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01	report	Racial Disturbance, Sycamore-Genesee Street Area, Buffalo, New York, June 1967	C	11	7/27/67	A
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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Buffalo, New York 14202

July 27, 1967

RACIAL DISTURBANCE
SYCAMORE-GENESEE STREET AREA
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
JUNE, 1967
RACIAL MATTERS

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The United States Attorney of Buffalo, New York, informed the Department of Justice that the following individuals were alleged to be linked to possible "outside influence" in the above captioned racial disturbance which took place from June 27-30, 1967:

WILL BROWN - believed to have been in Buffalo only a few months. He is from Chicago, but has been all over the country.

LEON PHIPPS - a narcotics peddler who has been in and out of Buffalo for the last year. He has been arrested, and originally gave the police a false name. He is reportedly a follower of STOKLEY CARMICHAEL.

(First name unknown) DE FREE - in Buffalo for less than one month. He is from the Watts area of Los Angeles, California.

On June 17, 1967, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during the course of an investigation concerning a bank robbery and murder case which took place on June 16, 1967 on Buffalo's East Side, interviewed WILL BROWN in the office of BUILD (Build, Unity, Independence, Liberty, and Dignity) at 583 Sycamore Street in Buffalo.

BUILD was formed in Buffalo, New York, in January, 1967 under the direction of SAUL ALINSKY and the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) to organize the Negro community on a grass roots basis.

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NLJ/RAC 10-12
By nlj, NARA, Date 9-14-10

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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declassification

RACIAL DISTURBANCE
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BROWN identified himself as one of several Organizers of BUILD, and he gave his residence as 4 Steel Street, Lackawanna, New York. BROWN advised that he had been in Buffalo about one year, had served as a Counsellor at the Friendship House on Ridge Road in Lackawanna, and sent to work for BUILD in the Spring of 1967. He advised that it is his responsibility to organize the Ellicott District of the city on a grass roots basis and has been doing so since April, 1967. He said he had worked for a number of years in the southern part of the United States fighting racial segregation there.

He expressed disappointment with the performance of the FBI, generally in the field of racial equality in the South, pointing out that the FBI, on one occasion, refused to investigate the fire-bombing of a church in Mississippi, having concluded that it was hit by lightning and not by arsonists.

A lengthy discussion was held with BROWN concerning a great deal of effective work done by the FBI in the South, and he had reluctantly admitted that this was so. His general attitude was one of disrespect for all law enforcement because it continually engaged in brutality against the Negro.

Captain JOHN KULL, Lackawanna, New York Police Department, advised that WILL BROWN has no arrest record with that department, as of July 27, 1967.

Buffalo Source 1 advised on July 25, 1967 that he knows WILL BROWN as an Organizer for BUILD and that he observed BROWN at BUILD headquarters on the night of June 27, 1967 when violence broke out near BUILD headquarters. This source advised that BROWN was directing BUILD workers to go out onto the street in an attempt to break up Negro gangs and to calm the area. The source said he believed BROWN was sincere in his efforts, but observed that later that night the disturbance became so unruly in the area of BUILD headquarters that all officers and workers abandoned the area and sought safety.

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Buffalo Source 2 advised on February 7, 1966 that LEON PHIPPS first came to his attention at the National Convention of Students for Democratic Society (SDS) in late December, 1965 at the University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois.

PHIPPS was introduced to this source during this convention from Chicago, Illinois, and source noted that PHIPPS was notorious at the convention for requesting of practically every girl there (especially white girls) that she sleep with him. On one occasion, PHIPPS created a great deal of difficulty in the dormitory where all of the delegates at this convention stayed, when he started racial fights and was physically restrained from smashing in another Negro's head with an iron pipe.

Buffalo Source 2, Buffalo Source 3, Buffalo Source 4, and Buffalo Source 5, periodically reported during the period from December 27, 1965 through October 20, 1966 that PHIPPS attended at least ten meetings of the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYAB) Chapter of SDS.

A characterization of SDS is contained in the appendix pages of this document.

Buffalo Source 3, Buffalo Source 5, and Buffalo Source 6 reported during the period March 26, 1966 through April 14, 1967 that LEON PHIPPS participated in approximately ten picket demonstrations or "teach-ins" held either on the streets of downtown Buffalo, New York or on the campus of SUNYAB, whose purposes were to protest the involvement of the United States and its policies in Viet Nam.

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Chicago, Illinois Police Department, reflect the following arrest record for LEON PHIPPS, also known as Leon Joseph Phipps, Leon Phillips, born February 16, 1944 in Mississippi, and resided at 3304 West Warren, Chicago, Illinois:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
5/21/65	Resisting Arrest and Disorderly Conduct	On 9/20/65 fined \$25 and no costs
7/12/65	Disorderly conduct	9/16/65 fined \$25 and no costs
8/2/65	Disorderly conduct	11/8/65 fined \$25 and no costs
9/16/65	Assault and Resisting Arrest	10/7/65 bond forfeiture and warrant issued

On September 16, 1965, Officer FRANK CONLEY, Deputy Superintendent's Office, Chicago Police Department, advised that three civil rights workers had been arrested on this date at the Criminal Courts Building, 26th and California Streets, Chicago. CONLEY advised that three individuals caused a disturbance in a courtroom in the Criminal Courts Building, and one of the individuals arrested was identified as LEON PHIPPS, age 21, 3304 West Warren, Chicago. According to CONLEY, these individuals were among 60 persons who appeared before a magistrate on charges of disorderly conduct and obstructing justice during a demonstration conducted on June 12, 1965 in Chicago.

Buffalo Source 7 advised that LEON PHIPPS attended a meeting of the W.E.B. Du Bois Clubs of Chicago (DCC) on June 10, 1965.

Buffalo Source 8 reported that LEON PHIPPS attended a meeting of DCC in June, 1965, but he was a visitor and not a DCC member.

