

F.B.I. REPORTS PLOT BY ANTIWAR GROUP TO KIDNAP U.S. AIDE

Hoover Says 2 Priests Head
Group Demanding End
to Bombing in Asia

BERRIGANS ARE NAMED

Lawyers for Militants Say
Story Was Fabricated in
Bid for More Funds

By FRED P. GRAHAM
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 —

A militant antiwar group led by two Roman Catholic priests is plotting to kidnap a White House aide or other public official, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said today.

"If successful, the plotters would demand an end to United States bombing operations in Southeast Asia and the release of all political prisoners as ransom," Mr. Hoover said.

the Rev. Philip F. and the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, brothers who are being held in the Federal correctional institution at Danbury, Conn. They were convicted of participating in the destruction of Selective Service records in Maryland in 1968.

Story Called Fabricated

Mr. Hoover's references to the two priests brought a retort from William M. Kunstler and the Rev. William C. Cunningham, two lawyers who represented them at their trials. They termed his testimony "a far-fetched spy story," fabricated to persuade the subcommittee to approve additional funds to the F.B.I.

Mr. Hoover identified the militant organization as "an anarchist group on the East Coast, the so-called East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lives."

The group also "plans to blow up underground electrical conduits and steam pipes serving the Washington, D. C., area in order to disrupt Federal governmental operations," Mr.

Hoover said.

The 75-year-old F.B.I. director made the statements in testimony from a prepared text this morning before a closed session of a Senate Appropriations subcommittee chaired by Senator Robert C. Byrd, West Virginia Democrat. The committee released the testimony.

Mr. Hoover appeared before the subcommittee to ask for a supplemental appropriation of \$14.15-million to provide 1,000 additional agents and 702 more

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clerks. He said the new personnel were needed to handle the increased workload that would be created by the newly enacted organized crime control act and investigations of the new left, radical extremists and aircraft hijackings.

In his testimony, Mr. Hoover said that previously undisclosed intelligence information indicated that lack militant and left-wing extremist groups were turning toward such guerrilla tactics as kidnapping, airplane hijacking and sabotage to achieve their objectives.

"Arab guerrillas reportedly are heavily subsidizing the Panthers and a new 'international office' of the Black Panther party was just opened in September, 1970, in Algiers" under the leadership of the fugitive Black Panther leader, Eldridge Cleaver, Mr. Hoover testified.

Arab Tactics Cited

He said that these ties "raise the ominous possibility that militants may seek to ape Arab tactics, including airplane hijackings, to gain release of jailed Panther members." Two former Panther members returned to the United States in early September after a tour of training camps of Al Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization, Mr. Hoover said.

The 75-year-old F.B.I. director appeared before the subcommittee to ask for a supplemental appropriation of \$14.5-million to provide 1,000 additional agents and 702 more clerks. He said the new personnel were needed to handle the increased workload that would be created by the newly enacted Crime Control Act and investigations of the new left, radical extremists and aircraft hijackings.

Mr. Hoover spoke in the present tense when he discussed the alleged kidnapping plot, which he said had been recently uncovered by F.B.I. agents.

"The plotters are concocting a scheme to kidnap a highly placed Government official," he said. "The name of a White House staff member has been mentioned as a possible victim."

Later he told a reporter that

other high Government officials and several foreign diplomats were on the list of potential kidnapping victims.

Neither Mr. Hoover nor any other Government official would give any hint as to the identity of the White House aide or any other persons allegedly marked for possible kidnapping.

Senator Byrd told reporters later that he had not asked. He did disclose that the Justice Department was asking for an ad-

ditional appropriation of \$7.29-million to hire more Federal marshals to protect Federal judges.

At the White House, the press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said that officials there were aware "of the circumstances surrounding Director Hoover's testimony," but he declined to elaborate on it.

Mr. Kunstler and Father Cunningham, in a news release issued in New York, said:

"If Mr. Hoover had the evi-

dence that he claims to have, then it would be his sworn duty to see that the Berrigans and their alleged co-conspirators are prosecuted."

Asked if such prosecutions were contemplated, a spokesman for the Justice Department said that the department would follow the White House's lead of not elaborating on Mr. Hoover's statements. F.B.I. spokesmen declined to comment.