

GRAND JURY SET FOR SEPARATISTS

Blacks in Mississippi Face Action in Policeman's Death

Special to [NYT]

Jackson, Miss., Aug 23 - The 11 members of the Republic of New Africa charged with the slaying of a Jackson police lieutenant and the wounding of another policeman were bound over for grand jury action at a preliminary hearing here today.

The preliminary ruling by City Judge William Spenser, followed a four-hour hearing on the charges with testimony by

Jackson policemen and the doctor who had treated the slain officer.

Hours before the hearing, Elmer Lindberg, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, charged that the black separatists had been tipped off about a raid last week by informers hired and paid by the F.B.I. He also charged that the informers had given the bureau poor information about the group and what they had been doing.

Mississippi's Attorney General A. B. Summer, said this morning that the incident which resulted in the slaying of the police officer, the wounding of a city policeman and an F.B.I. agent, would not have occurred if United States Attorney General John N. Mitchell had acted on a request by the state to take action against the Republic of New Africa.

Mr. Summer described the R.N.A. members as armed insurrectionists and called on the United States Attorney General to take action.

Testimony at the hearing centered on police and F.B.I. efforts to serve the group with arrest warrants at their headquarters.

According to testimony by police men, the F.B.I. was attempting to serve Gerry Steiner of Detroit with a murder warrant for the slaying of a service station attendant in Michigan.

Fear Gas Fired into House

Jackson's Police Chief, Lavelle Tullos, testified that the combined police-F.B.I. force had given the separatists one minute and 15 seconds to come out of the house before tear gas was fired into the headquarters. Chief Tullos said that after the tear was fired the R.N.A. group started shooting back.

Defense attorneys were unsuccessful in attempts to get the police to concede that electronic surveillance had been used.

In its final summation the defense charged that the group had been attacked by the police and that the separatists were defending themselves from unlawful arrest.

'Prisoner of War' Fund

A "prisoner of war" fund to finance expenses for the 11 jailed separatists, was started by the Republic of New Africa, a spokesman said yesterday at a news conference in Harlem.

One of the 11 is the group's president, Imari Abubakar Obadele. In a press release yesterday, Mr. Obadele expressed regrets that W. L. Skinner, the police lieutenant, had been killed.

However, Mr. Obadele condemned the Jackson Chief of Police and the F.B.I. for raiding the Republic's offices, adding that "any warrant can be designed to just peacefully provide one or two black lawyers are present."

The black separatists have been controversial in Jackson since last spring when they began negotiations to purchase 20 acres to establish a capital for a separate black nation. A disputed injunction was issued to prohibit members of the group from coming on the site.