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A characterization of DCC is contained
in the appendix pages of this document.

Buffalo Source 9, an agency which collects security data in the Chicago, Illinois area, advised that during the Summer of 1965, numerous civil rights demonstrations took place in the Chicago area protesting the retention of the Superintendent of Public Schools. This source advised LEON PHIPPS was a participant in approximately 30 demonstrations during the period from June 11, 1965 to August 22, 1965.

Buffalo Source 4 advised in January, 1966 that PHILIP COOK, then an active member of the SUNYAB Chapter of SDS, commented on January 11, 1966 that LEON PHIPPS was going to live with him and become active in the ERAP Committee of SDS in the Negro area of Buffalo, New York. The source identified ERAP as the Economic Research Action Project of SDS.

COOK described PHIPPS as apparently suffering from emotional disturbances because he is given to outbursts indicating personality disorders.

On February 4, 1966, Detectives FLORIAN SCIBRAN and MELVIN LOBBETT, Office of Special Investigations, Buffalo, New York Police Department, were informed by Mrs. ROBIN PARKER, 123 Edward Street, Apartment 9, Buffalo, New York, that in late January, 1966, she attended a party in Apartment 12 at this address, attended by approximately ten persons of mixed races sitting in a circle on the floor smoking "pot." She said that after awhile, everybody "went crazy," walking into the walls, and grabbing everybody. LEON PHIPPS put some substance in a container on the floor and everyone there took turns smoking it.

Buffalo Source 4 advised in February, 1966 that on January 28, 1966, LEON PHIPPS and four other people

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traveled to Binghamton, New York, that date to attend an Upper New York State Regional SDS Conference.

During this trip, PHIPPS mentioned that he had been arrested on a number of occasions for assault and battery and resisting arrest, had served eight or nine months at hard labor in Mississippi for statutory rape of a New York City girl, and that he has a bullet wound in his stomach which frequently causes him pain.

Buffalo Source 10 advised in May, 1966 that the Erie County District Attorney's Office, Buffalo, New York, was conducting an investigation of narcotics on the campus of SUNYAB, and LEON PHIPPS was regarded as a seller of LSD and marijuana. PHIPPS was not a student at SUNYAB, but apparently spent a great deal of time on the campus.

On April 18, 1966, RUBY TAYLOR, a resident of Archie Street, Buffalo, New York, advised Detective Sergeant GEORGE WITTMAN, Buffalo, New York Police Department, that she had observed signs on a house at 148 Archie Street, referring to police brutality. WITTMAN, thereupon, interviewed one VICTOR ARONOW at that address, who advised that he and LEON PHIPPS resided at this address and are working at an organization called Buffalo Action Groups (BAG), which has its headquarters at 385 Broadway, Buffalo, New York. Sergeant WITTMAN advised that BAG was then attempting to organize the Negro Community on Buffalo's East Side to protest such things as "slum landlordism," rat infestation, and substandard housing. ARONOW told WITTMAN that LEON PHIPPS is emotionally disturbed because of a head injury he received a number of years ago.

On August 18, 1966, Buffalo Source 10 advised that PHIPPS is regarded as one of the major suppliers of narcotics on the SUNYAB campus.

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On October 9, 1966, Detective Sergeant FRANK HUGHES reported he had investigated a razor slashing at Millard-Fillmore Hospital, Buffalo, New York. The victim was identified as LEON PHIPPS, 16 Oxford Street, 3rd Floor, Buffalo, New York. PHIPPS told police he had been cut with a knife when he went from his 3rd Floor apartment to quiet a noisy party on the floor below. Sixty sutures were required to repair the damage, but PHIPPS was unwilling to file any charges against the assailant.

Buffalo Source 5 reported in October, 1966 that, at a SDS meeting held on October 13, 1966, LEON PHIPPS was present and an ugly scar on his face from the top of his forehead and across his left cheek was noted. PHIPPS stated that he had been "jumped" by two Italians in a West Side bar.

Detective Sergeant WITTMAN advised on June 30, 1967 that LEON PHIPPS had been arrested by Buffalo police during the racial disturbance which began on June 27, 1967 by an officer assigned to the Narcotics Squad of the Buffalo Police Department, who had been pressed into riot duty. PHIPPS was a patron in the Crow's Nest, a Negro bar on Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, New York, on the night of June 29, 1967. Because of several incidents of fire-bombing being perpetrated by Negro youths outside of this tavern and who ran into the tavern on the approach of the police, it was necessary to empty the tavern by use of teargas and to arrest the occupants for refusal to obey a police officer. PHIPPS was struck on the head with the butt of a gun on this occasion when he allegedly attempted to assault one of the officers. On checking the arrest records for that night, however, Sergeant WITTMAN was unable to locate the name of PHIPPS as one of those picked up that night. He said he is of the opinion that PHIPPS was able to walk out of police headquarters during the confusion that existed there before he was booked.

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The "Toronto Globe and Mail," a daily newspaper published in Toronto, Canada, carried an article by reporter FRANK ADAMS in its July 3, 1967 issue, which featured LEON PHIPPS under the caption "Love Obsesses Leon and he has the Scars to Prove it" (peacemaker at work at East Buffalo ghetto).

In this article, PHIPPS is described as a 22 year old Negro law student at SUNYAB who took part in civil rights demonstrations in Mississippi and Alabama as well as Chicago's slums. He allegedly was active in Buffalo's Negro ghetto "trying to quell disturbances there" and he indicated intentions to devote some time in August, 1967 in the Deep South on a vote registration drive. He was described as a "hippie who hops around the United States looking for love-ins, be-ins, sit-ins, lie-ins, or any kind of non-violent demonstrations where people get together for the sake of someone else."

The article pointed out that PHIPPS maintains his physique through weight lifting because "after all, the more beautiful the body, the more boodgies (girls) can be yours." He went on to state that he has collected a 12" scar and permanent 2" deep hole in his lower abdomen, a depression on the back of his skull from a gun butt, and a 7" scar on his forehead and cheek, all for the sake of love.

