

KING

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FBI's fear of a black 'messiah'

Chicago Daily News

CHICAGO — A federal judge is expected tomorrow to reveal the names of several black leaders J. Edgar Hoover viewed in 1968 as potential "Messiahs" to lead a black revolution in America.

Hoover mentioned the names in a memo ordering several FBI offices around the country to develop programs to prevent the rise of any black leader who "could unify and electrify the militant black nationalist movement."

A copy of the memo, with the names blacked out, was made public in 1973 through a freedom-of-information suit brought against the FBI by NBC Washington correspondent Carl Stern.

Hoover's memo said a primary goal of the FBI's new program was to:

"Prevent the rise of a 'Messiah' who could unify and electify the militant black nationalist movement. (Blank) Might be such a 'Messiah'; he is the martyr of the movement today. All aspire to this position (Blank) is less a threat because of his age. Would be a very real contender for this position should he abandon his supposed 'obedience' to 'white, liberal doctrines' (nonviolence) and embrace black nationalism. (Blank) has the necessary charisma to be a real threat in this way."

U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Perry indicted yesterday he will fill in all those blanks tomorrow unless U.S. Atty. Gen. Edward Levi attempts to invoke some kind of secrecy privilege.

Judge Perry said the six-page memo will be admitted as evidence tomorrow in the trial of a \$47.7-million damage suit pending against officials of the FBI and local agencies who conducted a raid on a Black Panther apartment here in 1969 in which Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed.