

(Other clippings on this filed Preparation,)

# Hoover Accuses Clerics

## Says Sabotage Was Planned

WASHINGTON — (AP) —An East Coast anarchist group led by two imprisoned Roman Catholic priests plotted to blow up underground power lines of the nation's capital and to kidnap as hostage a high federal official, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover disclosed today.

The purpose, Hoover told a Senate appropriations subcommittee, is to "disrupt federal government operations" and to use the kidnaping as a lever to demand an end to U.S. bombing operations in Southeast Asia and the release of all political prisoners.

The principal leaders of the plot, Hoover said, are Philip and Daniel Berrigan, Catholic priests who are currently incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institution at Danbury, Conn., for their participation in destruction of Selective Service records in Baltimore, Md., in 1968.

### Possible Target

Hoover said a White House staff member's name had been mentioned as possible victim of the kidnap plot.

Hoover cited the alleged plot of the anarchist group as an example of the increased willingness among extremist groups "to employ any type of terrorist tactics."

He said the group is known as the "East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lives" and has

described itself as being composed of Catholic priests and nuns, teachers and former students "who have manifested opposition to the war in Vietnam by acts of violence against government agencies and private corporations engaged in work relating to U.S. participation in the Vietnam conflict."

An attorney for the Berrigan brothers, Father William C. Cunningham, S.J., issued a statement for himself and attorney William M. Kunstler, who also has represented the Berrigans.

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Cunningham called Hoover's remarks "scurrilous and self-serving" and said to reply to the specific details "would be to lend it a dignity that it cannot command on its own strength."

He said if Hoover had the evidence he claimed he would prosecute the Berrigans.

"Instead he has seen fit, in order to try to stampede a Senate subcommittee into supplementing his agency's annual appropriation to provide for 1000 additional FBI agents, to fabricate the far-fetched spy story and, at the same time, stigmatize men who like former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, have publicly criticized him," Cunningham said.

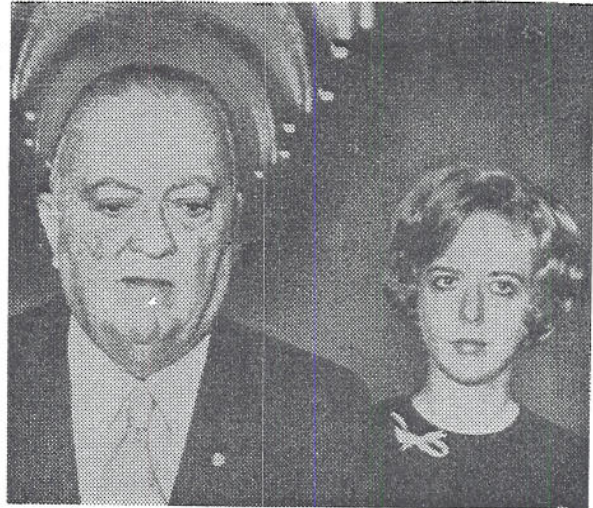
Hoover also said increasing ties between Arab terrorists and the Black Panthers "raise the ominous possibility that militants may seek to ape Arab tactics, including airplane hijackings, to gain release of jailed Panther members" such as Bobby Seale.

Hoover said the Panthers have "substantial connections with hostile foreign elements, notably the Communist regime in North Korea and Arab terrorists in Algeria."

He added Arab guerrillas reportedly are heavily subsidizing the Panthers and testified a new "international of-

face" of the Black Panther Party was opened in Algiers in September under the leadership of Eldridge Cleaver, whom he described as a Black Panther fugitive.

Hoover made his disclosure in seeking a supplemental



**J. EDGAR HOOVER REVEALS PLOT**

FBI director after his Capitol Hill appearance today  
—AP Photo

appropriation of \$14,150,000 to provide an additional 1000 FBI agents and 702 more clerks for field operations.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) took Hoover's testimony in closed session but made public a copy of his statement.

The FBI director said the additional personnel are required to handle the increased work that will fall on his agency as a result of the Organized Crime Control Act passed by Congress last month as well as investigations of the New Left, racial extremism and aircraft hijackings.

Hoover testified that all court-approved telephone and microphone surveillances being operated by the FBI under legislation passed by Congress in 1968 are in connection with organized crime.

He said that, as of Nov. 16, the FBI was operating 21 telephone surveillances based

on nine court orders and nine more telephone taps were awaiting installation.

An additional 35 telephone surveillances and one microphone surveillance have been proposed to the attorney general and are awaiting clearance, he said.

Hoover said information obtained from such installations have enabled the FBI to make more than 200 arrests in the last 11 months, including some of the nation's top mobsters.