The writer said he was shot in Mississippi, gun butted in Alabama, and cut on his face by police in Georgia. He claimed that he was in the Crow's Nest Bar, was routed out by teargas, and was "walled, hosed, and housed" (made to lean against the wall, searched, beaten with a billy, and taken to jail). PHIPPS claimed that when he was brought to police headquarters to be booked, the sergeant at the desk recognized him and mentioned that "Leon don't hurt nobody. Let him go." He was then told "Leon, go make love."

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According to the article, PHIPPS returned to the campus, saw a white girl, and was beaten up again. He was quoted as saying "Ah steal any man's daughtur cuz I don't care nothin' about coluh" (allegedly the girl was a girlfriend of a football player).

Buffalo Source 1 advised on July 17, 1967 that he was unable to identify anyone by the name of DU PREE as a recent arrival in Buffalo from the Watts area of Los Angeles, California. Source subsequently advised on July 26, 1967 that he believed the person known as DU PREE is actually ARMOND DOUBINEAUX (phonetic), who came to Buffalo about a year ago as a VISTA worker from the Watts Area of Los Angeles. After working for a short time in Buffalo, he was transferred to New York City, but came back to serve as an Organizer for BUILD.

This individual is known to be a "wise guy" in that he has a pompous, know-it-all attitude and tries to act in a "smart-alec" fashion. Source advised that he does not fully trust DOUBINEAUX, but he has no reason to believe that he has been agitating for racial violence. Source pointed out that this individual is quite new to the area and no one apparently knows too much about him as yet.

This document contains neither recommendations or conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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APPENDIX

STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC
SOCIETY (SDS)

The Students for a Democratic Society, as it is known today, came into being at a founding convention held at Port Huron, Michigan, in June, 1962. The SDS is an association of young people on the left and has a current program of protesting the draft, promoting a campaign for youth to develop a conscientious objector status, denouncing United States intervention in the war in Vietnam, and to "radically transform" the university committee, and provide for its complete control by students. GUS HALL, General Secretary, Communist Party, USA, when interviewed by a representative of the United Press International in San Francisco, California, on May 14, 1965, described SDS as a part of the "responsible left" which the Party has "going for us." At the June, 1965 SDS National Convention, an anti-Communist proviso was removed from the SDS Constitution. In the October 7, 1966 issue of "New Left Notes," the official publication of SDS, an SDS spokesman stated that there are some Communists in SDS and they are welcome. The national headquarters of this organization as of April 18, 1967, was located in Room 206, 1608 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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APPENDIX

W.E.B. DU BOIS CLUBS
OF CHICAGO (DCC)

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that on June 30, 1964, a group of young people who attended the founding convention of the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA), met in Chicago and adopted a statement of purpose and constitution forming the DCC as an affiliate of the national DCA.

This source further advised that at a meeting of the Chicago Area of the Midwest Region of the DCA held April 3, 1965, the boundry of the Chicago Area was established to include all of Illinois north of Springfield, Illinois, and all of Indiana. At this meeting, TED PEARSON, Chairman of the Youth Club of the Communist Party of Illinois, was elected Area Coordinator.

A second source advised on November 26, 1965 that as of November, 1965, TED PEARSON continues to be the Chicago Area Coordinator of the DCA and the official headquarters is located at the PEARSON apartment, 1808 North Cleveland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The second source advised that there is currently only one club operating in the Chicago Area and that is on the west side. This club operates a Freedom Center at 2829 West Lake Street, which is open seven days a week to the teenagers on the west side.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Buffalo, New York
July 7, 1967

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There is set forth below a summary of essential details concerning captioned matter, covering the period of June 27 through 30, 1967. During that period of time, racial disorders broke out in the Negro community of the City of Buffalo, New York, commencing during the evening hours on Tuesday, June 27, 1967, and subsiding to isolated incidents of vandalism on the night of June 30, 1967. A few reports of arson and vandalism were handled by the Buffalo Police Department on Saturday, July 1, 1967, but these appeared to fall within the category of usual police activities. The activities of organized groups or gangs tapered off late in the night of June 30, 1967; and it was concluded by ranking officers of the Police Department that the back of the racial disturbance was broken by that date.

Incident which
Triggered Disturbance

On July 3, 1967, Deputy Police Commissioner THOMAS R. BLAIR, Buffalo Police Department, advised that his department is not certain as to the identity of any specific incident which triggered the outbreak of violence on June 27,

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1967. Assistant Chief of Detectives FLOYD EDWARDS, ranking Negro police officer of the Buffalo Police Department, assigned to head the newly formed Public Relations Detail instituted by Police Commissioner FRANK N. FELICETTA, reported to Commissioner BLAIR that he was in contact with a number of Negro teenage youth on the night of June 26, 1967 in the vicinity of Sycamore Street and between Jefferson and Fillmore Avenues; and, in discussing with them the possibility of youthful hooliganism he had obtained assurances from the leaders of these youths that they would not participate in any such acts as long as he, Chief EDWARDS, could assure them that their complaints with regard to recreational facilities and other matters were being properly attended to by the City of Buffalo. Chief EDWARDS advised further that some of the members of this group broke this pledge by engaging in acts of vandalism on Tuesday, June 27, 1967.

Chief EDWARDS said he proceeded to the trouble area early on the evening of June 27, 1967 and caught five or six boys throwing rocks through a store window and at passing vehicles. He attempted to arrest one youth, later identified as ERIC LINDSEY, 448 Sycamore Street, Buffalo, New York. LINDSEY, however, was rescued by his companions from the grasp of Chief EDWARDS, and the group then set about throwing stones and causing property damage to shops on Sycamore Street. EDWARDS then radioed for additional police assistance and several cars were dispatched to the area. By this time, more youths appeared on the scene and were heavily stoning passing cars and attacked the approaching police cars to the point that it was impossible to bring the police vehicles closer to the scene of action.

