

## New Orleans Police Link

### Sniper, Note

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 30 (UPI)—A New Orleans television station said police experts have confirmed that a delayed letter the station received warning of an attack on the police station came from hotel sniper Mark Essex or someone working with him.

The letter said that "the death of two innocent brothers will be avenged." The words were an apparent reference to the death of two black students at Southern University in Baton Rouge on Nov. 16 in a confrontation with police.

Essex, 23, of Emporia, Kan., was killed by police gunfire the night of Jan. 7 atop the Downtown Howard Johnson Hotel. In all, eight died and 20 were injured or wounded in the 27-hour sniper siege that paralyzed downtown New Orleans.

Station WWL-TV said Monday that the letter was postmarked Jan. 2 and was received Jan. 3.

"That letter warned of an attack on police headquarters the night of Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, but the delay in

mail delivery over the New Year's prevented us from getting the letter until the attack had taken place," said newsmen Bill Elder.

In the New Year's Eve attack on Central Lockup, a police cadet was killed and another policeman standing near him was wounded.

A week later, Essex was shot down on the hotel roof. Police said the same .44 magnum Ruger carbine found beside Essex's body Jan. 8 was the one which fired the bullets that killed the police cadet Dec. 31.

The letter received by WWL-TV said:

"Africa greets you. On December 31, 1972 appt. (approximately) 11 p.m., the downtown New Orleans police department will be attacked.

"Reason—many. But the death of two innocent brothers will be avenged. And many others. P.S. Tell pig (Police Superintendent Clarence) Giarrusso the felony action squad ain't (obscenity)."

The letter was signed "Mata," a Swahili word meaning "instrument to kill." The word "Mata" was among other black revolutionary slogans found scrawled across the walls of Essex's New Orleans apartment.