

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1264175-1

Total Deleted Page(s) = 6

Page 44 ~ Duplicate;

Page 138 ~ Duplicate;

Page 139 ~ Duplicate;

Page 208 ~ Duplicate;

Page 209 ~ Duplicate;

Page 212 ~ Duplicate;

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X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X For this Page X  
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memoandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/12/65

FROM : SAC, PITTSBURGH (157-429) (RUC)

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
RM

Re Baltimore letter to the Bureau dated 9/22/65.

On 10/4/65, CLYDE B. KING, Management Assistant, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, W. Va., advised that there is no known meeting place in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., which might be used for a meeting of the Deacons For Defense, with the exception of the high school auditorium and the National Park Service facilities at the Mather Training Center. KING said that to his knowledge there has been no effort made by any group to have any type of a meeting in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., on 12/4/65.

KING identified 12/4 as the anniversary of the date of the hanging of JOHN BROWN at nearby Charles Town, W. Va.

It is noted that the Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Post Office services much of the nearby area located in the State of Maryland.

KING said that the I.B.P.O.E. W. (Negro Elks) have their national headquarters at what is known as the Kennedy Farmhouse, which is actually the farmhouse used by JOHN BROWN and his raiders before their attack on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859. This farmhouse is located in Maryland, approximately one-half mile from the Samples Manor Church. KING pointed out that the property owned by the I.B.P.O.E.W. includes several outlying buildings besides the Kennedy Farmhouse. Specifically, a large hall which has offices and a dance hall. He pointed out that meetings can be

more (157-1008)  
(157-1992) (Info)  
burgh (157-429)

REC- 67

EX-101

OCT 14 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gch/jr

INT. SEC.

PG 157-429

held in this specific building located at the Kennedy Farmhouse.

KING said that the I.B.P.O.E.W. is now in the process of selling their holdings at the Kennedy Farmhouse with the intention of moving their headquarters to the West Coast, but that no buyer for the property has been found to date.

LEADS

BALTIMORE

At Sandy Hook, Md.

Will locate the facility owned by the I.B.P.O.E.W. and through established sources, identify the affair planned for 12/4/65.

10/19/65

airtel

1 - Mr. Murphy

To: SACs Los Angeles (157-1184)  
New Orleans (157-3290)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS

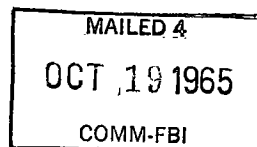
Reference Los Angeles teletype 10/19/65 captioned as above. Los Angeles should submit by return airtel the information contained in referenced teletype in letterhead memorandum form.

The Los Angeles Office should closely follow this matter with the Los Angeles Office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division and furnish all available information to the Bureau in letterhead memorandum form.

Although the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division has primary jurisdiction regarding this matter, the New Orleans Office should closely follow this matter and attempt to develop information through New Orleans sources in connection with New Orleans's continuing investigation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

1 - Dallas

BPM:deh *deh*  
(7)



NOTE:

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division source in Los Angeles advised that Czech manufacturer delivered 420 machine guns to the Deacons of Defense and Justice at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July, 1965.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-81 BY SP1/gsh/hk

REC- 56

EX-117

OCT 20 1965

57 OCT 25 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>10/14/65</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/31/65 - 9/28/65</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA DONALD J. MC GORTY</b>	TYPED BY <b>dcs</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>RM</b>	

*Deacons of Defense and Justice*

## NON-PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

- P -

### LEADS

#### NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

#### AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with VICTOR GRAHAM, Acting President, Ferriday Unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gpl/f

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: (8) - Bureau (RM) 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM) 1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM) 1 - ONI, New Orleans (RM) 1 - OSI, Barksdale AFB, La. (RM) 3 - New Orleans 2-(157-5624) 1-(66-2404)		157-2466-73 9 OCT 18 1965	MCT-16 REC 7  EX 110
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS	
AGENCY: <i>ICC, Hq, Memphis, Tenn. + Comm. Relations Service</i> REQUEST RECD: <i>10/25/65</i> DATE FWD: <i>10/25/65</i> HOW FWD: <i>BPM</i> BY: <i>BPM</i>		<i>[Stamp: INT. SEC.]</i>	

NO 157-5624/dcs

An extra copy of this report is being disseminated to the Bureau for further dissemination to Secret Service, inasmuch as members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, in some instances fall within category 5(c). In view of this, a copy of this report pertaining to the organization is being furnished to Secret Service in order that they may have a better understanding of activities of various individuals in whom they have jurisdictional interest.

A copy of this report is being furnished to ICG, ONI, New Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, in view of their respective interests in Klan matters.

COVER PAGE B\*

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS (RM) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)  
1 - ICG, NEW ORLEANS (RM)  
1 - ONI, NEW ORLEANS (RM)  
1 - OSI, BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE (RM)

Copy to:

Report of:

SA DONALD J. MC SORTH

Office:

NEW ORLEANS

Date:

OCTOBER 14, 1965

Field Office File No.:

NO 157-5624

Bureau File No.:

Title:

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Character:

RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis:

VICTOR GRAHAM, Acting President, Ferriday Unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated., Ferriday, Louisiana, advised that although the unit has been chartered by the National Organization the unit has had no meeting nor is there any firm commitment from prospective members. He stated that his brother, LEO GRAHAM, is the Acting Secretary. He stated efforts are now being made to secure at least 20 members for the unit at Ferriday, La.

- P -

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon information that a unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated, had been chartered at Ferriday, Louisiana.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) *Class 4*  
*8/21/80*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP4 JCU/fj 7-21-80*  
REASON--FCIM-11, 1-2.4.2-2  
DATE OF REVIEW *10-14-88*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)Date 9/6/65

MELDON ACHESON, CORE worker, Ferriday, Louisiana, furnished the following information:

ACHESON advised that he did not think that a chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been officially formed at Ferriday, Louisiana.

He stated during the time when acts of violence were being committed almost nightly in Ferriday, Louisiana, a group headed by VICTOR GRAHAM contacted the Deacons in Bogalusa, Louisiana, to ascertain the procedure for forming the Deacons, at Ferriday, Louisiana. Initially, a representative of the Deacons at Bogalusa was suppose to come to Ferriday to get the chapter started; however, this never materialized. He stated that he knows that some correspondence between GRAHAM and the Deacons at Bogalusa, Louisiana, took place. However, he did not know the contents. He stated that since the violence has stopped in Ferriday, Louisiana, he has heard no talk, either from GRAHAM or anyone else about forming a Deacons for Defense and Justice at Ferriday, Louisiana.

2

On 8/31/65 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # NO 157-5624

by SA DONALD J. MC GORTY  
SA ELMER B. LITCHFIELD / cal Date dictated 9/3/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 7, 1965b6  
b7C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

LEO GRAHAM, [REDACTED], Louisiana,  
furnished the following information:

LEO GRAHAM advised that he is the Acting Secretary for the Ferriday Unit of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. He stated that in conjunction with his brother, VICTOR, who is the Acting President of the Unit, he has made many efforts to recruit members for this unit. He stated that he has spoken to approximately 30 individuals of which 20 have stated that they would become members of this unit.

GRAHAM stated that up until the present time the unit has not had any meetings, nor official functions. He stated that one of the causes of this is due to the fact that they can find no suitable place to have their meetings. He said another thing which is holding up the membership drive in the unit is that each new prospective member is required to pay a \$5.00 initiation fee and not too many of the individuals who are interested in the unit are willing to pay out \$5.00 to get into it. GRAHAM advised that this \$5.00 initiation fee is used to secure pamphlets and printed material from the National Organization.

GRAHAM advised that within the next two or three weeks either the unit will have a strong membership drive and get under way or else it will go defunct.

GRAHAM further stated that he has not attended any of the state meetings or any of the meetings for the Deacons, outside of Ferriday, Louisiana. He stated if, in the event, once the unit really gets going, he is required to attend state meetings of the Deacons and he would be glad to furnish information as to what happened at these meetings to the FBI. He further stated that because he has not attended any state meetings he is not too knowledgeable concerning the many facets of the Deacons of Defense and Justice and therefore could not furnish too much information on their activities at the present. (U)

3

On 9/28/65 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # NO 157-5624

by SA DONALD J. MC GORTY/dcs Date dictated 9/29/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

GRAHAM further stated that the unit has no walkie-talkies or other equipment at the present; however, once the unit does catch hold he expects to get as much equipment as is possible. He stated all these equipment purchases are made by the unit through the National Organization. He stated that presently both he and his brother have personally owned firearms as do some other prospective members; however, it is not the type of equipment which is required of the unit.

GRAHAM further advised that he would continue to cooperate with the FBI and would furnish them the names of all the members as well as any equipment and weapons they might purchase. ~~(S)~~ (U)

4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 7, 1965b6  
b7c~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

VICTOR GRAHAM, [REDACTED], Louisiana,  
furnished the following information:

VICTOR GRAHAM stated that he is the Acting President of the local chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated. He stated that sometime during the latter part of July, he along with some other fellows, decided to contact the Deacons in order to find out how to form a chapter at Ferriday, Louisiana. A few days after submitting a request to the Deacons for Defense and Justice at Bogalusa, Louisiana, they were contacted by a Mr. RILEY, Mr. AMOS and Mr. KILPATRICK, Negro members of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that they familiarized him with the procedures of how to secure a charter, the needed number of participants in the unit and some of its activities.

He then stated that after discussing the matter with his brother and a few of his friends, they decided to secure a charter for the organization. He stated that he sent \$100.00 to a HENRY C. AMOS at Jonesboro, Louisiana, which was the initiation fee for obtaining a charter. Two weeks later the charter was received. The following is a verbatim copy of the charter received by the Ferriday Unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated:

"Charter  
Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated

To the members of the Ferriday chapter of Ferriday,  
Louisiana.

---

Branch of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated

Greetings

Your application for admission to the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, has been passed upon by the Board of Directors of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, at its meeting on the ninth day of August, 1965, and granted. This charter is therefore issued to you, your organization, is now enrolled as a branch of the Deacons.

On 9/28/65 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # NO 157-5624

by SA DONALD J. MC GORTY/dcs Date dictated 9/29/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

This charter is granted on the condition that your organization will endeavor to the best of its ability to co-operate with the Deacons in the furtherance of its objectives, namely; 'The defense of justice for all men'.

The Board of Directors reserve the right to suspend or revoke this charter at any time the Board deem it for the best interest of the Deacons.

Dated at Jonesboro, Louisiana, on this ninth day of August, 1965.

/s/ Percy Lee Bradford  
Chairman of the Board of Directors"

This charter is on yellow paper, 8½ by 11, and is bordered with a red embroidery. In the lower left hand corner of the charter there is a blue wax shield with the Deacons for Defense and Justice sealed stamped upon it.

GRAHAM stated that the unit at Ferriday, Louisiana, has never really gotten off the ground, inasmuch as nothing has happened since the summer time. He stated they have had no meetings; however, he, along with his brother, LEO GRAHAM, who is Acting Secretary, has made many efforts to recruit members for this unit. He feels that once things get under way there will be approximately 20 members in this unit to start with. He further advised that in addition to paying the \$100.00 for the charter the unit is requested to forward \$2.00 per month to Mr. BRADFORD, which is the monthly dues paid to the National Organization by the local units.

In addition to the charter, GRAHAM stated that he also received membership cards from the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated, which are nothing more than a record keeping card for payment of dues by individual members. In addition, there was a monthly report sheet, which is to be submitted to the National Organization advising them of the total number of members, both active and inactive and any other necessary information which they might require.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



FBI

Date:

10/15/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS  b3  
b7EINTERNATIONAL DAYS OF PROTEST  
IS - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP-8 JKL/STP

Re New Orleans teletype to Bureau 10/15/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM which relate to proposed demonstration in New Orleans on 10/16/65 reported in referenced teletype.

Enclosed for Milwaukee and San Francisco are one copy each of LHM since these offices are origin in "National Coordination Committee to End The War in Viet Nam" and "Viet Nam Day Committee" respectively.

The confidential source referred to in LHM is   New Orleans, who has been utilized by the Intelligence Unit of the New Orleans Police Department. He has become dissatisfied with New Orleans PD and in recent past has volunteered information to New Orleans Division. 157-2466-

No information has been developed at New Orleans concerning demonstrations at military bases or concerning draft card burnings. New Orleans will follow the proposed demonstration on 10/16/65 and the Bureau will be advised.

- 3 - Bureau (Encls. 8) (RM)  
 1 - Milwaukee (Info) (100-14700) (Encl. 1) (RM)  
 1 - San Francisco (Info) (100-Viet Nam Day Committee) (Encl. 1) (RM)  
 4 - New Orleans (2:  ) (1: 100-17231) (1: 157-3290)  
 NFS:sab  
 (9)

AGENCY: G-2, ONI, OSI

RAO

DATE FORW: 10-21-65

HOW FORW: 16

BY:  Sent  

M

Per  Approved:  

Special Agent in Charge

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-441001-411

b7D

b3  
b7E

INT. SEC.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 15, 1965

PROPOSED DEMONSTRATIONS  
PROTESTING UNITED STATES  
POLICY IN VIET NAM AT  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
OCTOBER 16, 1965

On October 15, 1965, a confidential source, who has not been contacted sufficiently to evaluate his reliability, advised that Joe Verret, a student at Louisiana State University at New Orleans, advised that there would be a meeting in the school cafeteria at Loyola University at 7:30 p.m., October 15, 1965, in preparation for a demonstration in the form of picketing in front of the Federal Building at 701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, at 2 p.m., October 16, 1965. The source advised that Joe Verret is a member of the Spartacist and the United Front for Peace and Freedom in Viet Nam.

According to source, Verret also stated that representatives for the International Women's Committee for Peace and Freedom in Viet Nam would be present at the meeting and during the picketing on October 16, 1965. Verret also stated that Aubrey Woods, whom he identified as the New Orleans representative of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, would attend the meeting on October 15, 1965. However, the source did not know whether any members for the Deacons for Defense and Justice would take part in the picketing on October 16, 1965. Verret also had advised that three of the persons picketing would carry placards bearing the name "Spartacist" and its New Orleans post office box number.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gk/fv

157-2466-  
ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

OCT 19 1965

1059 AM PDT URGENT 10-19-65 PLS

TO DIRECTOR (157-2466)

NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

FROM LOS ANGELES (157-1184) 2P

## Racial Matters

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM, 602 NEW ORLEANS.

RAY DOYLE, ATTU, U.S. TREASURY, LOS ANGELES TODAY ADVISED  
ATTU\*SOURCE HAS CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUAL CONNECTED WITH  
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN FIREARMS MANUFACTURER. THIS INDIVIDUAL ADVISED  
ATTU\*SOURCE THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF CZECH MANUFACTURER DELIVERED  
FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY MACHINE GUNS, NOT FURTHER DESCRIBED, TO THE  
DEACONS AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, IN JULY, NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE.  
WEAPONS ALLEGEDLY STORED BATON ROUGE.

ATTU SOURCE IS OF BELIEF HE CAN OBTAIN LIST OF SERIAL NUMBERS OF A NUMBER OF MACHINE GUNS MANUFACTURED BY THE CZECH FACTORY. SERIAL NUMBERS PERTAINING TO THE FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY MACHINE GUNS TURNED OVER TO DEACONS WILL BE INCLUDED ON LIST.

RAY DOYLE ADVISED HIS SOURCE WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN SERIAL  
NUMBERS FROM PLANT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ATTU SOURCE HAS BEEN  
INSTRUCTED TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILS RE ENTIRE WEAPONS  
TRANSACTION INCLUDING SERIAL NUMBERS AND POSSIBLE PRESENT  
LOCATION OF WEAPONS IN BATON ROUGE.

