men whose names he gave only as Les. Ren, Willie X and Wilbour.

Mr. Hagan—who, like Mr. Johnson and Mr. Butler, is serving a life sentence—declined to name his accomplices when he testified in the original trial in 1966.

'Feeling of Spiritual Horror'

But according to William M. Kunstler, who is representing Mr. Johnson and Mr. Butler, Mr. Hagan has experienced "a

growing feeling of spiritual horror about what was going on with those two men."

On the basis of new evidence that he says Mr. Hagan is willing to provide, Mr. Kunstler is seeking a dismissal of the indictments against Mr. Johnson and Mr. Butler, new trials or a hearing at which Mr. Hagan would testify. Mr. Kunstler asked the court to allow him to present arguments in the case on Dec. 21.

Mr. Hagan, who comes from Paterson, N.J., and is now a prisoner at the Eastern Correctional Facility at Napanoch, N.Y., said in his handwritten affidavit that he used a .45-caliber weapon to shoot Malcolm X at the Audubon Ballroom at 166th Street and Broadway on Feb. 21, 1965.

He explained that he and his accomplices decided to kill the 39-year-old black leader because he was a "hypocrite" who had "gone against the leader of the Nation of Islam, the Hon. Elijah Muhammad." Mr. Hagan added that "there was no money paid to me for my part in this. I thought I was fighting for truth and right."

Malcolm X, once the chief spokesman for the Black Muslims, broke with the movement about a year before he was killed and set up his own group, known as the Organization of Afro-American Unity.

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