Inspector BLAIR stated that it was determined at this time to send in a riot squad of foot patrolmen and twenty officers were dispatched to the area and advanced on the gang of youths in formation. Sixteen patrolmen followed this formation as a clean-up group searching side

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yards and backyards and alleys for youthful vandals. This formation succeeded in breaking up the gang and comparative calm was restored to that area by about 9:00 p.m. About one hour later, however, the gang of youths reformed and proceeded to commit acts of vandalism on Genesee Street, several blocks north of Sycamore Street. The number of shops and business establishments attacked with rocks and fire bombs or Molotov Cocktails increased.

On June 29, 1967, Detective Sergeant GEORGE WITTMAN, Buffalo Police Department, advised that he interviewed one WILLIE LEE WARD, age 21, of 92 Mulberry Street Buffalo, who was arrested on the night of June 27, 1967 on Genesee Street, for taking part in the gasoline bombing of the Electra-Gas Appliance Store. He stated that he quit high school in the eleventh grade and had lived in Buffalo for the past ten years. On the night of June 27, 1967 at about 11:00 p.m., he was standing in front of a tavern at Jefferson Avenue and Sycamore Street when he met another Negro youth named SAMMIE HAYES. He saw SAMMIE throw a brick through a drug store window at that corner and some stones at some police cars. HAYES called to a number of Negro youths and asked them to join. He and about twenty other youths removed some bars from Joe's Delicatessen at Monroe and Sycamore Streets, broke the windows and removed some groceries. They threw some gasoline bombs into the store setting fire to it.

The group then went to Genesee and Monroe Streets, broke windows and threw fire bombs into an appliance store. WARD said he saw SAMMIE HAYES and BILL PATTON make gasoline bombs and hide them in an empty lot behind the Mint Julep Bar at Madison and Sycamore Streets. WARD said he left this gang after they threw the bomb into the appliance store.

On July 6, 1967, Commissioner BLAIR advised that the racial disturbances created on the first night, June 27, 1967, were confined to a half-square mile area bordered

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by Sycamore and Genesee Streets on the north and south, and by Jefferson Avenue and Johnson Street on the west and east side.

The following night, however, roving gangs of Negro youths committed acts of vandalism, including fire-bombing, window-breaking and looting in this same area, and spreading north on Jefferson Avenue into the Cold Spring section, a Negro community about one mile north of the original scene of violence. Commissioner BLAIR stated that these violent acts appeared to have no sense or reason, but those involved were apparently seizing on the tense situation to commit acts of looting under the color of a racial demonstration.

**Identification of Area
Involved in Disturbance**

The area where the first acts of violence took place is populated by approximately 95 per cent Negroes and 5 per cent Caucasian, according to SIDNEY HARRIS, Director of the City Human Relations Commission. The few whites in this area are those engaged in business as shopkeepers and a few long-time residents who have remained from the time this area was predominantly white. The Cold Spring area, scene of vandalism on the nights of June 29 and 30, 1967 is likewise about 95 per cent Negro and 5 per cent white, with the exception of some major businesses and other institutions such as Buffalo General Hospital and Roswell Park Memorial Institute, both medical facilities.

**Property Damage -
Deaths and Injuries**

The "Buffalo Evening News," a daily newspaper published in Buffalo, New York, reported on June 30, 1967 that there were a total of 22 fires attributable to the racial disturbance over the period of June 27 through 30,

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1967. This figure includes five fires on June 28; 8 on June 29; and 9 on June 30, 1967.

Fire Commissioner ROBERT E. HOWARD, JR. of the City of Buffalo, advised on July 3, 1967 that from midnight June 27, 1967 to midnight, July 2, 1967, the fires handled by his department in the troubled area caused an estimated damage of \$165,875.00. A number of the fires were started in vacant dwellings slated for demolition. No damage figure was available for those properties. Chief of Detectives RALPH V. DEGENHART stated that an inestimable amount of damage was caused by the breaking of store windows and the number of instances of looting which occurred. It was his opinion, however, that the total of all damage occasioned during the pertinent period would be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000.

The abovementioned "Buffalo Evening News" article reported that 68 persons were injured during the racial disturbance of whom eight were injured on June 27; 30 on June 28; and 21 on June 29, 1967. These figures were not broken down by ethnic origin or racial composition; but most of them appeared to have been suffered by Negroes. Of the total, three were police officers, one suffering a cut on the hand, and two were injured by ricocheting shotgun pellets fired by other police officers. No deaths occurred as a result of disturbances. Most of the injuries were of a minor nature.

**Tactics Utilized by the
Buffalo Police Department**

Commissioner BLAIR advised on July 6, 1967 that, at the peak of the racial disturbance, on the nights of June 28 and 29, 1967, 500 policemen were on duty in various capacities during the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Approximately 150 men were maintained in a reserve status outside of the trouble area as standbys and occupied their time mainly in the patrolling of the downtown business

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area. Two hundred officers were assigned to the trouble area either as foot patrolmen or in vehicles. Another 150 men were occupied at headquarters or at precinct stations on desk duty or allied assignments.

During the course of the disturbance, three major command posts were established in the field. One post was regarded as the major command post and was a mobile unit stationed primarily on Jefferson Avenue, moving between Sycamore Street and High Street. Other command posts were established at Precincts Number 4 and Number 6 located in the heart of the Negro community but not directly in the trouble area.

Extra reserves of men and equipment were maintained at the Buffalo Police Garage on Seneca Street.

As indicated above, the tactic employed by the police on the first night of violence, consisted of foot patrols in riot formation advancing on street-corner gangs with helmets and clubs. This formation was successful as long as the disturbance was confined to the area of Sycamore Street. Following the twenty men in riot formation were sixteen foot patrolmen used as mop-up crews covering the side yards and back yards and alleys of the residences fronting on Sycamore Street.