END PAGE ONE

\* ALCOHOL 55 OCT 28 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1/SL/11

PAGE TWO

ATTU,\* LOS ANGELES, HAS ALERTED THEIR DALLAS OFFICE WHICH  
COVERS LOUISIANA.

LOS ANGELES WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ATTU,\* LOS  
ANGELES, FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT DETAILS.

AM COPY DALLAS FOR INFO.  
*AirMail.*

END

WA...BXG RPP

FBI WASH DC

NO...LWH

FBI NEW ORLS

TU

\* ALCOHOL TAX AND TOBACCO UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (157-2466) (RM)

DATE: 10/25/65

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (157-1446) (RM) - RUC

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE & JUSTICE, aka  
RM

OO: New Orleans

Re BH tel to Bureau dated 9/2/65, AM copy  
to New Orleans; BH airtel, enclosing LHM, dated 9/3/65.

Referenced communications set forth all  
pertinent information available to Birmingham concerning  
captioned group. There are no outstanding leads in this  
matter in the Birmingham Office.

In view of above, BH is considering this  
case RUC to OO.

2 Bureau - RM  
2 New Orleans (157-3290) - RM  
1 Birmingham

MME:fc  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP182N/jk

EC-61

157-2466-75

14 OCT 26 1965



F132  
NOV 2 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

INT/SEC

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany  
☐ Albuquerque  
☐ Anchorage  
☐ Atlanta  
☐ Baltimore  
☐ Birmingham  
☐ Boston  
☐ Buffalo  
☐ Butte  
☐ Charlotte  
☐ Chicago  
☐ Cincinnati  
☐ Cleveland  
☐ Dallas  
☐ Denver  
☐ Detroit  
☐ El Paso  
☐ Honolulu

☐ Austin  
☐ Indianapolis  
☐ Jackson  
☐ Jacksonville  
☐ Kansas City  
☐ Knoxville  
☐ Las Vegas  
☐ Little Rock  
☐ Los Angeles  
☐ Louisville  
☐ Memphis  
☐ Miami  
☐ Milwaukee  
☐ Minneapolis  
☐ Mobile  
☐ Newark  
☒ New Haven  
☒ New Orleans

☐ New York City  
☐ Norfolk  
☐ Oklahoma City  
☐ Omaha  
☐ Philadelphia  
☐ Phoenix  
☐ Pittsburgh  
☐ Portland  
☐ Richmond  
☐ St. Louis  
☐ Salt Lake City  
☐ San Antonio  
☐ San Diego  
☐ San Francisco  
☐ San Juan  
☐ Savannah  
☐ Seattle  
☐ Springfield

☐ Tampa  
☐ Washington Field  
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern  
☐ Bonn  
☐ London  
☐ Manila  
☐ Mexico, D.F.  
☐ Ottawa  
☐ Paris  
☐ Rome  
☐ Rio de Janeiro  
☐ Tokyo

10/22/65

Date

RE: **DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS**

☐ For information      ☐ Retention optional      ☒ For appropriate action      ☐ Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: **ReLAtel 10/19/65 and Buairtel 10/19/65.**

**New Orleans should advise appropriate local authorities, Army intelligence and Secret Service of the contents of referenced teletype.**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gsk/yk

Enc. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bufile **157-2466**  
Urfile **157-3290**

*File*  
*S.D.*

## Domestic Intelligence Division

## INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 10/19/65

Deacons of Defense and Justice is an all-Negro organization based in Louisiana and having as its main purpose the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan violence. It is the subject of a pending Bureau investigation.

Attached reports Treasury investigation of the alleged acquisition of automatic weapons which is in the investigative jurisdiction of Treasury.

We are advising the Department and following this matter closely.

BPM:deh  
(3)

*FSB*  
*[Signature]*

*[Large Circle]*

10/22/65

Airtel

1 - Mr. Murphy

To: SAC, Chicago (157-572)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERS

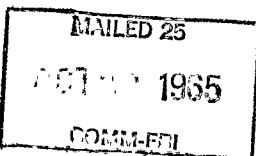
The following information was contained in a United Press International news release, dated 10/16/65:

"Chicago--the Deacons for Defense and Justice, a gun-carrying group of southern Negroes dedicated to meeting force with force, plans to establish its first chapter in the North in Chicago.

Earnest Thomas, Vice President of the group, said yesterday the group has 62 chapters in Dixie. The Chicago chapter was planned because the Ku Klux Klan, which the Deacons were formed to fight, is 'moving North and we're going to try to curtail some of its activity,' he said.

Thomas, who lives in Jonesboro, La., the birthplace of the Deacons, said the group operates in the South 'by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars.'

He said the primary purpose behind the group was to meet the KKK and similar groups on its own terms."



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

1 - New Orleans (157-3290)

BPM:pjm:den  
(5)  
ENCLOSURE

REC 30

157-246676-1568

16 OCT 27 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1/gu/jf



Airtel to SAC, Chicago  
Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
157-2466

As you are aware, the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ) is a Negro organization having as its main purpose the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan violence. Said organization has been active in demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

In view of the foregoing and because of the potential for violence, Chicago should initiate immediate inquiry to determine available facts concerning the plans of the DDJ to start a chapter in Chicago. Follow closely any actual efforts in this regard and if a chapter is organized, develop necessary sources in order to fully obtain information concerning the activities of the DDJ leaders and the group's activities.

You should be alert to any indications of subversive and/or outside influences on the DDJ. Also, you should establish such sources as may be necessary to run out information regarding weapons reportedly possessed by the DDJ and any leads regarding weapons' suppliers.

Chicago should also be alert for any information indicating an extension of the DDJ to other northern cities. Leads should be promptly set out and New Orleans, the office of origin, fully informed concerning developments.

Bureau must be promptly advised of all developments regarding the DDJ and information suitable for dissemination should be submitted by letterhead memorandum.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-42

(RACIAL)

CHICAGO--THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, A GUN-CARRYING GROUP OF SOUTHERN NEGROES DEDICATED TO MEETING FORCE WITH FORCE, PLANS TO ESTABLISH ITS FIRST CHAPTER IN THE NORTH IN CHICAGO.

EARNEST THOMAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP, SAID YESTERDAY THE GROUP HAS 62 CHAPTERS IN DIXIE. THE CHICAGO CHAPTER WAS PLANNED BECAUSE THE KU KLUX KLAN, WHICH THE DEACONS WERE FORMED TO FIGHT, IS "MOVING NORTH AND WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO CURTAIL SOME OF ITS ACTIVITY," HE SAID.

THOMAS, WHO LIVES IN JONESBORO, LA., THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE DEACONS, SAID THE GROUP OPERATES IN THE SOUTH "BY RIDING ARMED WITH PISTOLS AND GOOD RIFLES IN RADIO-EQUIPPED CARS."

HE SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE BEHIND THE GROUP WAS TO MEET THE KKK AND SIMILAR GROUPS ON ITS OWN TERMS.

10/16--TD1048AED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gsh/lfr

*TAPK (9/7)*

ENCLOSURE

157-246676

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

*Wired to CP  
 11/11/64  
 1/2/65*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI NEW YORK

9-39 PM EDT URGENT 10/22/65 M.F.R.

TO DIRECTOR, FBI //19// AND NEW ORLEANS

-----/ NEW ORLEANS VIA WASHINGTON ENCODED \-----  
FROM NEW YORK /157-1542/ 1 PAGE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM.  

  FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFO OCTOBER TWENTYSECOND, SIXTYFIVE... (U)

CLASS. & EXT BY SP18N/1/4 7-2-88  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 10-22-88

RICQUE LESEUR /PHONETIC/ REPRESENTATIVE OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE IN NYC, ADVISED RUDOLPH JONES, AID TO JESSE GRAY, HARLEM RENT STRIKE ORGANIZER, THAT THERE IS A STATE OF SIEGE OF THE NEGRO COMMUNITY IN BOGALUSA, LA., BY THE POLICE, THAT THE POLICE HAD GONE INTO THE COMMUNITY WITH MACHINE GUNS, BUT THE DEACONS WERE AFRAID TO FIGHT BACK. THE POLICE ALLEGEDLY BROKE SOME NOSES. (U)

RICQUE STATED THAT CHARLES, /OR CHILDS, PHONETIC/ WAS COMING UP TO NY AND WOULD BE GETTING INTO NY ABOUT ONE PM OCTOBER TWENTYTHREE. RUDY WANTS CHARLES /PHONETIC/ TO SPEAK AT A STREET RALLY AT ONE HUNDRED TWENTYFIFTH STREET AND SEVENTH AVENUE, NYC, AT TWO PM ON OCTOBER TWENTYTHREE, WHERE HE CAN TELL WHAT HAPPENED IN BOGALUSA. NYCPD ADVISED. (U)

LHM FOLLOWS. NYO WILL COVER. (U)

ND

WA...MSE

FBI WASH DC

REC-21

*Ronald R. Jones, District Attorney, CRO  
sacred 10/23/65*

157-2466-777  
23 OCT 28 1965

RELAYED TO

EX-113

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 10/26/65

FROM : SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INC., AKA  
RACIAL MATTER

(OO: New Orleans)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)  
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 8/21/80

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gsk/fk 7-21-80  
REASON - FBI - 2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85

Re Jackson airtel with LHM dated 9/3/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a LHM and two copies are submitted for New Orleans. One copy each being forwarded to INTC, OSI, ONI, and Secret Service, Jackson. Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and Jackson Police Department, Jackson, Mississippi, have been advised of results in LHM.

The investigation set forth in the LHM was conducted by SA JAMES O. INGRAM.

[ ] (Protect) is the first source in the LHM. [ ] is a second source mentioned in LHM. The third source is [ ] (PROB) who was contacted by SA CLARK S. MILLER at Bogalusa, Louisiana. b7D

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

18 NOV 1 1965

SURE Will through sources conduct appropriate investigation to determine CHARLES SIMS and ROY BURRIS further plans for assisting in the organization of chapter in Mississippi. Will advise Jackson in the event the Bogalusa Chapter or any other chapters send deacons to Mississippi for meetings.

2 - Bureau (157-2466) (Encs. 8) (RM)

2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encs. 2) (RM)

5 - Jackson (157-3465) (Encs. 5)

JIO/bmm

(9)

(1 - [ ])  
(1 - [ ])

(1 - 157-452) (MFDP)

(1 - 157-3370) (MIKE HIGSON)

b3  
b7D  
b7E

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

AGENCY: ACISI ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;  
INTELL. DIV., CRD, RAC, Community Relations  
DATE FOR: 11/19/65  
HOW FORW: [ ]  
BY: [ ]  
100-441111

JN 157-3465

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

JACKSON DIVISION

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ). If chapter in Mississippi organized, will attempt to determine leadership, strength of members, activities as well as arms acquired.

Will attempt to determine potentiality for violence and any outside influence on chapters.

Will determine if DDJ from Louisiana arrived in Mississippi for discussions with possible DDJ members.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

October 25, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS

Mike Higson, Assistant Officer, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), 507½ North Farish, Jackson, Mississippi, advised on September 23, 1965 he attended a meeting at the Masonic Temple located on Lynch Street in Jackson on August 30, 1965. The meeting was sponsored by the Hinds County MFDP and the MFDP arranged to have individuals with the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ) Chapter at Bogalusa, Louisiana, to be there.

Higson stated he attended the meeting and there were approximately 175 to 200 people in attendance and the principal speakers were Charles Sims, President of the Bogalusa Chapter and Roy Burris, Vice President of Bogalusa Chapter. There were other DDJ members from the Bogalusa Chapter present at the meeting. Arrangements were made to have the members of the DDJ from Bogalusa return to Jackson around September 15 to determine what steps had been made to arrange for DDJ Chapters in Mississippi, especially in Jackson. He said Sims and Burris had advised the persons in attendance they would have to raise funds to form chapters.

Higson stated that to his knowledge Sims and Burris have not returned to Mississippi and there has been no great interest in forming chapters in Jackson or in Mississippi.

On October 15, 1965, Higson advised that to his knowledge there had been no chapters formed in the State of Mississippi and he does not believe Sims, Burris or

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpa / fr 7-21-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 10-25-85

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - 2466-178  
ENCLOSURE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

any other representatives of the DDJ in Louisiana have returned to Mississippi.

M. B. Pierce, Chief of Detectives, Jackson, Mississippi Police Department, who has been contacted on several occasions has advised he has received no pertinent information of any DDJ Chapters being formed in the State of Mississippi. He said they were following this matter very closely.

Charles Snodgrass, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Jackson, who has been contacted on several occasions concerning this matter has advised he has received no pertinent information concerning any chapters being formed in the State of Mississippi by the DDJ.

[A source who has furnished reliable information in the past and who attended the meeting at the Masonic Temple on August 30, 1965, advised on September 2, 1965] (U) (C) that he had determined there was a group of Negroes in Natchez, Mississippi, who were interested in forming an organization of the DDJ in Natchez. He said there have been protest demonstrations in Natchez by Negroes and several Negroes believe they should organize for their own protection. [The source advised] that the leader of the Negroes in Natchez appears to be James Jackson, a barber who has a Negro barber shop on North Pine Street. (U) (C)

[On October 19, 1965, the source advised] that (U) (C) to his knowledge there has been no DDJ Chapter formed in Natchez. Although there have been protest demonstrations and marches in Natchez almost on a daily basis, they have been orderly demonstrations. [The source advised] that he (U) (C) has determined that Charles Sims and Roy Burris may return to Mississippi around the last part of October, 1965, to confer with MFDP leaders concerning the forming of chapters in Mississippi.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

[A second source with whom insufficient contact has been made to determine reliability advised on October 18, 1965, she attended the meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, on August 30, 1965, at the Masonic Temple where Deacons from the Bogalusa Chapter spoke to the assembled group. She said Sims and his group were expected to return to Jackson in September to assist in forming groups but they did not. She believes that the Negroes in the State of Mississippi are not interested in forming DDJ Chapters. She based this statement upon the fact MFDP has no funds to support chapters in the State and the Negroes themselves will not support chapters.]

She said Sims and Burris had stated they would return to Mississippi but to her knowledge they have not returned to date.

The Jackson, Mississippi "Clarion-Ledger" dated September 10, 1965, carried an article by the Associated Press entitled "Natchez Negroes Reject Deacons for Defense." The article related that Kenneth Dean, Director of the Mississippi Human Relations Council, had told newspapermen that Negroes in the racial torn city of Natchez had turned down offers to organize a chapter of the militant "Deacons of Defense."

[A third source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on September 2, 1965] that Charles Sims had stated he had been in Jackson, Mississippi the week of August 30, 1965, trying to organize the DDJ's at Jackson. [The source stated] Sims had indicated the Negroes of Jackson were very reluctant to get involved in the DDJ. (U)

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



F B I

Date: October 25, 1965

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184) (P)

RE : DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RM  
OO: New Orleans.

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau dated 9/29/65, captioned as above, with eight copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) enclosed; New Orleans letter to Los Angeles, dated 10/15/65; Los Angeles teletype to the Bureau and New Orleans dated 10/19/65, and Bureau airtel to Los Angeles and New Orleans, dated 10/19/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau is an original and seven copies of an LHM concerning the above-captioned organization's possible receipt of machine guns from a Czechoslovakian firearms manufacturer.

Three copies of the LHM are enclosed for the office of origin, New Orleans, and one copy for Dallas, inasmuch as the Dallas Office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, covers Louisiana. One copy each is also being sent to OSI, Maywood, California, FIO, Los Angeles, and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 8) (Air Mail - Registered)  
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encs. 3) (Air Mail - Registered)  
1 - Dallas (Enc. 1) (Air Mail - Registered)  
2 - Los Angeles (157-1184)  
RNT:HMS  
(8)

AGENCY: ACS, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.

