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Report of: MYRON M. HITCH
Date: 12/5/67

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #: 157-1681

Bureau File #: 157-7709

Title: BLACK COMMANDOS

Character: RACIAL MATTERS - ORGANIZATION

Synopsis: During the period 7/1/67 through 11/14/67, the Black Commandos have held meetings at various residences of members in the Los Angeles area. The Black Commandos have no set times for meetings and/or activities and there is no headquarters of the group. Black Commandos is described as a "loose, floating" type of organization in its formative stages and no chapter is known to exist. The organization is allegedly composed of disgruntled "Black Nationalists" and Black Muslims who feel the present civil rights organizations are not moving fast enough for the Negro. The Black Commandos allegedly advocate underground guerrilla warfare and violence, and their purpose is to blow up public facilities, large factories, police stations, and police cars. The organization is allegedly a secret organization and seeks no publicity. JACK AGUILLARD at first lead meetings of the Black Commandos but at recent meetings of the Black Commandos RAYMOND WILEY has been the apparent leader, and JUNE RUTLEDGE might be considered the acting Secretary; however, there are no regularly elected officers. The alleged leader of the Black Commandos is a Mr. "J", whose name and identity is not known to members, only WILEY. Allegedly Black Commando organizations have started in Detroit, Michigan, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, but no details have been made available to members. The Black Commandos in Los Angeles have also allegedly purchased ten M-1

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rifles and desire to organize a regular gun club. On evening of 11/9/67, the Black Commandos allegedly laid plans to create a series of serious incidents in the Los Angeles area, and tentative plans concern talk of planting an explosive device at reception desk of 77th Division, Los Angeles Police Department, on 11/11/67; however, the incident did not materialize. Communist Party, USA, Marxist-Leninist literature has been distributed at Black Commando meetings. No information available concerning finances.

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DETAILS:

This report is predicated upon information received on June 13, 1967, that a small militant Black Nationalist organization, known as the Black Commandos, had started up in the Watts area of Los Angeles.

HEADQUARTERS AND CHARTER
INFORMATION

LA T-1 (7/7/67 - 11/16/67)

During the period July 1, 1967, through November 14, 1967, the Black Commandos have held meetings at various residences of its members in the Los Angeles area. The Black Commandos have no set times for meetings and/or activities, and there is no headquarters for the group. It is described as a "loose, floating" type of organization, in its formative stages, and no charter is known to exist.

OBJECTIVES

LA T-1 (6/13/67 - 10/13/67)

On June 13, 1967, source learned from one TOMMY WHITFIELD there was a new organization starting in the Watts area of Los Angeles using the name Black Commandos. The organization is allegedly composed of disgruntled "Black Nationalists" and Black Muslims who feel that the present civil rights organizations are not moving fast enough for the Negro, and are not taking action as they should. They allegedly advocate underground guerrilla warfare and violence. TOMMY WHITFIELD is known to the source as a member of the Black Commandos.

On June 14, 1967, source further advised WHITFIELD's true name is MICHAEL WHITFIELD; however, he uses the name TOMMY. WHITFIELD told source the purpose of the Black Commandos would be to blow up public facilities, large factories, police stations, and police cars. He spoke of the group obtaining arms and hand grenades. WHITFIELD stated they wanted only people with "lots of guts" who are not afraid to die.

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On July 7, 1967, source identified a photograph of MICHAEL THOMAS WHITFIELD, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Number 604786-W, as identical with the individual he knows as THOMAS WHITFIELD of the Black Commandos.

On July 1, 1967, there was a Black Commando meeting at 833 East Imperial Highway, Los Angeles. The meeting was lead by one JACK AGUILLARD, known to the source as a member of the Black Commandos, who stated that the Black Commandos was to be the "most fearless" Black organization in the U.S., the Black Muslims not withstanding. He stated he was in contact with other anti-white groups in California, and a revolutionary struggle would soon take place in Los Angeles and spread to San Francisco. He asked how many persons present would be willing to give their lives in the cause of freedom, and everyone present raised their hands.

On August 30, 1967, the source identified a photograph of JACK JAMES AGUILLARD, a male Negro, date of birth June 21, 1932, as identical with the individual who he knows as JACK AGUILLARD of the Black Commandos.

On October 7, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY, known to the source as one of the leaders of the Black Commandos, made a statement at a meeting that the Black Commandos are for action now, and seek no publicity. WILEY stated the Black Commandos only seek to smash the evil imperialistic devil "honky" and no one needs to advertise this fact. He stated that the Black Commandos are not interested in learning Arabic or Swahili; they are only interested in learning how to be revolutionary.

OFFICERS

LA T-1 (8/30/67)

On August 30, 1967, the source advised that at a recent meetings of the Black Commandos RAYMOND WILEY has been the apparent leader of the organization. The source stated, however, there are no regularly elected officers of the group. The source stated that meetings of the group

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were first led by JACK AGUILLAR, a former Nation of Islam (NOI) (see appendix) member and Black Nationalist advocate, and lately by RAYMOND WILEY. The source stated some sort of notes are kept of the meetings by JUNE RUTLEDGE, who might be considered the acting secretary of the organization.

LA T-2 (11/16/62)

The source advised that as of July 1, 1960, RAYMOND WILEY was a member of Mohammad's Temple of Islam, Temple 27, Los Angeles, California (see appendix) and on April 27, 1962, was arrested for his participation in a riot at the Muslim Temple, located at 5606 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California.

LA T-1 (11/16/67)

On November 16, 1967, source identified a photograph of JUNE EVELYN RUTLEDGE, LAPD Number 724233R, as the individual known as JUNE RUTLEDGE of the Black Commandos.

LA T-1 (10/13/67 - 11/13/67)

During October and November 1967, the source learned the alleged leader of the Black Commandos is a Mr. "J", whose name and identity are not known to any members of the Black Commandos except RAYMOND WILEY. At a Black Commando meeting on October 17, 1967, a member asked RAYMOND WILEY, who is Mr. "J", and WILEY stated that Mr. "J" is the leader of a secret group called the Black Commandos, and the reason he is known only as Mr. "J" is for security purposes. WILEY stated that if Mr. "J's" identity was revealed, the FBI, LAPD, and CIA would know the next morning.

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

LA T-1 (6/13/67 - 11/16/67)

On August 30, 1967, the source stated the Black Commandos appeared to be composed of about 15 individuals with no known membership records being kept. The source advised that the Black Commandos have indicated a strong "Black Nationalist" position and at the time, have indicated an air of secrecy and suspicion of one another.

Source also advised that at a Black Commando meeting in mid August 1967, RAYMOND WILEY briefly talked on a possible "suprise" for the Los Angeles area in the form of trouble during the winter months. WILEY stated it was commonly accepted that riots occurred during hot summer weather, so that an attack during the winter would catch local authorities off guard. WILEY did not elaborate upon this statement, or give approximate time when it would occur.

On September 5, 1967, source advised at a meeting of the Black Commandos, on August 30, 1967, TOMMY WHITFIELD, known to the source as a member of the Black Commandos, stated all members will have to give written reports on their daily activities between meetings. He stated that the Black Commandos is to be a secret organization and they want no publicity. He also stated other Black Commando Clubs are being organized in other parts of America, and it is the first time Negroes have organized without telling anyone.

On September 15, 1967, the source advised that at a Black Commandos meeting held on September 14, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY, known to the source as one of the leaders of the Black Commandos, stated he had received information that certain members of the Black Commandos had engaged in a secret meeting to form their own organization and he stated he did not trust certain people in the Black Commandos.

On October 13, 1967, the source made available the following list of rules for the Black Commandos.

Any violation of the following rules are grounds for immediate dismissal from the Black Commandos.

1. Do not discuss Black Commando meetings with anyone not attending meetings.
2. Do not forget to give written report of weekly activities.

3. Attend all meetings.
4. There will be no fighting among Black Commandos.
5. There will be no stealing from fellow Black Commandos.
6. There will be no passing of literature from another organization to Black Commando members by another Black Commando.
7. No member is advised to take notes at meetings unless authorized by the secretaries.
8. Anyone that claims to know the identity of Mr. "J" or his whereabouts will be dismissed from the Black Commandos one way or another.

The source advised on October 13, 1967, that at a meeting of the Black Commandos, held on September 19, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated that the government of the Soviet Union, People's Republic of China, Albania, German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, and Romania, have all issued statements and voiced their condemnation of the United States government and its determination to increase their support and assistance to the Vietnamese people and their struggle against U.S. aggression. He stated the U.S. government will have many enemies from within by 1969 and that is why we members of the Black Commandos keep training for the coming revolution.

The source advised on October 13, 1967, that at a Black Commandos meeting on October 1, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated that members of the Black Commandos are not supposed to discuss any of the groups meetings, activities, or plans to any strangers. He stated the organization has ways of finding out who and where the snitches are in the group. He stated that the people called "RAM" (see appendix) made a grave mistake when they did not have an investigative source of their own as the Black Commandos does. "RAM" is known to the source as the abbreviation for "Revolutionary Action Movement".

The source further advised on October 13, 1967, that at Black Commando meetings held on October 1, 1967, and October 6, 1967, a Negro male, who uses the name MAASI, known to the source as a leader of the organization known as United Front, was present as a guest speaker. At the meeting on October 6, 1967, he invited members of the Black Commandos to attend United Front Headquarters at 7625 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, on Friday evenings; and at the Black Commando meeting on October 1, 1967, he gave lessons in self defense.

The United Front is known to the source as a militant, pro-Maoist, Black Nationalist organization, currently training Negro youth, which is also a para-military organization.

Source also advised that at the Black Commando meeting held on October 6, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated that Mr. "J" has informed him that this winter, whites will get a "suprise". He stated that whitey is always looking for patterns, and he thinks that uprisings and burnings come only in the summer. WILEY asked, What about the winter time?.

On October 13, 1967, the source advised that at a meeting of the Black Commandos, held in October 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated he had been informed by Mr. "J" that many uncle tom leaders in America were a set-back to black progress and that the public would soon witness an elimination of these puppets, for the uncle toms are truly enemies of the poor workers. WILEY also stated that the Black Commandos are ready to withstand any amount of pressure under questioning, even if it means committing suicide.

The source advised on November 16, 1967, that at a Black Commando meeting held on October 6, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated that the reason most Black organizations can not get off the ground, is because everyone wants to be a leader, no one is willing to die, and there is no trust among the members. WILEY stated the Black Commandos will be the only organization among Black people that will bring about a change and the change will have to come about by an armed revolution in America. WILEY also stated that a new Black Commando organization had just gotten started in Detroit, Michigan, and in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but WILEY furnished no details.

On November 16, 1967, source advised that at a Black Commando meeting, on October 10, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated that Mr. "J" had informed him that it is time for the Black Commandos to do a little work in the community. WILEY stated that the Black Commandos will have some literature printed and distributed in the Black belt of Los Angeles.

The source advised on November 16, 1967, that at a Black Commando meeting held on October 24, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated that good reports are coming from the Black Commandos in Detroit, so we must stay alert because any day now, the action will go down and those people who are making a lot of noise and doing nothing, will be blamed for what happens.

On November 16, 1967, the source advised that at a meeting of the Black Commandos, held on November 4, 1967, ALFONSO DAVIS, known to the source as a member of the Black Commandos, stated that if the Black Commandos were to endorse any group of Black militants or merge with any organization, it would be the organization called "RAM" (See Appendix), for they have proven they mean business.

On November 16, 1967, the source advised that at a Black Commando meeting held on November 14, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated he heard the words, Black Commandos, mentioned in the neighborhood and he did not approve. WILEY stated people are getting the Black Commandos mixed up or confused with the United Front people who are a bunch of young punks. WILEY stated the only people the Black Commandos would consider merging with would be RAM (see appendix).

ACQUISITION OF
WEAPONS

LA T-1 (8/30/67 - 11/16/67)

The source advised August 30, 1967, that during a Black Commando meeting in mid August 1967, RAYMOND WILEY demonstrated the method of breaking down a M-1 rifle. WILEY had a stack of what he said was dynamite and he described the best method of placing dynamite to cause maximum destruction. WILEY also displayed a "molotov cocktail", a milk bottle sealed on the top with wax or parafin, so that the cocktail could be prepared in advance and stored without evaporation or danger to the one preparing it.

Source advised on October 13, 1967, that at a meeting of the Black Commandos, on October 6, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY stated every Black Commando should have the address "Department SAF, 1601 Larimer Street, Denver, Colorado, 80202" to order 30 Caliber M-1 carbines. The source stated that as far as he knew, this was a mail order business that sold guns and was not connected with any racial group.

On November 16, 1967, source advised that at a meeting of the Black Commandos, held on October 24, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY displayed 10 M-1 rifles that had been purchased by the Black Commandos. WILEY stated that the Black Commandos would have to organize a legal gun club so all members can learn to shoot.

On November 16, 1967, source advised that on October 31, 1967, at a Black Commando meeting, RAYMOND WILEY stated that the Black Commandos should give more attention to their rifles than anything else, because the police depend on these weapons more than anything else.

PROPENSITY FOR VIOLENCE

LA T-1 (6/14/67 - 11/16/67)

On June 14, 1967, source advised that TOMMY WHITFIELD had made the statement that the purpose of the Black Commandos would be to blow up public facilities, large factories, police stations, and police cars, and he spoke of the groups obtaining firearms and hand grenades.

On August 30, 1967, source advised that at a Black Commando meeting in mid August 1967, RAYMOND WILEY briefly talked on a possible "suprise" for the Los Angeles area, in the form of trouble during the winter months. WILEY stated it was commonly accepted that riots occurred during hot summer weather so an attack during the winter would catch local authorities off guard. WILEY did not elaborate upon the statement or give appropriate time when it might occur.

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On November 10, 1967, the source advised on the evening of November 9, 1967, the Black Commandos laid plans to create a series of serious incidents in the Los Angeles area. The source advised tentative plans concerned talk of planting an explosive device at the reception desk of the 77th Street Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles, California, on the evening of November 11, 1967.

The source stated that he is of the opinion that Black Commandos will work in conjunction with the group known as United Front, in relation to the above incident. It is to be noted that the above incident did not materialize.

SUBVERSIVE RAMIFICATIONS

LA T-1 (8/30/67 - 11/16/67)

Source advised that at a meeting of the Black Commandos, held during August 1967, CP, USA, Marxist - Leninist (CP, USA, M-L) (See Appendix) literature was distributed by RAYMOND WILEY and those in attendance were urged to study the literature. On November 16, 1967, source advised that at a Black Commando meeting on October 17, 1967, RAYMOND WILEY was asked by a member of the Black Commandos, if the Black Commandos were connected with any communist organization. WILEY answered that any enemy of the American "honky" was a friend of Black Commandos, and there is nothing wrong with communism.

FINANCES

LA T-1 (8/30/67 - 11/16/67)

On August 30, 1967, source advised that he knows of no financing for the Black Commandos.

On November 16, 1967, source advised that at a meeting of the Black Commandos, held on October 17, 1967, JUNE RUTLEDGE, known to the source as the acting Secretary of the Black Commandos, stated that the Black Commandos is a secret organization, and it takes just as much money to operate secretly than it would to operate openly. She

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stated each member must contribute to the gun fund and a legal fund.