Later on the first night, when the gangs reformed in other areas such as Genesee Street, it was necessary to employ groups of police cars to follow the activities of the gangs. In order to disperse crowds of youths and adults who gathered in the area out of curiosity, the police resorted to canisters of tear gas.

On the nights of June 28, 29 and 30, 1967, the police resorted to tear gas and shotguns to disperse unruly crowds. Number two buckshot was used in the shot guns but the officers were instructed to fire at the

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ground so that the crowds were struck only by scattered ricochets of pellets. In this way only minor injuries were caused and these weapons were considered highly effective by the police.

A number of complaints were received by the Police Department from civil rights leaders charging indiscriminate use of shotguns and tear gas. Commissioner FELICETTA issued orders to all police forces on June 30, 1967 instructing the police to use the utmost discretion and a professional manner in the execution of their duties.

On July 3, 1967, the following estimate of police officers was furnished by Commissioner BLAIR covering the four days of the racial disturbances.

Commissioner BLAIR advised that on June 27, 1967 the initial night of the disturbances on the East Side, which is predominantly Negro, that the night shift was held over until 4:00 a.m. to provide additional manpower during the disturbances. He pointed out that the normal day shift consists of 90 precinct men and 90 to 95 precinct men available for the evening and night tours of duty.

In addition to the precinct men, the following various units were also employed:

Motorcycle Officers	12 men
Tactical Patrol Units	10 policemen 1 Captain 1 Lieutenant
Plain Clothe men	24 men

Mr. BLAIR went on to state that on June 29, 1967 and June 30, 1967, when it was determined that the

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vandalism had reached major proportions, all days off, all compensation leave, holidays, etc were cancelled in order to utilize and build manpower to its highest levels.

The following breakdown was provided by Mr. BLAIR for the days of June 29 and 30, 1967, which were the height of the disturbances:

The day platoon was increased to 100 precinct men and the night platoons were increased to 150 men.

He noted that the day platoon was held over until 6:00 p.m. and further pointed out that the evening shifts were held over to 4:00 a.m. to provide maximum utilization of the available manpower.

During the nights of June 29 and 30, 1967, the following numbers of additional men were also made available:

Motorcycle Officers	30 men
Radar Men	28
Tactical Patrol Units	14
Precinct Detectives (placed in uniform)	30
Vice Personnel	35
Accident Investigators	14
K-9 Units	28

Mr. BLAIR stated that 1,000 auxiliary policemen had been alerted for possible duty in the disturbances.

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He stated that the course of action in regard to auxiliary policemen would be to place them in precincts with fully qualified full-time police officers in order to augment these precinct divisions.

Mr. BLAIR further advised that the Sheriff's Department, New York State Police, and various other agencies having an interest in the disorders, were alerted at the earliest possible moment when indications were such that disturbances of major proportions were apparent.

Mr. BLAIR advised that the main compliment of personnel was maintained between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., as noted above by holding over the evening shift until 4:00 a.m. He stated that at 4:00 a.m. on the dates of disturbances, precinct commanders were allowed to release the men scheduled for evening duty, which was actually occurring on the same day in order that these men might be rested up for the next tour of duty.

He further pointed out that in addition to barricading off the troubled area, units such as the Tactical Patrol Units, Motorcycle men, Detectives, etc., were held together. He explained that in this regard, four men were placed in a car, one man designated to stay with the car at all times. These units were then dispersed in numbers according to the demand dictated by the nature of the call involved to the actual points of disturbances. He pointed out that this made it possible for these roving units to cope with roving groups of rioters. He stated that riot formations were used to disperse larger groups of people causing disturbances and participating in the riot.

The "Buffalo Courier Express," a daily newspaper published in Buffalo, New York, reported on July 3, 1967 that HENRY C. WELLS, Sales Manager of the Lake Erie Chemical Company, Cleveland, Ohio, who was described

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as knowledgeable concerning police riot-control matters, was reported to have visited Buffalo during the recent racial disturbance and stated that he had visited many cities where riots and racial disturbances had occurred. He said that nowhere did he find a locality as well prepared and which handled the situation so effectively as did the Buffalo authorities. He said he admired the Buffalo Police system of command posts and the show of force on the part of the police officers, despite insults and he paid tribute to the cooperation that existed between the administration and the police department.

Mayor FRANK A. SEDITA of Buffalo, New York, who was frequently at the side of Commissioner FELICETTA at Police Headquarters during the disturbance, was overheard on numerous occasions to compliment the coolness of the Buffalo Police Department under difficult conditions.

Commissioner FELICETTA advised on June 28, 1967 that his department had resorted to a new type of formation which was dubbed "Rat Patrol" a name taken from a current popular television series. These patrols were made up of approximately four automobiles with four police officers in each vehicle followed by a K-9 wagon for the transporting of prisoners. These patrols were very effective during the last three nights of disturbances because roving gangs of Negro youths were forming in various sections of the Negro community and were committing sporadic and isolated acts of vandalism. These patrols afforded a mobility for the police which was essential in this situation.

Arrests

Chief of Detectives RALPH V. DEGENHART advised on July 3, 1967 that a total of 242 adults were arrested in connection with the captioned racial disturbance. In addition, there were 26 juveniles arrested of whom

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24 were male and two female. All were Negroes except for six white males and one white female.

A breakdown of the various charges filed against the above persons arrested is set forth as follows:

Disorderly conduct	155
Refusal to Obey the Reasonable Request of an Officer	35
Burglary and/or Larceny	13
Drinking	11
Malicious Mischief	8
Assault	7
Unlawful Entry	2
Possession of Fireworks	2
Interference with Arresting Officer	2
Inciting to Riot	2
Lounging	2
Possession of Firearms or Dangerous Weapons	4

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Some of the persons arrested were charged with more than one offense.