DATE: 10/27/65

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

BSM: CJ

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

DATE 7-21-80

BY SP18th/jv

LA 157-1184

b7D

For the information of the Bureau and New Orleans, on 10/11/65, [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] advised that there was no further activity in the San Bernardino-Riverside and Los Angeles area on the part of CHARLES SIMS and A.Z. YOUNG, after their appearance at the "Freedom Festival" on 9/23/65, at San Bernardino, California. New Orleans advised 10/15/65, that a source had advised that SIMS and YOUNG have returned to the Bogalusa area. (S) (U)

The information concerning the machine guns was received from ATTU Agent RAY DOYLE, Los Angeles, who obtained the information from an ATTU source.

This LHM is being classified ~~confidential~~ because this information tends to identify the ATTU source.

Los Angeles will maintain close contact with ATTU for any additional pertinent details.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

October 25, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS

On October 19, 1965, a representative of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California, advised that an ATTU source had reported that a representative of a Czechoslovakian firearms manufacturer delivered 420 machine guns, not further described, to the "Deacons" at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July, 1965. This source said that the weapons are allegedly stored in Baton Rouge.

Efforts are being made by the ATTU source to obtain serial numbers of the weapons and other details concerning the transaction, including the possible location of the weapons.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

CONFIDENTIAL

Group I

~~Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification~~

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 gpl/fk  
ON 7-21-80

157-2466-79  
ENCLOSURE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S)  
DATE 5/21/80 6/1/80

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

b6  
b7C

M E M O R A N D U M

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/28/65

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542) (P)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
RACIAL MATTERS

Re Newark airtel and LHM to the Bureau, dated  
9/20/65.

On 10/6/65, [redacted], reliable, advised BILL (LNU), described by [redacted] in re LHM as the bartender, male, of Cuban or Puerto Rican decent, 5'10", 160 pounds, dark brown hair, near olive complexion, clean shaving and angular face, is BILL PITMAN (U) MRS. WILLIAM C. PITMAN

b7D

BILL PITMAN was the subject of [redacted], in which is reflected that through the cooperation of Postal Inspector J.M. BURKE, Postal Inspector's Office, United States Post Office, 33rd Street and 8th Avenue, New York City, on 1/25/63, SAS of the NYO photographed names and addresses of a number of persons to whom copies of the "Worker's World" were mailed on that date. BILL and DOROTHY PITMAN were listed as residing at [redacted] New York, New York. This is the same address [redacted] indicated BILL (LNU) and a group of nine men and seven women went to after leaving a benefit for the Deacons on 9/18/65. (U)

b3  
b6  
b7C  
b7D  
b7E

- 1-80288
- 2 - Bureau
  - 2 - Baltimore
  - 2 - Jackson
  - 1 - Newark (157-1992)
  - 2 - New Orleans
  - 1 - New York ([redacted]) (BILL PITMAN) (43)
  - 1 - New York

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 10/21/65

b6  
b7C

GAJ:lls  
(12)

EX 110

REC-41

157-2466 80

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gbl/fu 7-21-80 9 NO. 1 1965  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4.2 0 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 10-28-85

60 NOV 9 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

INVESTIGATIVE  
[Handwritten signature]

NY 157-1542

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

On September 17, 1964, Detective RAYMOND J. CLARKE, Bureau of Special Services (BSS), New York City Police Department (NYCPD), advised that WILLIAM PITMAN is Chairman of the West Side CORE, located at 100 West 82nd St., NYC.

On February 28, 1965, MARION KLEIN, insufficient contact to determine reliability, [redacted] NYC, advised WILLIAM C. PITMAN is an Irish alien who has a Negro wife and two children. She stated that at the present time, PITMAN has applied for American citizenship and has received application for "first papers".

b6  
b7C

KLEIN alleged that PITMAN has been very active in the present Civil Rights program of the Negro. She alleged that he had organized a "West Side CORE", but this organization was rebuffed by CORE as not being an official branch of the main organization.

[On 10/20/65, [redacted]] made available a leaflet (S) (U) indicating a "discotheque party" was to be held 9/25/65, at 9:30 PM, under the auspices of "The John Brown Commemoration Committee" (JBCC), 100 W. 82nd St., NY 24, NY, Phone EN 2-4954. It is to be noted that this is the address where the benefit for the DDJ was held on 9/18/65.

b7D

NYO indices negative re JBCC.

On 10/27/65, Detective ALONZO STANLEY, BSS, NYCPD, advised their files contain no information re JBCC.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

F B I

Date: 10/26/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISESUBJECT: <sup>(1)</sup> DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS

Re New York teletype to Bureau, 10/22/65.

Enclosed for Bureau and New Orleans are  
copies of LHM in above case.Confidential sources utilized in attached  
LHM are identified as follows:

Source Number 1  
Source Number 2  
Source Number 3  
Source Number 4  
Source Number 5  
Source Number 6  
Source Number 7  
Source Number 8



RECEIVED  
AND INDEXED  
ADVISOR  
SLIP (157-1542)  
DATE 11/31/80  
CLASS 61455

b7D  
b7E

This LHM is classified "~~Confidential~~"  
to protect identities of above sources. Unauthorized  
disclosure of information attributed to these sources  
might impair their future effectiveness and such im-  
pairment could have an adverse effect on the national  
defense interest.

3-Bureau (Encls. 8) ENCLOSURE  
3-New Orleans (Encls. 3)  
1-New York

VJA:mjb  
(8)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

CLASS. & EXT. BY: SP-1 826/1/11-21-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW: 10-26-85  
Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

AGENCY: ACT. & SEC. DIV.  
DATE: 11/2/65  
HOW FOR: [unclear]  
BY: [unclear]

Community Relations Service  
(Division)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

b7D

Detective PAUL BRENNAN furnished information to Special Agent GERALD A. JAMES. Detective ANTON MAIDOF furnished information to Special Agent VINCENT J. ASCHERL.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New York, New York

October 26, 1965

NYfile 157-1542

Deacons For Defense and Justice  
Racial Matters

Characterizations for individuals mentioned  
in this communication are set forth at the end thereof.

Confidential sources utilized in this  
communication have furnished reliable information in  
the past.

Confidential source number one furnished  
the following information on October 22, 1965:

Ricque ~~LeSeur~~, Representative of the Deacons  
For Defense and Justice, (DDJ), in New York City,  
telephone 749-8745, was in contact on October 22, 1965 with  
Rudolph Jones, aid to Jesse Gray in the Community Council  
on Housing, 300 West 121st Street, New York City. Ricque  
LeSeur stated that as of October 22, 1965, there was  
a state of siege of the negro community in Bogalusa,  
Louisiana, by the Police; further, that the police had  
gone into the community with machine guns, but the DDJ  
was afraid to fight back. Ricque LeSeur alleged that  
the Police had "broken some noses". LeSeur further  
informed Rudolph Jones that Charles, (not further  
identified), was coming up to New York and would be in  
New York about 1:00 p.m., October 23, 1965. Rudolph  
Jones wanted Charles to speak at a street rally scheduled  
for 2:00 p.m., October 23, 1965, at 125th Street and  
7th Avenue, New York City. (C) (U)

This document contains neither recommendations nor  
conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is  
the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is  
loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

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OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/826/1/4 7-21-80 GROUP I  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 2 Excluded from automatic  
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85 downgrading and  
declassification

157-2466 81  
ENCLOSURE

RECEIVED  
FBI NEW YORK  
OCT 27 1965  
ST/PP (S) OF  
DATE 8/21/79



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons For Defense and Justice  
Racial Matters

The subscriber to telephone 749-8745 is Friends of the Deacons For Defense and Justice, 271 West 125th Street, New York City.

Detective Paul Brennan, Bureau of Special Services, New York City Police Department, advised October 25, 1965, that Charles Sims, President of the DDJ in Louisiana, arrived in New York City at 1:15 p.m. on Flight 976 Delta Airlines on October 23, 1965.

Detective Anton Maidof, Bureau of Special Services, advised on October 25, 1965, that Jessie Gray of the Community Council on Housing held a street rally at 125th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City, from 3 to 6 p.m., October 23, 1965, attended by about 115 people. No disturbances occurred during this rally. Detective Maidof had no information to indicate that Charles Sims participated in this rally.

[ Confidential source number two furnished the following information on October 25, 1965: ]

(S) (U)

A mass rally on black power politics, spearheaded by Jesse Gray, Harlem rent strike organizer, was held on Saturday afternoon, October 23, 1965, from 3 to 6 p.m. Jesse Gray brought a sound truck to this location at 3:00 p.m. He left at the beginning of the rally but returned later. Meantime, the sound truck was loaned to LeRoi Jones and his Black Arts Group. LeRoi Jones took occasion to belabor the Haryou-Act, a Harlem anti-poverty organization, for cutting off his pay. He wanted the group to conduct a demonstration at the offices of Haryou-Act, but this did not materialize.

Charles Sims from Bogalusa, Louisiana, did not show up at this rally; however, Mae Mallory was there and was one of the speakers. She urged support for the DDJ and praised its work for defense of negroes in the South. She also appealed for funds for the DDJ.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons For Defense and Justice  
Racial Matters

Jesse Gray and Rudolph Jones also spoke at the rally and criticized current candidates for political office in New York City. Jesse Gray wanted Negroes to unite and thus exert their own black political power. The rally terminated at 6:00 p.m.

Confidential source number 3 advised on August 11, 1958, that a meeting of the Communist Party, (CP) Waterfront Section was held August 8, 1958, at 167 East Second Street, New York City. This source further stated that Rudy Jones was in attendance at this meeting. (S) (U)

[Confidential source number 4 advised on November 20, 1958,] that Jesse Gray had been organizer for Harlem Region, Communist Party, (CP), up until November, 1958. (S) (U)

Confidential source number 5 advised on November 20, 1958, that, according to William Patterson, Chairman of the New York District CP, Jesse Gray is no longer a CP member but is friendly to the CP. (S) (U)

[Confidential source number 6 advised on August 15, 1962,] that as of that date, LeRoi Jones was President of the New York Chapter of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee, (FPCC). (S) (U)

The Fair Play For Cuba Committee is characterized in the Appendix.

Confidential source number 7 advised on August 17, 1964, that LeRoi Jones was present at a meeting of the Workers World Party, (WWP), at WWP Headquarters, Buffalo, New York, on (S) (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons For Defense and Justice  
Racial Matters

August 4, 1964. At this meeting, LeRoi Jones said that Negroes should quit their jobs, steal food to live, and have nothing to do with the American way of life as it has nothing to do with the Negroes. (S) (U)

The WWP is characterized in the Appendix.

[Confidential source number 8 advised during the period November 2, 1964 to May 3, 1965,] that based upon (S) (U) Mae Mallory's attendance at WWP branch meetings and time spent in WWP activities, it can be stated that Mae Mallory is a member of the New York branch of the WWP.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 157-103000

1.

APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening In Cuba," placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. CHARLES A. SANTOS-BUCH identified himself and ROBERT TABER as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and TABER obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. This source added that during the past year there had been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that their influence as of May, 1963, was negligible.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On May 20, 1963, a second source advised that VINCENT "TED" LEE, FPCC National Office Director, was then formulating FPCC policy and had indicated that he had no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. This source stated that LEE believed that the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and should support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations. LEE did not advocate supporting the Cuban revolution per se.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 157-1542100

2.

APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The November 23, 1963, edition of "The New York Times" reported that Senator THOMAS J. DODD of Connecticut had called FPCC "the chief public relations instrument of the CASTRO network in the United States." It is to be noted that Senator DODD was a member of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee which twice conducted hearings on the FPCC.

The December 27, 1963, edition of "The New York World Telegram and Sun" newspaper stated that the pro-CASTRO FPCC was seeking to go out of business and that its prime activity during its lifetime had been sponsorship of pro-CASTRO street rallies and mass picket lines, and the direction of an active propaganda mill highlighting illegal travel-to-Cuba campaigns. Its comparatively brief span of life was attributed to mounting anti-CASTRO American public opinion, the 1962 Congressional hearings which disclosed FPCC financing by CASTRO's United Nations Delegation, and ultimately, the bad publicity which the FPCC received from disclosure of activities on its behalf by suspected presidential assassin, LEE H. OSWALD.

On February 6, 1964, the previously mentioned second source advised that V. T. LEE had recently remarked that the FPCC was dead and that there were no plans to organize another similar organization.

On April 13, 1964, a third source advised that there had not been any FPCC activity in many months and that the FPCC had been dissolved.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

b6  
b7c

FBI

Date: 10/26/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Type in plaintext or code)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP8 JH/10-21-80  
REASON - FCIM  
DATE OF REVIEW 10-20-85

Re Bureau airtel to Chicago dated 10/22/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a letterhead memorandum and for New Orleans three copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

b7D

Source CG T-1 is [redacted]

(protect - requested).

On 10/23/65, [redacted], mentioned above, advised that intensive investigation has been conducted concerning EARNEST THOMAS while he has been in Chicago and there is no indication that he has any office in Chicago at the present time. [redacted] further advised that spot surveillances of THOMAS have been conducted in Chicago but no address has been developed for THOMAS in Chicago.

b7D

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being designated for Secret Service, Chicago, and one copy for the USA, Chicago.

- 4 - Bureau (Encl 9) (RM)
  - (1 - 157- ) (EARNEST THOMAS)
- 3 - New Orleans (DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.)
  - (Encl 3) (RM)
  - (1 - 157- ) (EARNEST THOMAS)
- 3 - Chicago
  - (1 - [redacted]) (EARNEST THOMAS)
  - (1 - 157-413) ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER., Core Relations Project Division

LGR:mhm  
(10)

DATE FORW: 10/29/65  
HOW FORW: RL

BY: SP8 JH

OCT 27 1965

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 157-2466-82

CG 157-572

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will furnish Chicago a photograph of EARNEST THOMAS and any information that Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., has been organized in Chicago.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of the Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.

Current Informant Contacts

<u>Source</u>	<u>Date Contacted</u>
<input type="text"/>	10/21/65
<input type="text"/>	10/22/65
(code name)	
Source of racial information	

b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)  
Chicago, Illinois  
October 26, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS

The following article captioned "Militant Negroes Here Forming Armed Unit to Fight the Klan" appeared in the October 15, 1965 issue of the "Chicago Daily News," a Chicago, Illinois newspaper:

"Militant Negroes are organizing a Chicago chapter of the gun-carrying Deacons for Defense and Justice, a vigilante group active in battling the Klue Klux Klan in the South.

"We believe there are Klansmen active in this city and we're confident they have thousands of sympathizers here," said Earnest Thomas, 32, the Deacons' vice president and their full-time paid national organizer.

"While we have 62 chapters quite active in the South, Chicago will be our first Northern chapter," he said.

"We expect to operate with freedom patrols up here and be alert for police brutality against Negroes. And we'll also campaign against shady deals that are often pulled off on us Negroes in the North.

"The extent of our stay in Chicago will depend on how things improve here for Negroes."

"THOMAS, father of five, told in an interview here how he and other Deacons do battle against Klansmen.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18k/fv 7-21-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85

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OTHERWISE

157-2466-82



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

"'We don't teach hatred,' Thomas said.

"'We do teach that you have to meet force with force. The only thing that the Klan respects is force. It is also the only thing understood by the others who battle Negroes such as the John Birch Society, the Minute Men, and the American Nazi Party.

"'We usually operate down South by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars. We've had a couple of gun battles recently with the Klan but nobody was seriously hurt. We think we sent some Klansmen to the hospital.'

"THOMAS said Deacons never shoot unless somebody else shoots first.

"'We simply meet violence against Negroes with violence, and it has worked. The Klan is quieter now in the South because of us and the hearings set by the House Un-American Activities Committee in Washington next week.'

