

Memorial to a Radical Leader Written by Fugitive

By LINDA CHARLTON

A "profile" of Samuel Melville, who was sent to Attica prison for his role in a series of 1969 bombings in New York City and killed during last September's uprising at the prison, has been written from underground by Jane Alpert, herself a fugitive from justice for her role in the bombings.

The profile is being published today with a collection of Melville's letters from Attica, where he became a leader of the rebellion during which he was shot to death.

Miss Alpert, who was living with Melville at the time of their arrest in the fall of 1969, for a series of politically motivated bombings, jumped bail in May, 1970, and has been underground ever since.

The book, entitled "Letters From Attica" and being published today in both hard-cover and soft-cover editions, totaling about 15,000 copies, by William Morrow & Co., Inc., 105 Madison Avenue, does not include any letters Melville may have written to Miss Alpert. The letters are addressed to his estranged wife, Ruth; their son, Jocko; his lawyer, William Crain, and several friends.

The profile—40 pages long, and starting, "I fell in love with Sam Melville on a crisp September morning in 1968, at a sit-in in front of the St. St. Marks Arms on West 112th Street"—arrived by mail at the home of Sanford Katz, Miss Alpert's lawyer, not long after Melville was shot to death at Attica.

Mr. Katz said this was the first communication he had from Miss Alpert since she jumped her \$20,000 bail and went into hiding. It was, he said, "a bolt from the blue." It was accompanied by a covering note giving him "carte blanche to make what use of it I saw fit."

He said he had not "the vaguest idea" of Miss Alpert's whereabouts, adding: "I just hope she's well."

He passed on the profile to John Cohen, a friend of Melville who collected and edited the letters for publication and has written an introduction to the collection.

After having been questioned by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the Alpert manuscript — it was

a copy that was transmitted to the publisher — and the envelope in which it was mailed, Mr. Katz said, he has now been subpoenaed to appear next week before a Federal grand jury to be questioned about it.

Royalties from the book, Mr. Katz said, are going in part to Melville's son and in part to "an individual" who he said he preferred not to identify beyond saying it was not Miss Alpert. Of the letters, he said he thought they were "very moving and very telling in terms of what Attica was like—reflect the man who grew inside prison, grappled with prison and with himself. . ."

Hillel Black, the Morrow editor for the book, said he had learned of the existence of the letters originally through William M. Kunstler, the radical lawyer. The profile of Melville

by Alpert, he said, arrived from Mr. Katz after the book was in production and the publisher "stopped the presses and put this in."

Mr. Black said that he also has been questioned by the F.B.I. about the origin of the Alpert manuscript.

The memorial, written after Melville's death but not apparently with any knowledge that a book was under way, according to Mr. Katz, discusses her personal and political involvement with Melville in detail.

He was "the most dynamic human being I'd ever met," she wrote and could be "an incredibly warm and open human being" who "always preferred naked confrontations—of any kind—to ideological debate" although she was angered by the "sexual fascism" of his attitude toward women.

There are details of the bombings, including Melville's holdup of an explosives warehouse to obtain the needed dynamite, and of their life together, including a trip to the Woodstock Festival, where, she wrote, Melville first encountered the man believed to have been the undercover agent who turned them in to the F.B.I.

She indicated that Melville—who was not released on bail—was aware of her plans to flee.

The Melville letters start in November, 1969, shortly after his arrest, and end with one written to his lawyers Sept. 4, 1971, only days before the inmate uprising exploded.

They record his continuing struggle to be allowed certain books and publications and food parcels, and of his "systematic mistreatment" at Attica. By May, he was writing of the necessity of attacking "the fundamental question of prisoners' rights."

The last letter states: "We are treated as dogs" and ends with a plea to his lawyers, "But for Christ's sake, do something."