

# Anti-Panther Ploy Is Laid to FBI

By Ronald J. Ostrow

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The FBI, trying to "fully capitalize" on gang warfare between black militant groups, ordered its field offices in 1968 to propose "hard-hitting" steps for pitting Black Panthers against the rival organization called US.

The orders from then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover went out two months before two Black Panthers were murdered at the University of California at Los Angeles by two US Party members in January, 1969, according to documents obtained by the Senate intelligence committee.

But James B. Adams, deputy associate director of the FBI, has testified that "none of our programs have contemplated violence, and the instructions prohibited it."

The Hoover instructions said the struggle between the Panthers and US "has reached such proportions that it is taking on the aura of gang warfare with attendant threats of murder and reprisals."

"In order to fully capitalize upon BPP and US differences as well as to exploit all avenues of creating further dissension in the ranks of the BPP, recipient offices are instructed to submit imaginative and hard-hitting counterintelligence measures aimed at crippling the BPP," the instructions directed.

"Commencing Dec. 1, 1968, and every two-week period thereafter, each office is instructed to submit a letter under this caption containing counterintelligence measures aimed against the BPP. The

biweekly letter should also contain accomplishments obtained during the previous two-week period under captioned program.

"All counterintelligence actions must be approved at the bureau prior to taking steps to implement them."

On Jan. 17, 1969, two Los Angeles Black Panther leaders, Alprentice (Bunchy) Carter and John Jerome Huggins, were fatally shot at the end of a meeting at UCLA about a proposed black studies program.

Two brothers, George and Larry Stiner, reportedly US members, were convicted of the slayings. Sentenced to life imprisonment, they escaped from San Quentin March 31, 1974, and are at large.

The killings were said by close observers of black militant groups to have poisoned relations between the Panthers and US and to have prevented the two organizations from settling their differences.

In releasing the Hoover memorandum, the Senate committee attached copies of nine cartoons—some critical of the Panthers and others that condemned US—which committee sources said the FBI disseminated.

"We always suspected they came from the police," Karenga said in a telephone interview. "We played into their precious hands and were tricked."

Paroled in May, Karenga is teaching Afro-American studies at San Diego State University and working to complete a Ph.D.