"'The local police have protected the Klan and even the federal government, the Federal Bureau of Investigation included, have been ineffectual in fighting Klansmen.

"'The Deacons' activity is 'absolutely within the law,' Thomas maintains.

"'We were organized in Jonesboro, La., about 18 months ago because of violence, and threats, by white gangs,' he said. 'Legally, we're above board because the Bill of Rights allows any citizen to bear arms in defense of life and property.

"'In Louisiana we're allowed ownership of weapons as long as they are not concealed. Our weapons are

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

never concealed. We're a civil rights group but we don't demonstrate in the streets. We observe and then act if it is necessary.'

"THOMAS, a Korean war veteran, is outspoken in his criticism of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his non-violent southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"'Talk doesn't solve anything,' Thomas said,

"'We Negroes are not going to gain our freedom by talking. We Negroes can't continue to let the Klan and similar hate groups trample on us. King and I really live in two different worlds.'

"Thomas is scheduled to debate the Rev. James Bevel, one of King's top aids, at 8 p.m. Saturday in the First Congregational Church, 1613 W. Washington Blvd.

"They will debate the topic, 'Non-violence vs. Self-defense.'"

The following article captioned "Rights Leaders Reject Plan to Start Deacons" appeared in the October 18, 1965, issue of the "Chicago Defender," a Chicago, Illinois newspaper:

"Two Chicago rights leaders gave a short shrift to the announcement that the gun-carrying Deacons for Defense and Justice was planning to establish its first Northern chapter in Chicago.

"Earnest Thomas, Deacons' vice-president, had said over the weekend in Chicago that his group, dedicated to meeting force with force, has 62 chapters in Dixie.

"The Chicago chapter was planned because the Ku Klux Klan, which the Deacons were formed to fight, is 'moving North and we are going to try to curtail some of its activity,' he said.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Timuel Black, president of the Negro American Labor Council, said the people's frustrations had called such a group in existence.

"But I am personally not in favor of this kind of threat. I don't know these fellows or anything about their activities. We don't run with this kind of people."

Black, an executive in the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations, said, on the other hand, that 'unless Chicago changes its racial policies, it can expect many kinds of things.'

*See.* Rev. Lynward Stevenson, president of The Woodlawn Organization, said 'All my friends are non-violent.'

"The militant leader said he didn't know anything about Deacons' activities in Chicago. 'But if they're arming themselves, I'd want to know.'

"This group knows only 'how to get rid of the Klan,' he said. They don't know anything about law and order and the ordinary ways of achieving justice.'

"It's just propaganda,' he said, 'that there are many Klansmen around, in Chicago or elsewhere. The Klan is not nearly as strong as the Grand Wizard has reported.'

"Thomas, who lives in Jonesboro, La., the birthplace of the Deacons, said the group operates in the South 'by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars.'

"He said the primary purpose behind the group was to meet the KKK and similar groups on its own terms."

[CG T-1 advised on October 23, 1965,] that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) has been organized in (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Chicago. [CG T-1 stated] that Earnest Thomas has been in Chicago attempting to interest various groups and individuals in the DDJ but apparently has had no success. [CG T-1 advised] that there has not been any indication that THOMAS has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago. (S) (U)

On October 25, 1965, Sergeant Sam Nolan, Human Relations Section, Chicago Police Department, advised that no information has been developed that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago. Nolan stated that Earnest Thomas has reportedly attempted to interest various groups and individuals in Chicago in forming a Chicago chapter but has had no success in these attempts.

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois, area advised during October, 1965, that Earnest Thomas of the DDJ has recently been in Chicago attempting to gain support for a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ. Thomas has not had any success in organizing a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ and has met considerable resistance from civil rights organizations in Chicago. These informants also advised that there has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Chicago, Illinois

October 26, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Title	DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
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.

[CG T-1] is an agency which collects intelligence information in the Chicago, Illinois area.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 11/3/65

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RM

OO: New Orleans

CLASS. & EXT. BY: SP1 gch/fh 7-21-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW: 11-3-85

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau, 9/29/65,  
captioned as above with eight copies of a letterhead  
memorandum (LHM) enclosed; Los Angeles airtel to the  
Bureau, 10/25/65, captioned as above, with eight  
of an LHM enclosed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original  
seven (7) copies of an LHM setting out information  
concerning captioned organization. Three (3) copies of  
the LHM are enclosed for New Orleans.

This LHM is being classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~" because  
information from sources utilized in the LHM could result in  
the identification of sources of continuing value and compromise  
future effectiveness thereof.

Sources utilized in this LHM are as follows:

Source 1

Source 2



~~(S)~~ (U)

b7D

FRANK GREENWOOD was interviewed by SA's R. ANDREW  
PETERS and MALCOLM R. HARWELL in May, 1965 and by SA R.  
ANDREW PETERS on October 11, 1965.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 8) (REGISTERED)
  - 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encls. 3) (REGISTERED)
  - 1 - Los Angeles
- RNT:bjs  
(5)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;  
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO;  
DATE FORW: 12/12/65  
HOW FORW: 15  
BY: BFM: CJ

REC 14

EX-112

XEROX LHM  
803 RB

12 NOV 5 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California  
November 3, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS

[On October 11, 1965, Source 1 advised] that he is ~~(S)~~ (U) unaware of any secret army being trained by Frank Greenwood in the Watts area of Los Angeles, California. This source advised that he knows of no association between Frank Greenwood and the Deacons of Defense and Justice. This source said that Greenwood is training a group of Negro actors in Watts to perform in a play which he wrote.

[On October 22, 1965, Source 2 said] that he knows ~~(S)~~ (U) of no connection between Frank Greenwood and the Deacons of Defense and Justice and knows of no secret army which Greenwood might be training.

The above sources advised that should they receive information concerning a secret army or Greenwood being associated with the Deacons of Defense and Justice that they will immediately notify the FBI.

In May, 1965, Frank Greenwood advised Special Agents of the FBI that he rejects any philosophy of violence but stated that in areas where law and order had broken down and force was used against Negroes, they should then be entitled to use force in return.

On October 11, 1965, Greenwood advised a Special Agent of the FBI that he is conducting a play, which he wrote, at the "Freedom House" in the Watts area. Greenwood said that he does not want to see any more violence of any kind.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpa/fv 7-21-85  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-3-85

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

157-2466-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

ENCLOSURE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS

Sources utilized above have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.



F B I

Date: 11/2/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERS

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Enclosed are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum for the Bureau concerning captioned matter. Two copies of this letterhead memorandum furnished New Orleans for information.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are being furnished Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service; and the Office of the United States Attorney, all Chicago, Illinois.

## ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2) (Info.) (RM)
  - (1 - 157- ) (EARNEST THOMAS)
- 4 - Chicago
  - (1 - 157-303) (ACT)
  - (1 - [redacted] (NAHAZ ROGERS)
  - (1 - [redacted] (EARNEST THOMAS)

LGR: csm

(9)

AGENCY:

DATE:

HOW:

BY:

REC-13

5 NOV 4 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP182L/fh

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

b6  
b7c



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
NOV. 2, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERS

On October 20, 1965, Nahaz<sup>X</sup>Rogers, Vice Chairman of ACT, a civil rights organization with headquarters at Chicago, Illinois, appeared on Wesley South's "Hot Line" over Chicago radio station WVON from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. The "Hot Line" is a show on which usually a controversial person is interviewed and as a result of the interview, telephone questions are received from the listening audience which are answered by the interviewee.

Rogers' subject for the evening was the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. The following is a transcription of Rogers' remarks; the moderator, Wesley South's statements; and questions telephoned in from the listening audience; and ILL. Rogers' replies:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gen/jk

157-2466-84  
ENCLOSURE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

WESLEY SOUTH:

"....The Deacons for Defense and Justice send a staff member here to Chicago to open an office. Now the Deacons were formed in Jonesboro, Louisiana, approximately two years ago for the purpose of protecting themselves and other Negroes in the South. They claimed that they did not receive protection from police in most areas of the South, so they had to set up their own protection.

"Since the first chapter was formed, there are now approximately 62 such chapters throughout the South. All of these, I understand, are in the Deep South. Well, as of last week, the organization has -- the Deacons, we will call it from here on out -- has established a chapter in Chicago. The Chicago Courier has a news analysis on the page I noticed tonight regarding the Deacons, and they were saying that they had talked to the police, talked to the civil rights leaders, and it was understood that they would stop taking a "wait and see" attitude. Mr. O.W. WILSON did not comment but Mr. -- his press secretary -- said if anyone carries a gun around as it is said the Deacons might, and if they're not concealed, they will be arrested immediately. I understand it is supposed to be in violation of some law to have a pistol within the city. Now, what law this is, I don't know, but I know that you're allowed to have firearms.

"Well, what do you think about the Deacons for Defense and Justice?

"We have as our guest tonight a friend -- I've met him many times, especially when I was in politics and still in politics, I guess you might say -- and he has been at many of my meetings: referring to NAHAZ ROGERS, and he is -- I understand, you're

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

in contact with the Deacons?

NAHAZ ROGERS:

"Yes, I am.

SOUTH:

"First I say, welcome to "The Hot Line."  
This is the first time you have been here.

ROGERS:

"Thank you, WESLEY, it's a pleasure to be  
on your show.

SOUTH:

"What about the Deacons for Defense? I  
wonder if you could tell us why they're  
here. I know you can't speak for them,  
you're not a member of them, I understand,  
but you do know some -- you know their  
organization.

ROGERS:

"Yes. I have met EARNEST THOMAS, and in fact, I have met him in several other cities. I understand from EARNEST that he is in town to set up a chapter of the Deacons for Defense in Chicago. And I really don't know any more about the organization of the Deacons for Defense and Justice than most people do who have read the newspapers. However, I have had long talks, organizationally, with EARNEST THOMAS, who is in town now, by an invitation, I might add. He's in town because a group of people came together and invited the Deacons for Defense and Justice into Chicago because they felt that there was a need for the type of services that this organization could render. Further than that, I can only say that it seems to be a very well organized group of men. I understand that there are many, many chapters in the South and that they have a large membership role. I would think -- and this is pure speculation on my part -- that their function would be the type of thing that any red-blooded American would feel proud to belong to an organization who's addressing itself to the problem of civil rights and addressing

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

itself to the self-defense of individuals and groups of individuals.

SOUTH:

"Now, you were saying that they were invited here. I wonder if you could tell us what organizations or what individuals invited them to help.

ROGERS:

"I would have to confess, number one, that I don't know that the group of people who invited the Deacons for Defense and Justice have an organizational form at this time. It is my opinion that a group of men came together in Chicago who felt that a chapter of the organization would function well here and they, in turn, got in contact with the headquarters for the Deacons for Defense and Justice and the headquarters, of course, sent in EARNEST THOMAS, who is, I think, their primary organizer.

SOUTH:

"Now, did they have to come to Chicago? What would they do here to protect Negroes, against what violence, that cannot be performed by local authorities or state authorities?

ROGERS:

"Well, what I would say on that point is simply this: There certainly is room for improvement on the part of all the law enforcement agencies in Chicago where the Negro rights are concerned. I don't think that there could be a great deal of argument on the point of the abuse of Negroes in the city of Chicago, that they certainly are not accorded equal treatment under the law. And to cite some examples, if you would allow me, just a casual look at the number of police in a Negro community would give rise for anyone to suspect that this was not equal protection under the law unless you would say that a triple amount of police in a Negro neighborhood constituted more protection, which I am inclined to seriously doubt.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

I would think that it constitutes a type of oppression, not really protection. That's just a single area, but Negroes meet with an undue amount of violence -- and violence doesn't always take the form of getting one's head beat. You know there's a subtle type of violence that's practiced against the Negro in Chicago that I think needs some addressing.

SOUTH:

"Do you think that the local civil rights organizations are not able to cope with this or the local courts or the local police, local law enforcement agencies, local organizations, churches -- that they are remiss in their order, I mean in their ... ?

ROGERS:

"Addressing themselves to these situations?

SOUTH:

"Uh huh.

ROGERS:

"It is very difficult to place the blame on organizations, churches, civil rights or otherwise. But the fact that the condition continues to exist would certainly lead one to assume that whomever it was whose jurisdiction this fell under had not accomplished their aim, if it was equal justice and equal protection under the law.

SOUTH:

"So they need someone, an organization like the Deacons.

ROGERS:

"I would say that they need an organization and they need someone to further the cause of the Negro as far as being protected from the many and varied assaults on their person, property, etc.

SOUTH:

"I understand that EARNEST THOMAS, who is the organizer for the Deacons, says that there's quite a bit of police brutality here and that they're here to help and protect Negroes. Now, does that mean there

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

will be open insurrection if they found that a Negro was being, say, resisting arrest, and they happened to come around a corner and saw a particular Negro being beaten and saw that the police were trying to put him under control. Would they go into action then?

ROGERS:

"Now, I have to restate my position. I am the Vice Chairman of ACT, an organization in Chicago. We have been having many meetings with Mr. THOMAS and I am in no position to speak for the Deacons for Defense and Justice. I am speaking about the position of self-defense now -- and defensive measures. Now, you raised the question that I certainly think that the type of activity that's carried on in the South would not be applicable in the city of Chicago. I really don't feel that the Deacons for Defense and Justice would find themselves in juxtaposition to the police activities. Certainly, there are many cases documented, and cases now in the courts, where that people feel that they have been mistreated by police officers. However, I think that there is an over-playing of this as being an area for work on the part of a group such as the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Certainly I would think that any organization, the Deacons for Defense and Justice included, would address themselves to that problem. However, I don't think that coming to the aid of an individual being arrested by the law, as such, is the type of tactic that that organization would apply in a situation such as Chicago.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

SOUTH:

"Could you tell us in what area would they operate? I mean, just what would be their program? From what you had discussed, if you had discussed this with them?

ROGERS:

"I would suspect that their program would deal in the area of creating a climate where that the Negro community would be on record as being against police brutality and could take forms that I would think they would, organizational-wise, and I have no idea exactly what they would be. But, there are a number of areas that really represent themselves as needing work in an area that a self-defense organization certainly could work.

SOUTH:

"Such as?

ROGERS:

"Such as, you mentioned with the police. I think that, statistically, it's been proven that there are far too many arrests of black citizens in the city of Chicago in proportion to their numbers, and in proportion to the crimes they commit. Just a casual observation out at 26th and California, where they have -- a majority of the incarcerated population there is Negro. In fact, the Negro only constitutes roughly about a third of the population of Chicago. It would seem that anyone looking at that would say that there is some type of injustice where that this overwhelming majority of Negroes find themselves behind bars. That's one case. But ...

SOUTH:

"Before you go to another -- What I can't understand is what would the Deacons be doing with the police? Would they be down talking with them? Would there be open insurrection? Or just what would happen?



DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

Saying "creating a climate," would they be at O.W. WILSON, "now this is what we want, this is what we have to have," or -- I agree that these conditions are there, I don't think anyone can disagree with that. But where would they fit in, this is what I was trying to find ...

ROGERS:

"Well, I think that the group that invited the Deacons into Chicago are of the opinion that there has not been, up to this time, in Chicago a group of citizens who took a forceful enough position, and when I say "forceful enough position," -- there are many organizations, I would suspect, you would agree, who take the apologetic approach to conditions as they exist in Chicago, and of course it's true in other cities, that somehow the situation will change simply because of the feelings on the part of the structure or the enforcement agencies involved, that somehow the goodness of heart, you know, good will, will prevail. Well, I think at this late date, 1965, that we would have to admit, I would admit, as a person, that the goodness of the heart just is not going to prevail.

SOUTH:

"Would you say that the Chicago leaders in that area -- CORE or CCCO, I know the CCCO is an amalgamation of many organizations -- AL RABY, NAACP, or -- would you comment on any of these?

