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BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP)

OBTAINING OF GUNS BY INVADERS

On July 4, 1968, source one said that Invader Melvin Smith had said the Invaders are getting guns, and that he had gotten a .303 Enfield rifle "to protect himself from the white cracker."

On July 4, 1968, source two reported that on July 4, 1968, Ben Berry had a .303 Enfield rifle and 20 shells, that Oree McKenzie had a .22 caliber rifle at John B. Smith's apartment, and that they tried to get more shells from Van Cabbage, who had only 30 rounds of 7.65 millimeter shells.

McKenzie and Berry wanted to burn a south Memphis lumber yard at Swift and Davant and then hide and snipe the firemen when they came to put out the fire.

Source added that he had recently seen two .22 caliber revolvers in John B. Smith's apartment, one belonging to Smith and one to Charles Cabbage.

On July 24, 1968, source one advised that on the night of July 23, 1968, John B. Smith, Oree McKenzie, Finus Bethel an Invader, Murrell McCullough, Charles Ballard, Charles Harrington, Verdell Brooks, Lonnie Henderson, also known as Gibson, Emmett House, Jewell Davis and Arthur Norwood were at 1644 Hanauer, Apartment 2, and had a full fourth-pound of marijuana, which they were smoking from a glass water pipe with a hose leading therefrom. John B. Smith instructed Ballard to get the shotgun from beneath the mattress in his bedroom. Ballard produced the gun, a sawed-off single-barrel shotgun, which barrel was not over 12 inches long. It had a clip holding three to six shells. This information was confirmed by source two on July 24, 1968.

On August 3, 1968, following the Police Department raid on John B. Smith's apartment the night of August 2, 1968, Emmett House and Charles Ballard commented they were glad the police had not found the sawed-off shotgun.

On August 1, 1968, source one advised that Ben Berry said the Invaders had to get hand guns such as revolvers and

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pistols as rifles are too difficult to conceal. He also said it might be necessary to "way lay" the night watchmen who carried side arms by beating them in the head and stealing their guns.

On July 25, 1968, source one advised that on the evening of July 25, 1968, at the NOP office, 1310 S. Florida, Charles Harrington, NOP Area Coordinator, advised that the sawed-off shotgun in John B. Smith's apartment had been cut down and had a clip for six shells.

Melvin Smith, an Invader said that all the Invaders need to acquire guns, and that he personally had acquired a .303 British rifle purchased at Woolco. He said the problem with foreign guns was getting ammunition. He recommended getting 30.06 rifles as ammunition for them is plentiful.

Charles Harrington said that the next NOP pay day several NOP and Invaders will buy guns. Harrington said he wants a .357 Magnum revolver.

Melvin Smith, in this conversation, said he used to think John B. Smith's idea of going to war with white society and fighting in the streets was the only solution to problems of the blacks, but he is no longer sure. He said he is inclined to agree with current BOP Chairman Ronald L. Ivy, 560 LaCided, who says the blacks would be out-numbered in a show-down fight. He said Ivy is militant but preaches against fighting in the streets and is more for black political and economic power and black business and control of neighborhoods.