The indices of the Buffalo Office of the FBI were searched concerning the 242 adult arrestees. A number of individuals arrested appeared to be identical with subjects of FBI investigations and their identities are set forth as follows:

CARROLL T. KELLEY, address 669 Eagle Street, Buffalo, New York, arrested June 28, 1967, for disorderly conduct and assault 3rd degree, was a suspect in the burglary of the Tog Infant Shop, 3326 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, New York, on January 24, 1963. This information was contained in a newspaper clipping.

DOCK PIPPENS, 274 Lemon Street, arrested on June 29, 1967, for disorderly conduct, was the subject of a Selective Service Delinquency matter in that he failed to report for induction to Local Draft Board 87, Buffalo, New York, on April 2, 1965, and to keep his Local Board advised of his current status on January 25, 1965. PIPPENS was located and interviewed at the Hartford State Jail, Hartford, Connecticut, where he was held on a charge of Assault to Commit Rape. He was then completing a six month term. Prosecution was declined by the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York inasmuch as his delinquency was not intentional. His arrest record reflected two arrests in September and October of 1963, for Disorderly Conduct in the Village of Kenmore, New York and East Aurora, New York.

ROLAND CRAWFORD, 104 Horner Street, Buffalo, New York, arrested on June 27, 1967 for refusing to obey the reasonable request of an officer, was investigated by the FBI as a Deserter from the United States Marine Corps. He was apprehended in Buffalo, New York by the FBI on June 19, 1958 and returned to military custody.

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He had a previous arrest record on April 19, 1955 for 3rd Degree Burglary.

LEON BUTCHER, JR., 62 Rickert Street, Buffalo, New York, was arrested on June 29, 1967, for Burglary, was arrested by the Buffalo Police Department on October 19, 1962, for attempting to negotiate a stolen money order. The FBI Identification Record, Number 51 091 E, reflects several previous arrests for burglary 3rd and Grand Larceny 1st, as well as Forgery and Attempted Forgery. On January 8, 1962, he admitted stealing two television sets from the Trans-American Trucking Company, Buffalo, New York, and was implicated in the theft of six cases of whiskey from this trucking company on August 23, 1961. Prosecution was declined for the whiskey theft on February 26, 1962. The news clipping dated January 20, 1962 reflected BUTCHER was held by the Erie County Grand Jury on Burglary 3rd for entering a clothing store in Hamburg, New York on October 31, 1962. On December 26, 1961, one MARVIN MOSLEY identified BUTCHER as one of those who was with him when they broke a window in the First Federal Savings and Loan Association at 318 High Street, Buffalo, New York in August, 1961. BUTCHER refused to make a statement concerning this incident. Prosecution was declined on March 13, 1962 by the United States Attorney's Office.

RICHARD EARL MANN, of 252 Dodge Street, Buffalo, was arrested for Disorderly conduct on June 29, 1967. On September 30, 1966, the Buffalo Police Department furnished the FBI a carbon copy of a form indicating that MANN was an absentee wanted by the Armed Forces for having absented himself from the United States Navy on September 6, 1966.

On October 22, 1966, the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Buffalo, New York, advised that MANN voluntarily surrendered himself to that department.

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Violent Elements
Involved.

No militant civil rights groups or nationalist Negro organizations and no Negro or white hate groups have been identified as having any connection with captioned racial disturbance.

Confidential Source Number 1, who is acquainted with certain phases of the activity of the Nation of Islam, Muhammad's Mosque #23 (NOI) (MM #23), advised on July 6, 1967 that the leadership of this organization has taken a definite stand against any NOI member participating in the recent racial disturbances or in any subsequent racial disturbance of a similar nature.

Source reported that one member of MM #23 was arrested during the course of the disturbance, and that he asked the Mosque to provide bail for him. Minister JOHN B. X STRICKLAND of MM #23 informed this member that he was suspended from the organization for becoming involved and that the organization would offer him no assistance of any kind.

A characterization of the NOI and MM #23 is contained in the appendix pages attached hereto.

Confidential Source Number 2, acquainted with various phases of the activity of the Workers World Party (WWP) in Buffalo, New York, advised on July 3, 1967 that the WWP and its youth branch, Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF) had no connection with the instigation of instant racial disturbance nor did these groups have any significant effect in exploiting it after it commenced.

Source, however, advised that a picket demonstration was conducted in Lafayette Square in Buffalo on the night of June 29, 1967 which was attended by

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approximately 25 persons, eight of whom were known to source as members of either the WWP or YAWF. The purpose of this demonstration which lasted for one hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., was to demand the end of slavery and the spending of Federal funds to help Negroes and not to prosecute the war in Vietnam.

Detective Sergeant GEORGE WITTMAN of the Buffalo Police Department, advised on June 29, 1967 that very little attention was paid to this demonstration since most of the stores had closed early and there were very few people on the streets.

Confidential Source Number 2 further advised that approximately nine individuals connected with WWP and YAWF picketed in front of the Erie County Jail, Buffalo, New York on the morning of July 1, 1967, demanding the release of Negro prisoners arrested during the racial disturbance. This demonstration was ineffective because of the small turnout of demonstrators and the lack of any appreciable audience.

A characterization of the WWP is contained in the appendix section attached hereto.

A characterization of YAWF is also contained in the appendix section hereto.

Confidential Source Number 3 advised on July 3, 1967 that the Erie County Communist Party had no plan to instigate or exploit any racial disturbance in Buffalo, New York and had no connection with instant racial disturbance. Source Number 3 is familiar with various phases of Communist Party activity in the Buffalo, New York area.

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Comments of
Racial Sources

Confidential Source Number 4, an official of the Community Welfare Council of Buffalo and Erie County, who has many contacts in the Negro community of the city, advised on July 3, 1967 that he was unable to put his finger on any one cause of the racial disturbance in Buffalo, New York, and the fact that it happened in the city surprised him somewhat because he was of the opinion that the vast majority of Negroes were not dissatisfied with present conditions, even though they recognized that many improvements could be made. Source said he felt that the disturbance was instigated and effected by Negro youths who, on finishing school, had no outlet for their energies, and little family responsibility as to their conduct.