ROGERS:

"Well, I dislike very much getting into a situation where you address yourself to specific organizations. I would say this, in general, that there are organizations in the city of Chicago who claim to be civil rights organizations, and they have, of late, not been in a position where they were actually protesting anything. One comes to mind, of course, and I would

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suspect that it comes to mind to an awful lot of people. I am not going to put myself in a position of actually calling that organization's name. I think that they know, as well as I know, that many people around the city of Chicago are very disappointed that an organization of national stature who claims to be a protest organization and who claims to be out fighting for the rights and privileges of Negroes, has found themselves almost every single time on the side, either of the structure itself, or in a position of silence. And this is a terrible indictment of an organization that has the stature that this particular organization has. As I say, I think that we should do ourselves a great injustice if we would go into actual name-calling, but then there are other organizations in the city who profess to be civil rights organizations and they function as an arm of the structure. Now, you mentioned some names. You mentioned ~~AL RABY~~ <sup>U.S.A.</sup> ~~AL RABY~~, who happens to be a friend of mine, and who I feel is actually in the field doing a great and good job. He certainly is doing what protest organizations ought to do, that is, demonstrating so that he calls attention to injustices, and of course, this has been done. However, I think that we are in a stage of the civil rights movement where that one has to go a little further than the demonstrations. And when I say this, I mean, don't jump to the conclusion that I'm talking about armed insurrection. You know, there seems to be a great play on words today, in that anyone who no longer agrees with turning the other cheek and this sort of thing, is talking about armed insurrection. No. I'm talking about a firm position within the framework of the struggle for human dignity. A more militant

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approach, one where that you really take the American concept, as expressed by some of the founding fathers, who adhered to the principle, "Peace if possible, but justice at any cost." I think that this is the line that the Deacons would take.

SOUTH:

"This is very well stated, but I don't -- uh -- maybe I'm a person who likes specifics and maybe you can't be specific -- I mean it's impossible to be specific on -- what do you mean when you say "within the framework"? What would an organization do, getting back to the Deacons? Just what would -- how would they fit into this?

ROGERS:

"Certainly, speaking as Vice-Chairman of ACT, and speaking for our position, we would hope that the Deacons would serve a purpose within the framework of our organizational structure. There are cases where that when people go out to demonstrate, that hecklers and people, you know, who are not a part of the demonstration, come in and disrupt things and on occasion the police seem to be rather reluctant or, I would certainly think, I would be using the wrong term to say that they were incapable of containing these over-zealous citizens who choose to disrupt a peaceful civil rights demonstration. I think that a strong-armed organization, and when I say "strong-armed," I'm not talking about armed with guns or that type of thing, I'm talking about just a steadfast, strong organization who would be on the scene and could put an end to this type of harassment, on the part of the regular civil rights movement.

SOUTH:

"Now, that's what -- in other words, they would be there, say they were having a demonstration at someone's home and there

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are people who live in this particular area who don't want this particular demonstration. They'll come out and they'll throw eggs or throw water on them. Do I understand you correctly to say that the Deacons, you would hope, would be there to stop this type of thing?

ROGERS:

"I would think that they would serve the same purpose that they served in many instances in the South. Uh, in Bogalusa, if you recall, and this is recorded in the papers, that they did not, in fact, participate in picket lines. They were there to mingle with the crowd that gathered, some of whom were a part, who were sympathetic toward the demonstration, and some who were not, and they would, in effect, act as a buffer between those people who were anti-demonstration and who were prepared to take some physical action against it, and just their presence there, in many cases, was able to deter overzealous people who felt that they ought to interfere with the peaceful demonstration. And I would suspect that they could serve the same purpose here.

SOUTH:

"Now, let's say that those who were against such a demonstration, they were also determined that they were going to be there and they were going to do what they wanted to do and they were going to stand behind their friends and make certain that they could exercise their rights as they see them, and this could wind up in a fist fight or even worse. Is this right or wrong?

ROGERS:

"I cannot disagree with your speculation that the possibility of fist fights might come out of something like this. I don't think that there's any way of prior determining anything of this nature. But I would think that just the mere act of

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having some Deacons for Defense and Justice in a crowd of people who felt that they wanted to take law into their own hands, would be a deterrent to any activity of that nature.

SOUTH: "Police could have sort of a handful, too, couldn't they?

ROGERS: "Well, police have their hands full in most situations that involve protests and what-have-you.

SOUTH: "And this might make a little bit more such a -- would I be using correct English by saying they would be "fuller"?

ROGERS: "Well, I don't know whether there is such a word, it is possible.

SOUTH: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is "The Hot Line," WESLEY SOUTH is your host. Our guest tonight is NAHAZ ROGERS, who is the Vice-Chairman of ACT. We're speaking about the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

"If you have a comment or question, give us a call, we'll be here until midnight. Our telephone number -- 847-2602.

"(Commercial)

SOUTH: "... This is the "Hot Line."

Caller:  
(Female) "Hello.

SOUTH: "May we have your question or your comment, please.

Caller: "Mr. SOUTH? Mr. THOMAS was interviewed on another program, on another radio show, and he said that he was invited to come up here and the reason why he was invited was

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because that the Ku Klux Klan was opening chapters, starting in Indiana, and his organization was formed primarily to act as a buffer against the Ku Klux Klan in the South because it was proved in Louisiana that a lot of Klansmen were part of the law officials, so therefore, naturally, they were not doing their jobs and that is the reason why they formed the Deacons -- because of this breakdown, that if the Klan was the law, naturally the law wasn't gonna protect the Negro. So, in Louisiana it is legal to carry arms and that is why they are able to carry guns and the only reason that he is coming up here, if he made this perfectly clear, was only to act as a counter-balance against the Ku Klux Klan and for no other reason.

SOUTH:

"We hope to have him on our program in a few days.

CALLER:

"Well, it would be nice, but it would also be nice to make it clear -- I was listening to Mr. ROGERS, and if you have non-violent demonstrations, the reason why they could stay non-violent is because a person does not expect anyone in the demonstration to have a weapon, but if you have the Deacons in there and the supposition is that they will have a weapon, and then naturally anyone coming to counter the demonstration will also have a weapon. So then you are only asking for violence.

SOUTH:

"Thanks for calling.

"Do you have a point on that, NAHAZ?

ROGERS:

"Yes. In talking to Mr. THOMAS, and he made this as a public statement at a debate Saturday night that the organization that would be set up in Chicago would not, in fact, be armed in the manner that you think of the Deacons being armed in

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Louisiana. So I would think that anybody who gets the idea that the Deacons will be wandering around in Chicago armed haven't listened to Mr. THOMAS, himself.

CALLER:

"Well, then, Mr. ROGERS, as you've just said, if they were part of an organization and part of a demonstration, what do you think the good would be? By them just being there? You'd have other people there, I mean what would differentiate them from anybody else, why would they be of any use particularly?

ROGERS:

"Well, I would suspect that from just listening to you, I didn't hear your name when you first started, that you have observed demonstrations in Chicago, I have observed them here and in other Northern cities -- that there are occasional incidents of violence that does not stem from the police, it just stems from, as I said earlier, overzealous spectators. And I think that there is an area there that could be addressed by a group such as the Deacons, and I have no authority to speak for the Deacons, to say that this is an area that they intend to work. I was just saying that this is an area that needs work.

CALLER:

"Well, I don't doubt that it needs work, but I don't know if it needs to be worked by the Deacons! I think it needs working, I think that a lot can be performed by the Negroes themselves if they would write more letters. I mean most Negroes are not writing enough letters. They can do a lot to stop a lot of things if they'd just write more letters to these people. In other words, no one knows you object to anything, well, they just continue to do it! I mean, they can write letters, I mean

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for every man that's stopped and a policeman puts his hand in his pocket, write a letter, write a letter! And then see if that doesn't work, well then get somebody up there, get another form of protest, but how many letters are being written from the South Side?

ROGERS: "Not enough, I'm sure.

CALLER: "I mean, we all just holler, but who's writing a letter?

SOUTH: "Thank you very much for calling.

CALLER: "Surely. 'Bye.

SOUTH: "Good night.

"WESLEY SOUTH here.

CALLER (Male): "Hello, NAHAZ, this is ~~KENNETH~~ LANDRUM. <sup>ILL</sup>  
I'm very pleased to hear you on the program.  
I'm a somewhat regular caller to "Hot Line" and, of course, a great fan of Mr. SOUTH and yours and LARRY's.

"There's just one thing, and of course Mr. THOMAS mentioned this at the debate Sunday. The Deacons are there to protect people. For instance, if a man wants to go out and vote and he has some fear of his house being burned down where he leaves only his children or his women, he can call on them and say, well, look, I'm going to vote, will someone come out and watch my home, and there are countless situations in the South and in the North, perhaps, where someone needs someone else to call on besides the white law enforcement agencies and the Deacons then are there to say, well,



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call on me if you need me, we are here and therefore they can somewhat combat the white sheet fellows from coming to do some harm to them. And they do this -- they watch the registrars and they keep tabs on the people who come to vote and the people then can say, well, we have the Deacons then to call on and I think this is a good point. And he made this point, where he at least has someone else besides the white law agencies to call on to help him protect his home, his family.

SOUTH: "Are you referring to Chicago or other ...

LANDRUM: "I'm referring mainly to the South. Of course, they do this in the South and this is their job, where people are in fear of danger, they have someone to turn to besides the white people who constitute almost the entire law enforcement body down there.

SOUTH: "How would that apply here in Chicago?

LANDRUM: "Well, we might reach that situation here in Chicago. I don't know exactly that it does, but this certainly is an effort of the ... They might go to bat for someone in a case of police brutality. They might help there, and of course, he pointed this out ...

SOUTH: "How do you mean, "help"?

LANDRUM: "Well, engage in some kind of protest, they could go to the captain of the police station and point out these grievances of people and act in this way, or if a person needs protection, and we don't always have enough -- I wish we did, but if a person didn't have enough, he could call on them and say, well, look, I'm in fear of such and

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such, and he would at least have some other protection other than the white power structure and the police agencies.

SOUTH: "All right, thank you very much for calling.  
Good night.

"This is "The Hot Line," ladies and gentlemen,  
WESLEY SOUTH your host. Our guest tonight,  
NAHAZ ROGERS, our telephone number 847-2602.

"(Commercial)

CALLER:  
(female) " ...Mr. SOUTH?

SOUTH: " Yes.

CALLER: " And your guest sounds most interesting.  
I would be delighted if you have the Deacons  
on, the representative of the Deacons on...

SOUTH: "EARNEST THOMAS, yes.

CALLER: "And I feel that acting and living with the  
ordinary citizens are in the ghettos,  
the Deacons might be helpful in getting  
information about the dope that is brought  
in our areas and in the Southern states  
they protect the Negroes who are not  
protected, the Negroes who are not protected  
by the elected police officers. In Chicago  
and our overcrowded conditions, dope is  
brought into our communities, four young  
women have been murdered and Alderman  
LEWIS, and even the Negro daily press --  
now we have a daily newspaper here and  
sometime I think they really wait two or  
three days after the other presses have been  
out to give certain news, they act like  
they are really afraid to give news that will  
sound dignified to us of African descent.

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SOUTH: "You think that the Deacons would remedy this?

CALLER: "I think they could help the policeman because we're so overcrowded here ...

SOUTH: "The police -- you know they have -- the candidates can get applications, I understand, up until, oh, another week, and they are having Civil Service examinations on December second or third. Do you think they should join the police department?

CALLER: "No, sir. I read that there's a shortage, that there are not very many people applying because the policemen are not getting their raises.

SOUTH: "One question I'd like to ask.

"What do you think, if many organizations in Chicago, so many groups all over Chicago, felt that they should have their own police force? How long do you think it would be -- I'll ask you the same thing, NAHAZ -- before law and order -- do you think we would have law and order or would it break down?

CALLER: "Well, as far as the police force, we in Chicago, we have the police force. Now to me, the Deacons would have to -- the people show such apathy. Now, I know people who are not interested in anything ...

SOUTH: "Now, would they be helped by the Deacons?

CALLER: "And if they could hear about the Deacons and hear about what they have done in the South -- and I know for certain, in certain areas no Negro men are allowed to go, not even on business, yet other men

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go freely for social purposes in our areas. Well, you know that's not right, and I think that these people can really help the police without a warrant.

SOUTH: "Okay. Thank you for calling.

CALLER: "Thank you so very much.

SOUTH: "Would you comment on the question I asked you, NAHAZ?

ROGERS: "Well, number one, I would say that it appears to me that other groups do have defensive organizations. They may not be organized, primarily for that purpose, but it is obvious that there are such organizations in existence in Chicago. I would just like to say -- a couple of questions ago, someone raised the question about areas of work for the Deacons for Defense and, as I say, not speaking for the Deacons for Defense, but I think of cases where Negroes move into an area and someone burns their house down or throws bricks through the front windows or even invades their home -- that here's an area that's within the framework of one's own private property, that a person might want to call upon someone for help to see that they're secure in their own home, and we know for a fact that on occasions the police haven't been enough to actually deter this type of action.

SOUTH: "This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "WESLEY? Mr. MC KAY (ph).

SOUTH: "Haven't heard from you in a long time.

CALLER: "Yeah, I been pretty busy.

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SOUTH: "I understand you have your own radio show now?

CALLER: "Yes, I do, and it's broadcast from the Edgewater Beach Hotel, WES. Like to have you as a guest sometime.

SOUTH: "Be glad to.

CALLER: "I have been listening but I have been pretty busy and I have been talking to a lot of people in the last two or three months, doing a lot of things, quite frankly. I have been in touch with the Deacons and I might say, -- probably not much time -- how much time do we have left?

SOUTH: "Oh, minute or so.

CALLER: "Minute or so. That's unfortunate because what I wanted to say could take more than a minute.

SOUTH: "Well, go right ahead.

CALLER: "I wanted to say this, that first of all, I think that the pulse of the Negro people is being misread by many people. It is unfortunate that we have to look back to 400 years of violence against us. We see the world in a state of violence today. I heard a statement today, I think it was Senator YOUNG, is it, that said that the CIA had committed atrocities in Viet Nam and he just came and blamed it on the Viet Cong to inflame opinions. We see Mr. (Trosby ??) and his show, which is stimulating anti-Asiatic feeling, which the Negro Secret Service agent goes abroad and kills yellow communists, but he doesn't kill the white ones, and I'm not saying this as any ... this is a situation that exists, you know it is unfortunate that this exists, and this is so to inflame hatred against the red Chinese, perhaps to prepare the American people psychologically

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for war and to murder millions of Asians with their nuclear weapons, and that we even debate whether or not Negroes need self-defense who are being murdered psychologically, physiologically, economically, sociologically, and every way possible. At 8.8 years left of life expectancy, just multiplying that by 20 million gives you about 1,760,000,000 years of life every time a generation passes out of existence among our nation. So what are we debating, whether we want to live or die, you know? Whatever means are necessary for us to live and for our youth to flower into the full fruition of their manhood and womanhood, I don't give a darn whether they're Deacons, whether it's guns, whether it's bombs, whether it's marches, whether it's demonstrations, whether it's books, whether it's bricks or stones or sticks. The people are the parasites, the white power structure. We are the hosts, they feed off of us, they suck our blood, they grow fat, we grow thin, we die, they live. Now we have a choice, it's very simple. I'm not advocating anything except survival and decency and human dignity for my people and for all people, whatever it takes, if we are men or if we are women. If we believe in the principles of Christianity, the principles of Judaism, the principles of Brahmanism, or Muslimism, any kind of religious doctrine, the principles of purely decent humanity, of humanness, of survival of human life on this planet, we will take whatever steps are necessary to be sure then. And we are the moral salvation, the black people of the world, the non-Caucasians are the moral salvation, the only possible salvation of this planet. And if we don't take whatever steps are necessary to stop this frenetic, headlong dash toward hell, and destruction of this earth, we'll wish we were never born.