Also, on November 16, 1967, the source advised that he had been unable to find out any details relative to the financing.

APPENDIX

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
MARXIST-LENINIST (CPUSA, M-L)

On August 24, 1965, a source advised that the West Coast Provisional Organizing Committee for a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (WCPOC) was formed in Los Angeles, California, on August 23, 1965, under the leadership of MIKE LASKY. Although similar in name, the newly organized WCPCC had no connection whatsoever with the Provisional Organizing Committee for a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (POC) or the latter's West Coast POC.

On September 7, 1965, the above source advised that a National Conference of the newly formed WCPOC was held over the September 4-5, 1965, weekend in Los Angeles. At that meeting, the name WCPOC was dropped, and the CPUSA, M L was formed under LASKY's leadership. The CPUSA, M-L has the following aims and purposes:

1. To conduct guerrilla warfare training, including the use of firearms;
2. To organize CPUSA, M-L cells in the South to exploit all "racial situations" that might arise there, to agitate the population, and create situations which would require the use of Federal Troops so that Americans would be fighting Americans;
3. To establish and maintain an accelerated recruiting program to include acceptance of anyone who is an anti-imperialist.

On May 5, 1967, the above source advised that the CPUSA, M-L continued to exist.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

MUHAMMAD'S TEMPLE OF ISLAM #27 (MTI #27)
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, aka.,
Muhammad's Mosque #27

A source advised on May 10, 1967, that MTI #27 was formed about January, 1957, and that it is an affiliate of the Nation of Islam (NOI), which has its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

The NOI supervises MTI #27, approves membership, establishes policies, provides records systems, governs the finances and receives financial support from MTI #27.

MTI #27 regards as its leader ELIJAH MUHAMMAD, the national leader of the NOI, and follows his teachings.

MTI #27, according to the source, is considered as the parent temple in the Los Angeles area. It supervises meetings in the various surrounding cities and the meetings are conducted by field ministers of MTI #27.

APPENDIX

APPENDIXNATION OF ISLAM, Formerly Referred to as
The Muslim Cult of Islam, also known
as Muhammad's Temples of Islam

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

On May 5, 1967, a second source advised 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; the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils", in the United States; and 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 Muhammad had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his 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.

APPENDIX CONTINUED

APPENDIX CONTINUED

NATION OF ISLAM, Formerly Referred to as
The Muslim Cult of Islam, also known
as Muhammad's Temples of Islam

On May 2, 1966, a third source advised Muhammad had, in early 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.

APPENDIX

APPENDIXREVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto," the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM).

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963 by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of Robert F. Williams, then residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto disclosed that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism; that is, one involving the struggles of the nonwhite races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding Williams, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued in Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the crime of kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, Williams fled the United States to Cuba, where he published a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana. As of December 1966, Williams was residing in Peking, China.

This source, in September 1964, advised RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States by violence, if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely nonwhite in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World"; that is, the nonwhite races of the world rather than to any national entity, as such.

APPENDIX CONTINUED

APPENDIX CONTINUED

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT

On November 16, 1964, a second source advised he learned recently from a RAM member that the organization began in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of Don Freeman, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin." Freeman served as RAM Chairman, with Maxwell Stanford (now of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) serving as RAM Field Chairman.

On May 12, 1967, a third source advised that the RAM still remains active; however, there is not formal headquarters, as such, for the RAM. The source advised that Maxwell Stanford of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is considered the leader of RAM and if an RAM headquarters ever existed, it would most likely be where Stanford resides.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Los Angeles, California
December 5, 1967

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. LA 157-1681

Title BLACK COMMANDOS

Character RACIAL MATTER - ORGANIZATION

Reference Los Angeles report of
SA MYRON M. HITCH, 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.

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Authority NLS 152R.013.003/2
By *jk* NARA, Date 4-2-73