

National Information Center

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SPECIAL BULLETIN
March 20, 1971

MINUTEMEN CLAIM WEATHERMEN DEATHS

The right-wing Minutemen organization, in its January newsletter, has claimed that the deaths of three Weathermen in an explosion last March was the result of a Minuteman infiltrator deliberately misinforming the victims on the use of Mercury switches.

Ted Gold, Terry Robbins, and Diana Oughton were killed March 6th, 1970 by an explosion in a Greenwich Village town house located at 18 West 11th Street. The three, all members of the Weathermen, were presumably working with the explosives at the time of the fatal blast. Two other Weathermen, Kathy Boudin and Cathlyn Platt Wilkerson were reported to have escaped the blast.

The January 1971 Minutemen newsletter, On Target claims that, "One Minuteman who worked independently as an infiltrator among New-Left groups in the New York area for almost six years was invited to participate in the bomb making activities of the group ...Possessing technical skill and knowledge which the academically inclined leftists lacked, he offered to provide them with the practical mechanics involved in using mercury switches for setting off high explosive charges...(He) misinformed members of the group in the use of mercury switches and hoped that they would trigger their own demise..."

The newsletter further commented that the Minuteman infiltrator "...has relocated himself, despite financial difficulties, to another part of the country fearing the chance that he might be recognized by leftists in New York who were formerly acquainted with him..." They also speculated that he might fall victim to government intelligence agencies.

Movement sources in contact with the Weathermen have expressed scepticism as to the validity of the Minutemen claim. It is believed that the infiltrator saboteur story is an attempt by the Minutemen to enhance their image amongst their followers, and to provoke suspicion and paranoia within the Weathermen ranks.

CATHLYN PLATT WILKERSON NOTEBOOK

On Target also contains a transcript of what is claimed to be a notebook stolen from Cathlyn Platt Wilkerson. Supposedly taken from her by Minutemen infiltrators during the "Days of Rage" demonstrations conducted by Weathermen in Chicago, the newsletter is taken up by six pages of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of Movement people and organizations. The listing appears to be genuine. As proof of the notebook's original owner, the newsletter quoted the contents of a hospital receipt made out to Cathlyn Wilkerson from Columbia Hospital for Women, Washington, D.C. The receipt was said to have been stolen at the same time as the notebook.

DRUGS CAUSE SPLIT IN MINUTEMEN?

In other developments in the Minutemen organization, a Chicago faction of the Minutemen has split from the national headquarters in Norborne, Missouri. The Chicago group has charged the following: "The headquarters staff at Norborne have been stealing defense funds...some of this money has been used for the purchase of hallucinogenic drugs which are used quite heavily by persons on the staff at Norborne."

The Minutemen headquarters at Norborne (Box 68, Norborne, MO 64668) has countered with the charge that the Chicago group is "obviously a part of a government attempt to draw off more militant elements of the Minutemen..." They also charged that the mailing address used by the Chicago faction (Box 896, Elgin, IL 60120) was "rented by an individual known to have close connections with U.S. Military Intelligence, which operates out of Evanston, Illinois."

FURTHER INFORMATION

For additional information, or photo-copies of the On Target newsletter, write to National Information Center (NIC), Box 21, Springfield, Mass. 01101.