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SOUTH: "Thanks for calling (Russ?).

CALLER: "Thank you.

SOUTH: "Talk to you later. Good night.

"This is "The Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Yes, I would like to agree with the last caller, but at the same time I would like to say that the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Illinois do give every individual, black or white, the right to protect himself and his property. There is no denying the fact that the Negroes in the city of Chicago, as well as in other places, are being denied their rights to protect themselves. At least, their rights are being abused. But I think that in all fairness, that we have to admit that, number one, the laws are on the books, the police are in there for our protection, the Negroes have a right to join the police force, Negroes are in the courts, we have Negro lawyers, that can practice in the courts, I mean we have a lot of things going for us here in the state of Illinois. I am one of the first ones to talk about some of the things that we don't have in the city of Chicago that we should have. But we have a lot of things going for us in the state of Illinois in general and in the city of Chicago, in particular, for our own protection. But at the same time, nobody is going to force protection upon us and the only thing that the Deacons could possibly do would be in the sense ... I heard Mr. THOMAS on the other program the other night also. I think he handled himself very well on that program for the audience that he had, which was predominantly white, but by the same token, I don't think

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that that type organization is needed in Chicago. I hope that ACT and DICK GREGORY, who is my idol, I hope that they are not fostering that type of organization here in the city of Chicago. We don't need that type of organization in Chicago. We do need vigilantes, it's true enough, but we need vigilantes, number one, to wake people up, our people, and get them interested in how to use their legal rights to protect themselves with what they have on the books. We don't have people in the city of Chicago who even take advantage of things that are not even denied them. I mean, as far as homes being burned, I work for a real estate office, I know about some of these things. But I have not as yet read where one Negro moved in any neighborhood has actually, in force, tried to protect himself against his home being burned. And he has that right in the state of Illinois, he has it under the Constitution of the United States. He's not using it. We have the right to vote for whomever we please, to even select our legislators. But in very, very few instances in the state of Illinois, and particularly in the City of Chicago, do Negroes select -- they help elect -- but they don't select anything. And the thing is, we need vigilantes here, as I say, but the vigilantes that we need are the type that can wake the Negro people of the city of Chicago up as to what their rights are now, how to take advantage of them. Simple little thing like calling the Internal Investigating Division when you feel that you're being abused, and I can personally say I have never been physically abused by any policeman, but I was verbally abused by a policeman and I can personally state that the Internal Investigation did make an investigation of it. And, uh, people are so afraid, I mean,



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but those things go against the record of any particular policeman, and nobody in their sensible mind, and I'm sure Superintendent WILSON does not want the type of man on the police force that's going to create havoc on the force. Now, but if the people don't say anything, but mumble to themselves, as I say, talk of trials for your doggone sins, I mean, well, nothing is going to happen.

SOUTH: "Thank you for calling.

"(Commercial)

SOUTH: "This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Mr. SOUTH?

SOUTH: "How are you, Mr. MUNFORD?

CALLER: "Fine, and you, sir?

SOUTH: "Fine. Haven't heard from you for a few days.

CALLER: "Well, I have been listening to you, you know, 'cause this is my heart. First of all, I would say this, that I belong to, as you well know, the non-violent organization, but our leaders tell us this, they're training us this. And they say that we are glad the Deacons exist. I know that some are comparing them to the Ku Klux Klan, but then they may ask this question - how many lynchings have they committed, how many homes have they burned, how many churches? The Deacons, thank God, are not night riders. Anyone compare them like with the Klan is simply 'dacion (ph). Now, it's the same way, the Deacons. See, level-headed men that is leading us and I mean, God knows, if there is anything in prayer, I'm praying for it. Mr. SIMS said, one of the

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Deacons said this, "Leave your pistols, your knives, your hammers at home. Leave the protecting to us, that's our job, and to all men who is so like-minded, I think they would agree with me when I say this, that all men oughta be free but only those who are worthy of it. Who are valiant enough to win it -- to want it, to desire it, is not enough. One must pursue and capture it, knowing full well that freedom is not a gift, it's a victory. And let us all work for victory. Thank you, sir.

SOUTH: "Thanks for calling.

"This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Good evening, Mr. WESLEY SOUTH. Can I make ...

SOUTH: "Well! Haven't heard from you in a long time, Mr. ...

CALLER: "Well, you barred me off of you!

SOUTH: "I haven't barred anybody off. Go right ahead, NICK. LAWS ILL.

CALLER: "First, I'd say, speaking about Negroes protecting themselves. Someone said we have a lot of protection here. I haven't found it so much and I think you're gonna agree with me. I think, for the speaker tonight, I think the best way the Negroes can get protection in Chicago or anywhere else, and that is, number one, (word or two unintelligible) these organizations. The Negroes must get in these organizations and after getting in there he must support them. That is the number one. Now, of course, I feel this at this age of my life. I don't think anybody doing anything smart, throwing rocks in my car like I seen them throwing them in Negroes'. Now I don't know

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why this is so healthy when I am (unintelligible) ... I have everything that the city acquires me to have on my car. Now, God help anybody throwing a rock in my car. I'm gonna call the police after I call the undertaker. Because I think if a man don't stand up and protect his home and his family, he's less than a man, that's the number one thing the majority of us Negroes don't do. We get in an organization we don't even support it. Our alderman, -- and the alderman I'm talking about is about the only one we have, and its the 17th Ward alderman -- he made a statement here this summer that they ain't but about five per cent of us support these organizations. So, NAHAB, I think that one thing we got to do. When the more of these people support the organizations, I think the organizations will be in more of a situation to fight them. Thank you, Mr. SOUTH.

SOUTH:

"You've never been barred from the "Hot Line," Mr. LAWS (ph).

"Thanks for calling, hope to hear your voice again.

CALLER:

"Okay.

SOUTH:

"This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male):

"I would like to speak to Mr. ROGERS.

SOUTH:

"Here on the line.

CALLER:

"I would like to know if his group is a non-violent or violent group?

ROGERS:

"Number one, I wonder how people get hung up in those type of thoughts, "non-violent" or "violent." The ACT organization is not a non-violent. That does not, in itself, make it a violent group. You see, violence is one thing -- ACT believes in self-defense,

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that every man, to be a man, has to have, number one, the feeling for protecting himself, his family and his possessions. Now, violence is something that has been constantly perpetrated upon the black man in this country and I know of no organized black organization that goes out to perpetrate violence against anyone. But I constantly hear people asking whether an organization is violent or non-violent. You know, we are not non-violent, if by non-violent you mean will we go out and offer our members up as sacrificial lambs to allow someone to beat their heads. No, we will not do that. On the other hand, we are not going out to inflict any violence on anyone else. But we teach and preach and hope and pray that every single ACT member will at all times conduct himself like a God-fearing man, and that is, that he will protect himself, he will protect his family, he will protect his property. This is not violence. This is how to deter violence.

SOUTH:

"Yes, sir, does that answer your question, sir?

CALLER:

"Well, I wonder if he, do he think getting behind the voter registration, voters, that maybe this thing will be deterrent, if any person that runs for any elective office, if this group would support anybody that run for elective office in the city of Chicago?

ROGERS:

"Yes, we advocate -- this is part of our platform, and program, is that the black community must control the black community and this would mean in every sphere of operation, the political, the economic, black people must control the economics of their community, they must certainly control the political aspects, and they also must control the social aspects of their own community. This is something that to

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date in most cities of the United States has never been. The city is completely controlled and exploited by outside forces and this is what ACT stands against. We stand for complete control of the Negro community by Negroes, and we don't refer to black people in America as "Negroes" -- we refer to them as Afro-Americans, Africans, or black people, -- and that we feel that it is necessary that power come to the black community in order that they may develop those things that are necessary for them to function within the total society as equals.

SOUTH: "Thank you for calling, sir.

CALLER: "Thank you.

SOUTH: "Good night.

"This is the "Hot Line".

CALLER (female): "Hello?

SOUTH: "May we have your question or your comment?

CALLER: "Mr. SOUTH, I have a comment and a slight question too. I think that this organization that they are performing now, I think that this would be a very good thing to happen in our different neighborhoods, not only do we need this for demonstrations and we need it for violence or whatever they are talking about, As far as the police department, I have no kick against the police department as far as me. But I think it's a whole lot of things, because have you thought about, too, there's a many a people, and I know I'm a woman alone, and I know there's a many a people, even sick in bed, and you can call for help, you can even call for the police department. Sometimes you can't even get one and do you know it would be a nice thing to even have people that you could even call to see that you go into a hospital, because you can

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

go to some of these hospitals, you can have all kinds of insurance, they are prejudiced, they don't want to do anything for you. You can't even go to the counter, you have to stay on the outside out there. I have gone out and stayed as long as 12 or 15 hours and I would be sick and couldn't get waited on. And I think that if they could even get this organization built up that they can protect the Negroes. I think that this would be a great thing, not against the police department, because I think Chicago has a nice police department, I have no kick against them ...

SOUTH:

"And what was your question?

CALLER:

"And then the question that I wanted to ask, would these people be trained to do these things -- not just people you just pick -- are these people trained to do this work?

ROGERS:

"The units that function in the South, now they are in the process at the moment of setting up a chapter in Chicago, but all of the chapters in the South go through rigorous training programs to be sure that every Deacon can operate at peak levels. Now, these are things that I learned from talking to Mr. THOMAS. As WESLEY says, Mr. THOMAS is going to be on the program himself, or at least he's going to invite him on, and I would suspect that he would be able to answer these questions in much more detail.

CALLER:

"Thank you, sir.

SOUTH:

"Thank you for calling.

"(Commercial).

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

Caller "Did I understand you to say at the beginning of the program that you would have some representative from this organization within the next few days?

South "Yes, sir.

Caller "All right, now. Well my question is, do you think that the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan is refusing to expose anything connected with his organization?

South "I haven't the slightest idea.

Caller "Well I just saying that since he refused.....  
(unintelligible)

South "Well I ask him when he comes on.

Caller "I wish you could ask him that.

South "I really couldn't say what this man would do.  
I've never even met him.

\*\*\*\*\*

South "Hello, Hot Line.

Caller "Hello, Mr. South. I'd like to comment on your program tonight.

South "Yes, sir.

Caller "I've heard a lot of what the people are saying and I disagree with just about every call you've had, except one and I thought he was very articulate in stating his composition and I cannot see where Chicago needs (unintelligible) unless you are going to work in areas (unintelligible) as far as voting, as far as volunteering for youth organizations to help (unintelligible), value of education and a few other things of that nature. Other than that, I don't see where we need them because you cannot have two police departments in one city. And by them not caring whether its against the law in this state and in the city, I do not see how they can protect any civil rights workers who are demonstrating

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

or anything else, in all white areas.

South

"Did you want to comment on that.

Rogers

"Yes. I think it deserves comment. Number one, we here at the program do not know as yet exactly what areas the Deacons have decided to work in in Chicago. But on the other hand, I think that there are too many organizations and individuals throughout the community who are actually training Negroes into submission. Now I think one of the jobs that I would like to see the Deacons do is to re-instill manhood in black men. That is to re-instill the idea that men must of right and ought to protect themselves, their property and their family. And this is obviously lacking in many Negroes over 21 years of age and I don't thing you can be a man unless you possess the qualities that go along with being a man and that is to be willing to protect your family and your home and your children.

Caller

"I don't thing you'll find any Negro man, unless there are very few, who are not willing to protect their rights and their family and their home and what not. And a new organization coming up, I agree with you a lot of organizations in Chicago who are working for Negroes rights, but to me they are all going and assuming different directions until very few are making much headway. We are making headway, and I don't say that Chicago has the best police force in the nation but it's a big organization and any big organization that you find you're going to find a few goofs. These men are human. They've got their prejudice too. They're police, but they've still got their prejudice. I don't think that among the police that Chicago has that it's running rampant through the whole force. And to me, if you bring in another group and something should start where there is a peaceful demonstration and then there's hecklers like there was at Mayor Daley's house, and the Deacons are there to protect those peaceful demonstrators, we would have a riot. And in a riot, it's hard to tell who's right and who's wrong. Especially when you have two groups at odds with each other. They're both violent.



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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

It's much easier to tell if you have a non-violent group here and a violent group here. It's easy to spot those who were committed to violence before than if you have two violent groups. And this police force to me isn't like the fatal police force in the South. I feel very wholeheartedly that the Deacons do need to have an organization in the South because there is a great lack of law and order there. And I am not seeing any breakdown of law and order here. This is what I'm wondering about.

Rogers

"I want to comment. Number one, I don't understand that everytime the Deacon's name is brought up, it's brought up in the framework of violence. And that is in (unintelligible) to the police force. I don't think anything has ever been suggested that the Deacons of defense and justice have any real relationship to being in opposition to the police force. But what I am saying and this is a position organizationally that I take as being a part of ACT, an organization who is out for justice and out for the equality of black people in Chicago and in America as far as we are a national organization. But I think that we overlook too many things when we say that we don't need the help of every organization that has something to offer in the area of creating a climate of equality on the part of all mankind and one of those qualities is that people act and react like men to any given situation. I don't want to take up a lot of time, but certainly Chicago offers many areas where that some agency is remiss in the treatment of Negroes. To say that we have made a lot of headway is wrong. The school system is worse today in 1965 than it was in 1955. And getting more segregated every year. So we are not making the kind of progress except that we are making progress in the newspapers, but in fact in many cases we're going backward and there must be a reason. One of these reasons may be that the organizations are not taking a militant enough stand.

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

Caller "I agree with you. But don't you think you could take a much more militant attitude if we would teach people how to vote, if we would teach our kids, not our kids individually, but say our kids as a race, and try teaching them the value of property and not destruction of property?

Rogers "We have to first give them some property to (unintelligible).

Caller "No, not necessarily.

Rogers "Well, let me make that point. When most of the property that the Negroes that you're taking about live in are owned by absentee slum landlords, who do not care anything about the people who live there to ask these people to be constantly looking out for this man's interest so that he can live out of the city and take his kids to the better schools and ask these people to be peaceably and be nice while they live in abject poverty, I think is asking too much. I do not ask Negroes to be that way.

Caller "How about those Negro landlords who live in the area with the absentee landlords who own property and try to keep it up. And a few Negro absentee landlords although they live away still try to keep their property up. What are they to do with the destruction of these other kids from these absentee landlords that you're talking about?

South "Well, we've just run out of time. Thank you for calling. I want to thank you very much Nahaz Rogers for being our guest tonight and I hope you might ask Mr. Ernest Thomas and see if you could get him on, say by the end of the week or the first of next week.

Rogers "I will certainly extend the invitation to him, Wesley, and thanks a lot for inviting me.

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

South

"You know, being the host here I can always have the last word and I want to say this. Regarding what you think about Negro men not standing up, I don't think there's a man in Chicago Negro white or otherwise where you could go in his house where he would not stand up. Do you agree or disagree?

Rogers,

"I know of cases where.....

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, BOSTON (157-387) *RUC*

DATE: 11/3/65

SUBJECT: *F* FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, aka  
Deacons for Defense and Justice,  
Deacons  
RM

*T. Adger*  
*Knickerbocker* (H)

*E*  
*11/11/65*  
*19*

Re Boston letter to Director dated 10/8/65 and Bureau letter to Boston dated 10/11/65 captioned "Rebellion Information Concerning (IS)", which advised that New Orleans was Office of Origin on matter concerning the Deacons, and that that office should be furnished all pertinent information concerning same.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a LHM, one of which is meant for a Bureau file on "Rebellion Information Concerning", which is mentioned in the enclosed LHM.