Confidential Source Number 5, a Negro and a representative of a community agency which processes complaints of discrimination, stated on July 3, 1967 that the underlying causes of the disorders which commenced in Buffalo on June 27, 1967 are in his opinion deep-seated ones of a sociological and economic nature which have been seething for years within a Negro ghetto area which contains 95 per cent of the approximately 80,000 Negro population of the city. He cited specifically the generally low educational level of these Negroes; the lack of occupational skills, low income, and seasonal or irregular employment; the poor quality of housing, 75 per cent living in rental property, controlled to a large extent by absentee landlords who because of low rental units cut up houses and buildings into as many units or apartments as possible, provide minimum maintenance, causing overcrowding, poor sanitation, and generally slovenly living conditions; control of local businesses principally by whites, who in general provide low quality merchandise at premium prices, and hold their clientele because of proximity, by willingness to cash welfare checks

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or extending credit with grocery stores in particular, short-weighting and short-changing uneducated customers; a lack of recreational facilities on the same scale available in other parts of the city; and finally, the impacting of all these problems into a concentrated core area which is literally bursting at the seams.

Confidential Source Number 5 stated these conditions served to produce a general feeling of frustration and resentment triggered into action by an attempted routine police arrest, and opposition to it by restless, trouble-seeking bystanders.

Confidential Source Number 5 stated that his agency receives periodic complaints of police brutality against Negroes, that 99 per cent of these complaints, upon preliminary investigation prove to be completely unsubstantiated, and that police brutality as such was not a real factor which contributed to the disorders. However, he said, there is a generally held erroneous belief among the more militant and irresponsible Negroes that the police habitually and unnecessarily brutalize Negroes, and this erroneous belief may well have been a factor in the disorders.

Confidential Source Number 5 mentioned that throughout the duration of the disorders, there were frequent rumors to the effect that the disorders had been planned, instituted, conducted and directed by leaders and an organized cadre who came to Buffalo from other cities, or at least that organized agitation had preceded and then fanned the disorders once they had started. The source stated that he, himself, had personally checked out various allegations during the disturbances that organized groups or agitators were stationed at or operating from one place or another, but nowhere did he find any truth to these allegations.

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Confidential Source Number 5 stated it is his firm belief that there was no organized agitation or leadership, that the eruption was spontaneous, and that agitation to keep the disorder going was also completely spontaneous and was supplied by the more militant individuals among various makeshift gangs involved, or by persons who were quick to see the opportunity of being able to loot and steal under the cover provided by the general confusion.

Confidential Source Number 5 stated that another contributing factor to the disorders was the publicity given to previous riots in other cities, all of which seemed to generate a feeling that the living conditions of Negroes in Buffalo were the same or worse as in these other cities, and that a riot was certain to occur in Buffalo; its commencement being only a matter of time. Much of the action taken and types of damage inflicted in Buffalo were all an imitation of actions which had previously occurred elsewhere and had been widely publicized.

Confidential Source Number 5 stated that his observation of the disorders while in progress at Buffalo led him to believe that the type of individuals principally involved in all stages of this disorder were a "corner lounging, hoodlum element" ranging in age from 12 or 13 to the early twenties. He stated he believed that many of the individuals arrested were older, but he feels that many of the individuals arrested were persons who through one circumstance or another had become half-heartedly involved in altercations with the police, or had been almost unavoidably swept into the turmoil merely because they wanted to have "front-row seats" at what was happening. He believed that only a small percentage of those arrested were among the most active participants, but that the combined arrests of very active participants and others did have a deterrent effect on all participants and tended to clear and reduce trouble in the active areas.

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Confidential Source Number 6, a Negro who for several years has been active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and who is employed by an organization providing assistance to the under-privileged, stated on July 3, 1967 that in his opinion the basic causes of the racial disorder in Buffalo are sociological and of long standing, specifically: the slum-type of rental housing which predominates in the Negro ghetto area; the generally low educational and economic level of Negroes generally; a lack of occupational and professional skills by Negroes, and a general failure on the part of the community and Government agencies to bring about any tangible improvement in the general situation of the Negroes in the ghetto area.

This source feels that over the years a feeling of futility and frustration accompanied by a feeling of resentment has been growing in the Negro ghetto area, which sooner or later was bound to manifest itself in acts of violence against constituted authority in imitation of action which has occurred in other parts of the United States. There was no advance planning or direction involved, and the immediate triggering action was completely unpredictable and could have been anything, but in this case happened to be an attempted arrest of a Negro in the ghetto area in the presence of several other Negroes who forcibly prevented the arrest.

This source felt that there were no subversive or organized elements involved in the disorders which followed, and that actually an irresponsible hoodlum element composed of loosely knit teenage gangs precipitated and continued to aggravate the disturbance, but that their opposition to constituted authority reflected the feelings of the majority of the Negroes in the ghetto area. He described this feeling as a desire to draw widespread attention to their misery and hopeless existence

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and thereby to force immediate, practical, constructive action on their behalf. He felt there is a general feeling of animosity toward the police in the ghetto area which arises from Negroes regarding the police as the duly constituted representatives and protectors of the establishment responsible for perpetrating the ghetto area squalor. The source feels that many of the agencies which have been specifically created to help the Negroes are looked upon by the Negroes as doing nothing more than attempting to "con" the Negroes into a belief that they have no problems. The source added that although the individual lot of some Negroes has improved considerably within the recent past, with certain Negroes having been elected or appointed to positions of prominence, very little has been done to substantially improve the lot of the average Negro who still is far below the level of the average white when it comes to availability of good schools, good recreational facilities, housing in attractive areas of the city, and good job opportunities.

