

National Bulletin Tells Minutemen to Shun 'Suicidal' Sabotage but Keep an Eye on Reds

By PETER KIHSS

The current national bulletin of the Minutemen calls upon member bands to identify "leading Communists and Communist sympathizers" and "determine the best manner for eliminating or controlling these individuals."

But the bulletin also says that "in this period of the cold war, we are governed by the principle of deliberate delay," and "it would be suicidal to engage in sabotage or guerrilla warfare." It adds that "as long as there is a remnant of a constitutional republic," members should refrain from "activity that might appear unwarranted and embarrass the cause of freedom and the Minutemen organization."

The bulletin, received in the mails Monday in the New York

area, was made available yesterday by the Anti-Defamation League, which watches extremist activities. The Queens grand jury, meantime, spent its second day investigating activities of 19 alleged Minutemen conspirators accused of plotting fire-bombings.

William H. Booth, chairman of the City Commission on Human Rights, visited District Attorney Nat H. Hentel of Queens. Later Mr. Booth told newsmen his commission believed there was a "tie-in" between the Minutemen and unfounded reports of violence that led to troubles in recent months "in East New York, Bushwick, Lafayette, Bensonhurst-Gravesend and John Adams High School in South Ozone Park."

District Attorney Hentel said "hundreds" of copies of a false

anti-Negro parody application for civil rights organizations had been found in the Bellmore, L. I., home of William Garrett, an alleged coordinator of a Minuteman group.

Mr. Hentel said another of the defendants, Robert Bagwell, a Roosevelt, L. I., gardener, was reported to have belonged to the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina. The Queens prosecutor said his office's community advisory council had organized block meetings to counter anti-Negro handbills in Laurelton, Queens, last summer.

The grand jury is to resume its inquiry Friday. Mr. Hentel said his office had received information that some defendants might have set off explosions in Suffolk County to "perfect technique in detonating."

Capt. James Brook, com-

mander of the Suffolk County police intelligence squad, asserted yesterday that Victor Prestigiaco, a Smithtown draftsman, had been "chief chemist for the Suffolk Minutemen." Captain Brook asserted that Prestigiaco and three of the other defendants arraigned Monday in Queens had exploded four to six homemade grenades in the rural Calverton area of Riverhead Township about a month ago.

However, Inspector Oray L. Edwards, county chief of detectives, said this was information "we were not able to verify." Capt. Donald Schmidt, commanding the county detectives in eastern Suffolk, and Riverhead Police Chief Stephen J. Grodski said they had never been notified of the alleged incidents.

The 12-page current "September 1966 Bulletin" from Minutemen headquarters in Norborne, Mo., appealed for funds on the ground the national coordinator, Robert B. DePugh, was facing a Federal firearms conspiracy trial and other charges that could lead to sentences of more than 100 years.

Organizing Tips Given

Ten pages described how to set up bands. These were to have 18 to 36 persons each, subdivided into three to six teams. Each team was to split into two cells, for security reasons, with one cell's members knowing those in the other only by code names.

Teams were instructed to learn about law-enforcement agencies by "recruiting, in-

filtration and surveillance," including "over-all strength, radio-communication frequencies, identity, description and political beliefs" and car-license numbers.

Other instructions called for hiding arms and ammunition at different depots, to hold down losses in case of discovery, and for mapping locations of utili-

ties and "supplies of arms, ammunition and explosives regardless of present ownership."

An Anti-Defamation League spokesman said that a special order to Minutemen last month had warned of "an extremely serious security leak" and had suspended the use of "mail drops" until "special couriers" could deliver new instructions.