- 2-Bureau (Encs. 9) **ENCLOSURE**  
2-New York (Encs. 2)  
    (1 - 100-WILLIAM MC ADOO)  
    (1 - 100-DAVID DOUGLAS)  
3-New Orleans (Encs. 7)  
15-Boston (157-387)

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP1801/H 7-21-80*  
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2. 4. 2  
DATE OF REVIEW *11-3-85*

- (1 - Secret Service, Boston) **REC-41**  
(1 - 108th INTC Group, Boston)  
(1 - [ ] (CARNELL EATON)  
(1 - 157-372) ("Rebellion") **EX-101**  
(1 - [ ] (RONALD BEDFORD)  
(1 - [ ] (KAREN SACKS)  
(1 - [ ] (WILLIAM SACKS)  
100-new (JAMES MUNROE)  
100-new (HUGH GUILDERSON)  
100-new (JACQUELINE GUILDERSON)  
1 - [ ] (ROBERT GAHTAN)  
1 - 157-117 (Boston Action Group)  
100-new (FLOYD HARDWICK)  
100-dead ("Fathers for Defense")

*57-246685*

12 NOV 8 1965

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b7C  
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AGENCY: [ ]  
DATE FOR: [ ]  
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LY: [ ]  
JFN:mm  
(22)  
*14/11/65*  
*RUC*  
*BPM:CS*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

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UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-444724-1

NOV 26 1965

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Enclosed for New Orleans are three copies of the LHM and two Xerox copies each of LHMs, one dated 9/30/65 captioned "Publication 'Rebellion', Information Concerning" and the other dated 10/6/65 captioned "Friends of the Deacons, aka Deacons for Defense and Justice, Deacons, Racial Matters."

Two copies of the LHM are being furnished New York due to their interest in New York subjects, WILLIAM MC ADOO and DAVID DOUGLAS.

The sources mentioned in the LHM in the order mentioned are [redacted] (confidential source), [redacted] and [redacted] New Orleans, Louisiana. (U)

b7D

The LHM is being classified confidential since it contains information furnished by the above mentioned sources which could logically result in identification of sources of continuing value, jeopardize their future activity and be detrimental to the defense interest of the United States.

RONALD BEDFORD was interviewed on 10/13/65 with SAC authority by SAs MICHAEL J. MC DONAGH and JOHN F. NOONAN.

In view of the fact that membership in the "Deacons" in Boston is limited to the four persons who organized it, the fact that it has been unable to expand beyond this point and that its activities have been limited to its original organizing public meeting, this case is being referred upon completion to New Orleans subject to being reopened if activities warrant. The activities of individual members will be followed in individual case files.

New Orleans and the Bureau will be kept advised of any pertinent activity with respect to the Deacons.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Boston, Massachusetts

November 3, 1965

FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO  
KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, DEACONS. RACIAL  
MATTERS

*Ron Bedford*  
*Cuba*  
*NY*  
*Ronald F. Bedford*

On October 13, 1965, Ronald Bedford was contacted in the vicinity of his residence on   of Boston, Massachusetts. Bedford was questioned concerning his knowledge of the Friends of the Deacons in the Boston area and the mimeographed newspaper, "Rebellion".

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Concerning the "Deacons", Bedford stated that there are actually only four members in the Boston group. These are James Munroe, Floyd Hardwick, Hugh Guilderson and himself. Bedford was originally chairman of the group but resigned because he could not devote any time to the group. Bedford explained that he goes to school three evenings a week and babysits a fourth evening to care for the young son of the white woman with whom he lives, Tania Moore, who goes to school one evening a week. James Munroe is now chairman of the "Deacons". A number of other people have attended various meetings held by the "Deacons" but none have evidenced enough interest to join or return to a subsequent meeting.

The group meets at the office of the Boston Action Group,   in the   of Boston, Massachusetts. The purpose of the group is to raise money to assist the "Deacons" in Bogalusa, Louisiana. Bedford claimed

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~~GROUP 1~~

Excluded from Automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gk/11/7-21-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-3-85

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

ENCLOSURE

157-1466-85

*Class 4*  
*5/21/80*  
*NOV 26 1965*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO  
KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, DEACONS. RACIAL  
MATTERS

that the Boston group received sanction for its existence from the Deacons in the south and that one Bob Gahtan of Boston had ~~make~~ the contact arranging this. *Mac*

*N.Y.  
Mac  
Cuban* Bedford stated that it was decided that only negroes should be admitted to membership. There is a white group of approximately sixteen person who are sympathetic toward the "Deacons". This group has no formal organization set up and is very loosely knit. Bedford refused to identify any of the group but stated that Bob Gahtan was aware of the identity of these white sympathizers. Bedford said that neither Karen or William Sacks were among the members of the white sympathizers. *Mac*

Concerning a group known as "Fathers for Defense" existing in the Roxbury Section of Boston, Bedford said that this is really an organization in name only. It has no connection with the "Deacons". Its purpose is to afford protection to negro women and children if the need arises. It is supposed to be made up of fathers of children participating in "Operation Exodus" or husbands of women participating in it. It has no formal head but Carnell Eaton could be described as its spokesman and the group is probably "his brainchild". *Mac*

Bedford stated that "Operation Exodus" is actively organized by a group of mothers of negro children in Roxbury. The mothers claim their children receive inferior education in overcrowded Roxbury schools. These mothers have hired buses to transport their children to schools in other sections of Boston.

Carnell Eaton was paroled on April 12, 1961 from the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Walpole, Massachusetts, where he had been serving a sentence for robbery while armed and masked since June 28, 1956. While at Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Norfolk where he served part of his sentence, prison authorities identified him as apparently a member of

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FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO  
KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
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a small Nation of Islam group at that prison. Since being paroled he has had no association with the Nation of Islam group in Boston, Massachusetts.

*Mass*  
Bedford stated that "Rebellion" is a newspaper published in mimeograph form which is supposed to be issued twice each month. This schedule is not always met. The purpose of the paper is to educate the negro population as to what is going on in civil rights locally and nationally. It accepts articles from all sources. Its staff is made up of Jacqueline and Hugh Guilderson, Floyd Hardwick, Karen Sacks and Bedford himself. Bedford stated that Karen and William Sacks have furnished some monetary support to the paper but he did not think this support could be called substantial. He indicated that financial support also came from college groups which he could not or would not identify. *NY* *Mass*

On August 25, 1964, William Michael Sacks acknowledge to FBI Agents that he had recently made a trip to Cuba but that he did not wish to discuss it. The trip referred to was one in which eighty-four students visited Cuba in August, 1964 in violation of State Department regulations governing such travel. A characterization of the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba is found in the appendix hereto.

Roger Taus, Coordinator for the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba advised on August 12, 1964 that eighty four students who had gone to Cuba would be returning on the evening of August 14, 1964 at the John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York City, New York. As these students returned they completed forms furnished by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. One of these was completed by Karen Sacks, Passport No. [redacted]. Another was that of Roland F. Bedford, Passport No. [redacted]. Both admitted on the Immigration and Naturalization Service form that they had visited Cuba.

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FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO  
KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
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Bedford stated that "Rebellion" has supported the "Deacons" because "Rebellion" espouses all civil right causes and further Hugh Guilderson and himself are members of the "Deacons". However, "Rebellion" and the "Deacons" are two separate and distinct entities.

Bedford said that at the first meeting of the "Deacons" held on August 22, 1965 at the YMCA Building, 401 Warren Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts, that he had acted as chairman and introduced the two guest speakers whom the "Deacons" had invited from New York City. He identified these two as William ~~McAdoo~~ and David Douglas. Bedford stated that both of these individuals are members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in New York City. A characterization of the PLP is found in the appendix.

*MA 531*  
*Bill McAdoo*  
Bedford said that PLP has no connection with the "Deacons" but he invited representatives of the PLP to the initial rally of the "Deacons" at the YMCA because the PLP has access to information not readily available to the man on the street through ordinary channels and he believed the audience would find these representatives interesting to listen to. Bedford stated that he knows that the PLP presents the "Red" Chinese point of view and although he himself does not belong to PLP or agree necessarily with all that it stands for he does believe that contact with all types of groups will keep him informed on what goes on everywhere. He realizes that much of whatever group offers may be propaganda but he feels that he is capable of extracting factual information from the propaganda.

Bedford believes that PLP is interested in supporting many different groups and his own group, the "Deacons", is so small that it can use any support it can get. He believes that PLP is also interested in "Rebellion" as a possible outlet for their own ideas. "Rebellion" is willing to publish articles dealing with the civil rights struggle

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received from any group and is looking for material. However, if an article is not acceptable to the editors it won't be printed. He would offer no criterion as to what type of material is acceptable and what would meet with rejection.

Bedford claimed that any article appearing in the "Rebellion" was factual to the best of the staff's knowledge but admitted that the staff conducts no research or investigation in an effort to determine the true facts of the articles published. He denied that "Rebellion" has any desire to stir up the emotions of the negro population against the white race and claimed its purpose is solely to be informative.

[On October 6, 1965, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised] that he had seen a mimeographed letter which had been sent out through the mail announcing a meeting of the "Deacons" would be held on the evening of October 7, 1965 at the Boston Action Group headquarters, [redacted] Massachusetts. The purpose of this meeting was advertised as the election of officers. This letter stressed that the future success of the "Deacons" depends on "your participation and suggestions now". (U) (C) b6 b7C

On October 11, 1965, a second source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that he had gone to the Boston Action Group headquarters on the evening of October 7, 1965 where he understood a meeting of the "Deacons" was to be held. No one was present except two member of the Boston Action Group and there were no signs of activity such as would be expected if a meeting were to take place. The source stated that it would appear that no meeting was held and he believes the meeting may have been called off since there had been little or no interest evidence by the negro community in the "Deacons". The source stated that he understands that membership is limited to three or possibly four "hard core" members. (U) (C)

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FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO  
KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, DEACONS. RACIAL  
MATTERS

The source inquired at Boston Action Group headquarters as to whether the meeting was being held elsewhere but the two Boston Action Group members claimed to have no knowledge that any meeting was scheduled. (S) (U)

The source stated that in the past few days the subject of the "Deacons" had been brought up by him innocuously in conversation with various negroes active in civil rights in Roxbury. All of them expressed the opinion that the "Deacons" is a paper organization in which no one has evidenced any interest outside of the few men who are behind it. The feeling is that if the group is not defunct by this time then it is of so little significance that it can be considered so. The source stated that as far as he can determine the members of the "Deacons" are James Munroe, Floyd Hardwick, Ron Bedford and Hugh Guilderson. The source stated that Bob Gahtan is unknown to him and he has not heard the name mentioned in connection with the "Deacons". (S) (U)

A third source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on October 20, 1965 that James Monroe who identified himself as Chairman of the "Deacons" had contacted Millicent Carpenter, President of the Boston Branch of CORE, tried to arrange a conference with Carpenter so that they could discuss matters of mutual interest in the civil rights field. Millicent Carpenter refused because she does not like Munroe and also because the "Deacons" consist of only three or four persons and can hardly be recognized as an organization. The source advised that Munroe is an odd character who walks around six months of the year in shorts and without shoes. He has been a weight lifter and is convinced that all girls are impressed with his "body beautiful". He is a loud mouth and not the type to attract new members to an organization. The source advised that at the present time the "Deacons" is so insignificant they can be disregarded. He believes they have no potential for the future. (S) (U)

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FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS, ALSO  
KNOWN AS DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, DEACONS. RACIAL  
MATTERS

*Ma* On September 7, 1965, a fourth source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) held a meeting in Boston on August 24, 1965. Lenny Goodman, a member of the SWP, said that the Friends of the Deacons for Justice have become antagonistic towards the SWP. He stated that at a public meeting of the "Deacons" in Roxbury on August 22, 1965 that all members of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) had been asked to leave the meeting. Lenny said that up until that time the SWP had been printing the "Deacons" newspaper "Rebellion". He said the party would no longer provide this service. Lenny stated that he felt that the Friends of the Deacons for Justice, locally at least, had fallen under the control of "progressive labor". A characterization of the SWP and the YSA is found in the appendix. (S) (U)

[A fifth source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on September 3, 1965] that Charles Sims, (S) President of the Bogalusa Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice received a letter dated August 9, 1965 from Bob Gahtan representing the Boston Friends of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. The letter advises that Mr. Sims now has a support group in Boston calling itself "Boston Friends of the Deacons for Justice and Defense". Gahtan states that while the group exists it is still largely in its infancy. The group at that time consists of about twenty members, a good third of which is black. The group is still discussing policies, has no organizational structure and is feeling its way. The group will function mostly as a support group raising funds which will be sent to Mr. Sims and help him maintain a positive image of the "Deacons" in the press. The group will be headquartered in Roxbury. Its leadership will be black. Efforts will be made to recruit blacks in preference to whites and adults in preference to teenagers. An effort will be made to have the "Boston Friends" serve as the nucleus organization for the attraction of the most militant civil rights people in the area. It *La* (U)

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will involve itself in community action most probably in the areas of creating and implementing effective strategies to deal with police brutality. The group will be disciplined and responsible and will not act without the most careful deliberation and sensitivity to the consequences of its action.

Gahtan asked that Sims suggest some cause for which money could be raised since a definite cause facilitates raising of funds. He also asked if Sims were familiar with the National Rifle Association, pointing out that membership in the group enables you to get weapons, ammunition and training devices at a very small fraction of their cost, since the National Rifle Association gets a subsidy from the Federal Government.

The September 29, 1965 issue of "Rebellion", on Page 3, carried an article captioned "Deacons Hold Rally". This described the rally held at the Roxbury Branch of the YMCA a little over a month ago sponsored by the Boston Friends of the Deacons for Defense. It claimed the meeting was fruitful and encouraging and attended by 150 or more persons. The roster of speakers included Roland Bedford of the Boston Friends of the Deacons; Floyd Hardwick of "Rebellion" and Bill McAdoo and David Douglas, both of the Harlem Defense Counsel of New York City.

The central theme of the discussion was the growing need of the masses of black people to be made fully aware of the total insecurity of their portion in the framework of American society.

This issue of "Rebellion" states that the paper is a private publication published in the interest of the nonwhite communities of Boston, Massachusetts. Its masthead states,

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"Better to fight on your feet than to live on your knees".

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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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1.

APPENDIX

NATION 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 7, 1965, a second source advised Eliljal Muhammad is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam Number 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.

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2.

APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM

On May 3, 1965, a third source advised 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

APPENDIX

1.

STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA

"The Columbia Owl," weekly student newspaper of Columbia University, New York City, December 12, 1962, issue, page one, contained an article entitled "Students to Visit Cuba During Holidays." This article stated in part that the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was formed October 14, 1962, by a group of students from New York City universities, the University of Wisconsin, Oberlin College, and the University of North Carolina, who stated that as students they would like a chance to see and evaluate the situation in Cuba for themselves and had received an offer of transportation and two weeks' stay in Cuba from the Federation of University Students in Havana, as guests of the Federation. The Committee accepted the offer and applied to the State Department of the United States for passport validation which was refused; however, over fifty students planned to defy the State Department ban and go to Cuba.

A source advised on December 6, 1962, it was learned the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba had recently been formed by the Progressive Labor Group.

A second source advised on September 13, 1963, that during the summer of 1963, fifty-nine individuals traveled to Cuba; the leaders of the group were members of the Progressive Labor Movement; and the trip was planned and organized by Progressive Labor Movement members.

A third source advised on October 9, 1963, the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was utilizing Post Office Box 2178, New York, New York, as its mailing address.

On March 12, 1965, Philip Abbott Luce, [REDACTED], New York, New York, a self-admitted member of the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba Executive Committee and the Progressive Labor Movement National Coordinating Committee, advised as follows:

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b7C

The Student Committee for Travel to Cuba (SCTC) was formerly known as the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba and the Permanent Student Committee for Travel to Cuba.