The source feels the Negroes continue to be intensely pro-American and have a deep desire to become more an integral part of the American system of life as opposed to any desire to change or overthrow the democratic system. They resent the millions which have been spent by the United States to alleviate hardships in foreign countries and the mere pittance provided for a solution to the Negro problems.

The source feels that the same factors of lack of education and economic instability which have brought about the Negroes plight has also prevented them from instituting any socially acceptable organized action to relieve their situation, and that they are badly in need of competent, consistent guidance and programs with readily visible results.

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APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM

In January, 1957, a source advised that ELIJAH MUHAMMAD has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On April 29, 1965, a second source advised that ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960 MUHAMMAD and other NOI officials, when referring to MUHAMMAD's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. MUHAMMAD claims to have been selected by ALLAH, the Supreme Being, to lead the "so called Negro race" out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following MUHAMMAD's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI including MUHAMMAD, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised that MUHAMMAD had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his

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APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM (Continued)

personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 2, 1966, a third source advised that MUHAMMAD had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to MUHAMMAD, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.

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MUHAMMAD'S MOSQUE NO. 23,
also known as Muhammad's
Temple of Islam No. 23

A first source advised on September 4, 1957 that a short time previously supporters of ELIJAH MUHAMMAD had established a group in the Buffalo area and were meeting in the homes of members of this group.

This first source advised in early July, 1958 that as of that time, Muhammad's Temple of Islam in Buffalo, New York, was assigned No. 23 and was affiliated with the Nation of Islam under the leadership of ELIJAH MUHAMMAD.

This same source advised in May, 1963 that the official name Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 23 was changed in February, 1962 to Muhammad's Mosque No. 23.

In May, 1967, a second source advised that Muhammad's Mosque No. 23 continued to be an affiliate of the Nation of Islam led by ELIJAH MUHAMMAD.

In December, 1966, a third source advised that a branch of Muhammad's Mosque No. 23 was established in November, 1966, at Rochester, New York, and this branch was known as Muhammad's Mosque No. 23B, which was operated under the direction of the leadership of Muhammad's Mosque No. 23.

The second source in May, 1967, stated that Muhammad's Mosque No. 23B continues to function in Rochester, New York.

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APPENDIX

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

On April 17, 1967, a source advised that on February 12, 1959, a Socialist Workers Party (SWP) minority group, under the leadership of National Committee member, SAM BALLAN, split from the SWP.

The source stated this minority group, referred to as the Marcyites, after many years of program and policy differences on varied issues concerning tactics and interpretation of political events split from the SWP on the grounds that the Party was liquidating itself by departing from the Marxist precepts of LEON TROTSKY and retreating from the fight for the world socialist revolution. The final issue which ultimately forced the split was the minority's opposition to the SWP regroupment policy which involved cooperation with the Communist Party (CP) periphery - individuals characterized by the minority as petty-bourgeois.

The minority program, according to the source, advocates unconditional defense of the Soviet Union and has as its goal the building of a revolutionary party with a complete proletarian orientation for the purpose of overthrowing capitalism in the United States and throughout the world.

On May 12, 1960, the source advised this minority group had chosen the name Workers World Party.

On May 3, 1965, a second source advised the Workers World Party, which maintains headquarters at 46 West 21st Street, New York, New York, supports the People's Republic of China in its ideological dispute with the Soviet Union.

The SWP and the CP have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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BUFFALO BRANCH
WORKERS WORLD PARTY

A source advised in May, 1966, that the currently active Buffalo Branch of the Workers World Party (WWP) established during May, 1959, is a part of the National Workers World Party which maintains headquarters in New York City, and that the Buffalo Branch follows the aims and principles of the National Organization.

A second source advised in May, 1967 that the Buffalo Branch of the WWP is a part of the National WWP and that the Buffalo Branch follows the aims and principles of the National organization.

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YOUTH AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

A source advised on March 29, 1965, that the Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF), formerly known also as the Anti-Fascist Youth Committee, was established by the Workers World Party (WWP) in the summer of 1962, to bring college and high school youth into the periphery of WWP activities and, thereby gain recruits for the organization.

A second source advised on October 23, 1964 that a flyer distributed by the YAWF describes that organization as a militant organization of young workers and worker-students for combating war and fascism.

The first source advised on March 9, 1966 that the YAWF maintains its headquarters at 58 West 25th Street, New York City, and publishes a magazine called "The Partisan."

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BUFFALO CHAPTER
YOUTH AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

A source advised on April 21, 1965, that Post Office Box 372, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205, has been rented since August 17, 1964, under the name Buffalo Chapter, Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF). The source advised that this Post Office Box was obtained by ROBERT W. STERLING, JR., 104 Roesch Avenue, Buffalo, New York, who identified himself as President of the Buffalo Chapter, YAWF.

A second source advised in May, 1967 that YAWF is the youth group of the Workers World Party (WWP) which has its headquarters in New York, New York.

This second source advised in May, 1967 that the Buffalo Chapter of YAWF maintains headquarters at 11 Minnesota Avenue, second floor, Buffalo, New York, and "Youth Discussion Group" is the only name which appears on the door of this headquarters. Rental cost of this headquarters is paid by the Buffalo Branch, WWP. The headquarters is used only for special occasions, and Buffalo Chapter of YAWF meetings are normally held at the residence of the organizer of the Buffalo Branch, WWP, at the conclusion of Buffalo Branch, WWP meetings.

The second source also advised in May, 1967 that the organizer of the Buffalo Branch, WWP approves all policy of the Buffalo Chapter of YAWF before it is placed in effect.

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Buffalo, New York
July 7, 1967

2a

Title RACIAL DISTURBANCE
SYCAMORE-GENESEE STREET AREA
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
JUNE, 1967

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned
as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable
information in the past.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ/RAC 10-12
By is, NARA, Date 9-14-10