

Plot to Kidnap Kissinger Is Charged; Philip Berrigan and 5 Others Indicted

Jury Alleges a Plan to Blow Up Heating Units of Federal Buildings

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By FRED P. GRAHAM
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 12— Six persons, including the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan, were indicted today on Federal charges on plotting to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, assistant to the President for national security affairs, and to blow up the heating systems of Federal buildings here.

Father Berrigan, a pacifist Roman Catholic priest who is serving a prison term for destroying draft records, and the five others were charged in a seven-count indictment issued by a Federal grand jury in Harrisburg, Pa. The others included two priests and a nun.

Seven additional persons were named as co-conspirators but not as defendants.

One of the defendants, the Rev. Joseph R. Wenderoth, 35 years old, of Baltimore, has publicly identified himself as a member of an antiwar group calling itself the East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lies.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, charged in Senate testimony last November that Father Berrigan and members of



Associated Press
Rev. Philip F. Berrigan



The New York Times
Henry A. Kissinger

the East Coast Conspiracy where conspiring to use kidnaping and sabotage to force the Government to decelerate the war in Southeast Asia.

The five other than Father Berrigan were arrested today by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Besides Father Wenderoth, they were Sister Elizabeth McAlister, 31, of Marymount College, Tarrytown, N. Y.; the Rev. Neil R. McLaughlin, 30 of Baltimore; Anthony Scoblick, 30, of Baltimore, a former priest, and Eqbal Ahmad, 40, who is a fellow at the Adlai Stevenson Institute of Public Affairs, Chicago.

According to the indictment, the group planned to obtain mats and diagrams of underground tunnels in Washington that contain the heating systems for Government buildings, and to enter the tunnels and locate the heating pipes.

The indictment said that dynamite charges were to be exploded on George Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, in five locations. The purpose was to knock out the heating systems in Government buildings, it was alleged.

On the following day, Mr. Kissinger would be kidnaped.

Continued on Page 28, Column 1

Conspiracy to Kidnap Kissinger Charged

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4 the indictment went on. Then a statement would be issued demanding that the conspirators demands be met in exchange for his safe return, it said.

The indictment alleged overt acts of conspiracy on April 1, 1970, when it said Father Berrigan and Father Wenderoth went into underground tunnels here, and on Aug. 24, 1970, when it said Father Berrigan sent written instructions from the United States Penitentiary in Lewisbur, Pa., to Sister Elizabeth McAlister.

The indictment was apparently brought in Harrisburg be-

cause the second act of alleged conspiracy, and others listed in the indictment, took place in that judicial district.

Those named in the indictment as co-conspirators, but not defendants, were the Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan, 49, brother of Philip Berrigan, who is also serving a term for destroying draft documents; Sister Beverly Bell, 43, of Washington; Sister Marjorie Ashuman, 47, of Washington; William Davidon, 43, a professor at Haverford College in Haverford, Pa.; Thomas Davidon, 25, of Washington; Paul Mayer, 39, of Edgewater, N. J., a former priest, and Sister Joques Eagan, 52, reportedly a member of the religious order of the Sacred Heart of Mary in New York City.

The six defendants were ac-

cused of conspiring to commit the crime of maliciously destroying United States property by means of explosives; possessing dynamite, plastic explosives and detonating cord that had not been registered under Federal laws; transporting explosives in interstate commerce for the purpose of destroying property, and kidnapping and transporting in interstate commerce a person for ransom, reward or otherwise.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell announced the indictments from his office here.

The possible penalties for conviction range from five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine on one count of the indictment to any number of years up to life imprisonment under the kidnapping count.