

Other - Foreign
Other - Foreign

FBI foreign spy 'infiltrat

SAT., FEB. 22/75

By JACK DAVIS

An FBI agent involved in controversial foreign spying operations has been linked by a former New Orleans informant with undercover operations against black militant groups here.

The paid informant, Rudolph Muse, 32, said that in providing the FBI with information on black activists here he had contact in 1968 with an agent whose name was pronounced "high boll."

This was apparently Robert Heibel, a special agent now assigned to the Tampa FBI office but formerly based in New Orleans.

Joseph A. Burton, a Tampa, Fla., antiques dealer who has described his

undercover FBI activities recently for the New York Times and television networks, said in a telephone interview that Heibel was his supervisor.

Burton's activities included posing as a Maoist in order to infiltrate radical groups in the United States and abroad, he said. He said he traveled with a New Orleans woman who had gone to China as an FBI spy in 1971, and visited New Orleans several times in connection with his FBI work.

HE DECLINED to comment on whether the New Orleans woman—who, together with her husband, posed as radical, to infiltrate activist groups here—was also supervised by Heibel.

The FBI asked the Tampa Times not to print Heibel's name, on the grounds it would impair his effectiveness as an agent. However, the newspaper identified Heibel in a Jan. 30 article.

Burton said that Heibel once told him: "If it ever gets out what we are doing, it could be the Watergate of the bureau." Heibel could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The Tampa Times also has reported that Burton's activities were directed at the local level by Heibel, but coordinated by the intelligence wing of the FBI in Washington.

Muse said his work in New Orleans centered on gathering information on

ed N.O. black militants'

black militants, and involved identifying photographs of activists and attending meetings under FBI instructions.

HE SAID he was recruited to be an informant by an FBI agent named "Millworth." Joseph Sylvester, special agent in charge of the New Orleans FBI office, confirmed that agent Wayne Millward had contact with Muse. Sylvester confirmed also that Muse was paid for his work.

Sylvester said he had no personal knowledge of contact between Muse and Heibel and could find no records yesterday afternoon about such contact, but said it was possible that contact was made, perhaps in the form of an FBI

interview of Muse on another subject.

Muse said he believed the FBI had employed other blacks to gather intelligence on militants here.

At a press conference yesterday in the office of the Rev. Avery Alexander, Muse acknowledged receiving several hundred dollars from the FBI. But he claimed he had provided the bureau with no useful information and his real reason for cooperating with it was to find out the identity of other informants.

HOWEVER, HE said he wasn't successful at this either.

According to Muse, Millward approached him in the Father and Son Shoe Store, where he worked as a sales-

man. Millward wanted him to act as an informant because of his contacts with activists established when he was a member of the Congress of Racial Equality, Muse said.

Muse said he turned Millward down, but a few weeks later was fired from his job without explanation. He said he obtained a job at Baker's Shoe Store but was fired after a few weeks, again without explanation, and then was unable to find a job.

He said these "mysterious circumstances" made him believe the FBI was harassing him, and he later agreed to

Turn to Page A-2, Column 1

SAT., FEB. 22/75 THE STATES-ITEM N.O.LA.

ORRESTES PEÑA

FBI 'spied on blacks'

Continued from Page 1

cooperate with Millward.

HE THEN was able to obtain a job as an "attorney's aide" with the federally funded New Orleans Legal Assistance Corp. (NOLAC), which provided legal services to poor people, mostly black. He said he believed the FBI had nothing to do with his getting that job.

Disclosures that Muse—who had access to NOLAC's files on clients—was an FBI operative created a furor earlier this month, even though Muse claimed he never conveyed any information from the files to the bureau.

Muse said he received \$120 to \$200 a month for four or five months—denying reports that he had worked for the FBI for eight months—and said he had listed the payments under "personal services" on his 1968 federal income tax return.

He said he has had no involvement with the FBI since then. "I disagree now as I did then with the tactics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation," Muse said in a prepared statement. He refused to describe the "tactics."

Even though he accepted FBI money and followed FBI instructions, Muse

said he could not be described as an informer. "I am not ashamed of the role I played," he said.

ASKED WHETHER he feared retribution from black militants now that his FBI role was widely publicized, Muse said he didn't, adding that people in the black community knew that he didn't want to help the FBI and wouldn't harm him.

The FBI wanted information on anybody seeking to improve the condition of the black community, Muse said. But under questioning, he admitted he knew personally of no FBI interest in the Urban League, the NAACP or the Black Panthers.

Two groups the FBI wanted to receive information about were called the House of Wisdom and Black Vets United, he said.

Muse said the original FBI approach to him was a request to bring in information about blacks involved in drug and weapons traffic, but he said he knew no one involved in such activities.

In an earlier interview Muse said the FBI had been successful in disrupting the activities of self-help black groups, but he did not elaborate.

ORRESTES PEN A
6003 GEN HAIG ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
70124



MR.
HAROLD WEISBERG
ROUTE 3
FREDERICK, MD. 21701