Luce was a leader and participant of the 1963 trip to Cuba and an organizer of the 1964 trip to Cuba and both trips were sponsored by the SCTC.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

APPENDIX

2.

STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA

By the Spring of 1964, the Executive Committee of the SCTC was considered to be members of the Progressive Labor Movement.

No trip to Cuba or China was being planned by the SCTC for 1965.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

## APPENDIX

### PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY (PLP) PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT (PLM)

A source advised on April 20, 1965, that the PLP, formerly known as the PLM, held its first national convention April 15-18, 1965, at New York City, to organize the PLM into a PLP. The PLP will have as its ultimate objective the establishment of a militant working class movement based on Marxism-Leninism.

"The New York Times," City Edition, Tuesday, April 20, 1965, page 27, reported that a new party of "revolutionary socialism" was formally founded on April 18, 1965, under the name of the PLP. The PLP was described as an outgrowth of the PLM. Its officers were identified as Milton Rosen, New York, President, and William Epton of New York and Mort Scheer of San Francisco, Vice Presidents. A 20-member National Committee was elected to direct the party until the next convention.

According to the article, "The Progressive Labor Movement was founded in 1962 by Mr. Rosen and Mr. Scheer after they were expelled from the Communist Party of the United States for assertedly following the Chinese Communist line."

The PLP publishes the "Marxist-Leninist Quarterly," a theoretical magazine; "Progressive Labor," a monthly magazine; "Challenge," a New York City newspaper; and "Spark," a west coast newspaper.

The June 1, 1965, issue of "Challenge," page 6, states that, "this paper is dedicated to fight for a new way of life - where the working men and women own and control their homes, factories, the police, courts, and the entire government on every level."

The source advised that the PLP utilizes the address of General Post Office Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York, but also utilizes an office in Room 622, 132 Nassau Street, New York City, where PLP publications are prepared.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

APPENDIX

1.

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

The May, 1960, issue of the "Young Socialist" ("YS"), page 1, column 3, disclosed that during April 15-17, 1960, a national organization entitled "Young Socialist Alliance" (YSA) was established at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This issue stated this organization was formed by the nationwide supporter clubs of the publication "YS."

The above issue, page 6, set forth the Founding Declaration of YSA. This declaration stated YSA recognizes the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) as the only existing political leadership on class struggle principles, and that the supporters of the "YS" have come into basic political solidarity with the SWP on the principles of revolutionary socialism.

A source advised on May 7, 1965, that the original YSA was an organization formed during October, 1957, in New York City, by youth of various left-socialist tendencies, particularly members and followers of the SWP. The leaders of this group were the guiding forces in the establishment of the national organization.

The source further advised on May 7, 1965, YSA is dominated and controlled on a national basis by the SWP through having SWP members comprise exclusively the National Executive Committee (NEC) and through an official SWP representative at all YSA NEC meetings. The YSA, in reality, is the youth and training section of the SWP and the main source of new SWP members.

The headquarters of the YSA is located in Room 631, 41 Union Square West, New York City.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11/4/65

airtel

1 - Mr. Rosack  
1 - Mr. Phillips

To: SACs Atlanta (100-5586)  
Chicago (100-35356)  
New York (100-136585)  
New Orleans (100-16800)

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 PWT/DB  
ON 11/30/88

*Garrow/King*

From: Director, FBI (100-106670)

CLASS. & EXT. BY 2842 PMV/gag  
REASON - FCIM 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-4-85

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

ReWFOairtel 11/3/65 to the Bureau, Atlanta, Birmingham and Chicago, "HCUA, Klan Investigation, Racial Matters (Klan)." For the information of New York and New Orleans, reairtel reported information from a highly placed Bureau source (code name  ) that on 11/3/65 Robert M. Shelton, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, made the following claims:

According to Shelton, Martin Luther King, Jr., and his organization (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) are "broke" and King recently approached the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York to arrange for a loan of \$600,000 which was turned down. King has now arranged through "a front organization" to create a racial disturbance in Chicago within the next two or three weeks similar to the Los Angeles riots this past summer. King will then step in and put down the disturbance. It is Shelton's claim that King is doing this to raise funds as he always gets money after racial incidents and marches in which he is involved. Shelton also claimed that King will be the nominee for Vice President on the Democratic Party ticket in next election.

For the information of all recipients, on 11/4/65   additionally advised that Shelton had identified the group which would start the disturbance as "the Deacons" and that "the Deacons" will bring their forces from Pennsylvania and New Jersey to Chicago.

1 - Washington Field (100-40164)

1 - Bufile 157-2466 (Deacons of Defense and Justice)

SFP:deh  
(13)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2.

NOT RECORDED  
200 NOV 8 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Airtel to AT, CG, NY and NO  
Re: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
100-106670

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Chicago is instructed to immediately advise local authorities, Secret Service and the Army intelligence on a highly confidential basis that the Bureau is in receipt of uncorroborated information that there may be a racial disturbance in Chicago within the next two or three weeks. In order to insure the security of the Bureau's source, no mention should be made of Shelton, King, King's alleged financial difficulty, King's organization or "the Deacons."

All recipients should attempt, through established reliable sources, to obtain information which would either corroborate or discredit Shelton's claims. Take due regard for security of Bureau's source.

Chicago is referred to its airtel and letterhead memorandum 10/26/65 concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice and should attempt to obtain further information which may be available concerning the possibility of the Deacons being organized in Chicago. Chicago must stay on top of this situation to insure that any organization of the Deacons is immediately known and reported.

New Orleans, as origin concerning the Deacons, should attempt to determine whether there is any indication that the organization has spread to Pennsylvania and New Jersey and, if appropriate, set out leads.

Atlanta and New York, through its sensitive coverage of King, his organization and his advisors, should attempt to obtain information which would serve to corroborate or discredit Shelton's claims. Atlanta should also, as soon as possible, interview [redacted] for any information he may have of pertinence. (S) (U)

b7D

The Bureau should be kept promptly advised of all developments in this matter and information obtained should be submitted in a form suitable for dissemination.

NOTE:

Memorandum from Baumgardner to Mr. Sullivan, 11/4/65, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist" recommended dissemination of the information from Shelton to the White House, Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorneys General Yeagley and Doar, Secret Service and the military intelligence agencies and additionally noted that appropriate instructions were going forward by a separate airtel to the field. Instant airtel serves that purpose.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F B I

Date: November 2, 1965

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) (157-

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)EARNEST THOMAS  
RACIAL MATTER

Re Chicago airtel to the Bureau, 10/26/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a letterhead memorandum, two copies for New Orleans for information and two copies for Seattle, concerning captioned matter.

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service; and United States Attorney, all Chicago, Illinois.

LEADSSEATTLE

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. Enclosed letterhead memorandum contains information that the only known Northern branch of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) is in Seattle, Washington.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 9) 1cc & cc LEM  
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2) 808 RB  
2 - Seattle (Enc. 2) 157-2466-86  
3 - Chicago  
1 - 157-413

LGR/cah  
(11)

AGENCY: ACSE, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;

DATE FOR: 11/5/65

HOW FOR: R/S

BY: Bpm: C.J.

18 NOV 4 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gpl/fv

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 157-4432

CG 157-572  
CG 157-840

Seattle, if not already handled, report activities of DDJ at Seattle.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
November 2, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

EARNEST THOMAS  
RACIAL MATTER

The following article appeared in the October 21, 1965, issue of the "Chicago Defender", a Chicago, Illinois, newspaper:

"Wither Thou Goest, I go... seems to be the new pattern for the Deacons of Defense and Justice with regard to the movements of the Ku Klux Klan. Since the Ku Kluxers and its menagerie of prehistoric, fire-spewing characters, made its splashy entrance into our great State of Lincoln, the Deacons' vice president, Earnest Thomas, has announced his indefinite stay in Chicago. Word is that the Klan has organized four chapters in Illinois thus far; Thomas is looking for recruits to join his self-defense organization. The only known northern branch is in Seattle, Washington.

"Self-Defense vs. Non-Violence was the theme of a program sponsored by the Westside Organization last Sunday. Thomas and Nahaz Rogers of ACT spoke on the side of self-defense, while Rev. C.T. Vivian and Rev. James Bevel defended their non-violence stand. It played to a SRO crowd at the Westside's First Congregational Church.

"Deacon Thomas discussed tactics of police and law enforcement officers and their one-way road of justice on the Lou House show Saturday. It is Thomas' belief that if the Deacons had been organized at the time NAACP leader Medgar Evers of Mississippi was murdered, it would not have happened. The Deacons claim they are dedicated to the protection of civil rights workers and defenseless Negroes."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gpl/jr

ENCLOSURE

108  
NOV 9 1965

On November 1, 1965, Lynwood Harris, Human Relations Section, Chicago, Illinois Police Department, advised that no information has been developed that would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ), has been formed in Chicago. Earnest Thomas continues to remain in Chicago and is reportedly attempting to get office space on the west side of Chicago but to date he has not been able to obtain any office space. He added that it appears that Thomas has received very little encouragement, if any, from civil rights groups in Chicago. He added that there has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

F B I

Date: 11/3/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)To: Director, FBI and  
SAC, New York

From: SAC, Pittsburgh (157-429) (P)

THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
RACIAL MATTERSRe Newark airtel to Bureau, 9/20/65; Baltimore  
letter to Bureau, 9/22/65, and Pittsburgh letter to Bureau,  
10/12/65.It is noted that Newark LHM, which was forwarded  
with re Newark airtel dated 9/20/65, indicated that some affair  
was to be held at Harpers Ferry, Maryland, on 12/4/65 in honor  
of JOHN BROWN.On 10/25/65, ANDREW HUTCHINSON, Park Ranger, Harpers  
Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia,  
advised SA EDWARD R. FLEMING, JR., that two Negro women,  
Mrs. WILLIAM PITMAN, [redacted] New York, New York,  
and Mrs. ESTHER KUSIC, [redacted] Brooklyn, N. Y., were  
in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., on 10/21/65 ostensibly representing,  
to the best of HUTCHINSON's recollection, the "John Brown  
Remembrance Society". HUTCHINSON stated he had made this  
identification of these individuals based on their signatures  
on a guest register located at the Mather Training Center of  
the National Park Service, Harpers Ferry (which was formerly  
a Negro Baptist college, Storer College).HUTCHINSON continued that Mrs. PITMAN and Mrs. KUSIC  
were seeking a place to hold a meeting which would be attended  
by about 700 people and they indicated a desire to hold the  
meeting on 12/4/65. The women determined that no facilities

3 - Bureau

2 - New York (157-1542)

1 - Pittsburgh

1 - Baltimore (157-1008)(Info)

JTM/jep

(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

16 NOV 5 1965

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

DATE 7-21-88 BY SP1/pe/fcm

Per \_\_\_\_\_

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b7c

PG 157-429

were available for such a meeting on 12/4/65 and they therefore selected 12/11/65 as the proposed date for said meeting. They determined that a banquet could be held at the Hilltop House, a privately owned Harpers Ferry restaurant-hotel, and that the Hilltop House could accommodate 350 people.

HUTCHINSON stated that the women had spoken with Harpers Ferry Park Historian, WES WOLFE, and were outspoken in complaints concerning various biographies of JOHN BROWN. It was HUTCHINSON's recollection that the women were sympathetic to a man named DuBOIS, who had either attended Storer College in the past or was a benefactor of that college. HUTCHINSON also stated that it was his recollection that this individual named DuBOIS later became a communist and went to Ghana.

The indices of the Pittsburgh Office are negative concerning John Brown Remembrance Society, Mrs. WILLIAM PITMAN, and Mrs. ESTHER KUSIC.

It would appear that the above meeting arranged to be held on 12/11/65 at the Hilltop House in Harpers Ferry might possibly be identical with the meeting referred to in above Newark LHM.

New York and the Bureau are requested to check their respective files with regard to the John Brown Remembrance Society, Mrs. WILLIAM PITMAN, and Mrs. ESTHER KUSIC, and advise Pittsburgh of the results thereof.

New York is also requested to check with its informants to ascertain whether the above-mentioned meeting scheduled for 12/11/65 is an affair being held in behalf of The Deacons for Defense.

In the event it is determined that the John Brown Remembrance Society has some affiliation with The Deacons for Defense, New York is requested to furnish a suitable characterization of The Deacons for Defense which, UACB, will be disseminated by this office to the National Park Service and the West Virginia State Police detachment covering Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U) 11/12/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpl/jk 7-21-80  
(157 - REASON - FOIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) DATE OF REVIEW 11-12-85  
(157-840)  
SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RM (ORGANIZATION)

EARNEST THOMAS  
RM

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau, 11/2/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a  
letterhead memorandum and two copies for New Orleans for  
information concerning captioned matter.

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being  
designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group, U.S. Secret  
Service and USA, Chicago, Illinois.

b7D

Source CG T-1 is [redacted]

(Protect Requested).

Current Informant Contacts

Source

Date Contacted

11/10/65

b7D

Source of Racial Information

11/10/65

REC 36

Potential Confidential Racial  
Source

11/8/65

16 NOV 15 1965

- (4) - Bureau (Encls. 3) (RM)  
(1 - 157 (EARNEST THOMAS)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encls. 2) (Info) (RM)  
(1 - 1570 (EARNEST THOMAS)
- 2 - Chicago

LGR:djm

lcc & cc LHM  
808 RB

Approved: [signature] 199  
Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ M (U)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;  
DEPT: ISD, CDP, RAD  
DATE FORW: [redacted]  
HOW FORW: [redacted]  
BY: [redacted]

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

CG 157-572  
157-840

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will remain alert for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of the developments in this matter.

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
November 12, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

EARNEST THOMAS  
RACIAL MATTERS

Reference is made to memorandum dated November 2, 1965, at Chicago, Illinois.

On the dates indicated the following advised that no information has been developed that would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) has been formed in Chicago. Earnest Thomas who is associated with the DDJ is reportedly still attempting to obtain office space in Chicago for an office of the DDJ but to date there has not been any indication that he has obtained any office space. Thomas has received virtually no support from any civil rights group in Chicago. There has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago. No information has been received concerning Thomas's whereabouts recently and Thomas may have returned to Louisiana:

James Burns, Chicago Commission on Human Relations,  
211 West Wacker, Chicago, on November 8 and 12, 1965;

Lynwood Harris, Human Relations Section,  
Chicago, Illinois Police Department, November 8 and 12, 1965; and

[CG T-1, November 8 and 12, 1965.] (S) (U)

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois, area advised during November, 1965, that Earnest Thomas of the DDJ has recently been in Chicago attempting to gain support for a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ. Thomas has not had any success in organizing a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ and has met considerable resistance from civil rights organizations in Chicago.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gbl/yl 7-21-85  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-12-85

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

ENCLOSURE

NOV 17 1965

157-2466-88

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

EARNEST THOMAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

These informants also advised that there has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago. No information has been received concerning Thomas's whereabouts recently and Thomas may have returned to Louisiana.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
November 12, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

Title                      DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
                                 EARNEST THOMAS

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.

[CG T-1] is an agency which collects intelligence information in the Chicago, Illinois area. ~~(S)~~ (U)

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

RE:

BERNARD S. LEE V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL.  
(U.S.D.C, D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC)  
V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.)  
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Unrecorded serial dated 11/9/65 pulled from this file  
under court order of U.S. District Judge John Lewis  
Smith, Jr., and sent to National Archives..

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 08-27-2018 BY:  

F B I

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b7C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 11/13/65

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

REC-16

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (157-429) (P)

CLASS & EXT. BY SP1821/fk 7-21-80  
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-15-88

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
RACIAL MATTERSJOHN BROWN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE  
IS - C

Re Newark airtel to Bureau dated 9/20/65 and  
Pittsburgh airtel to New York dated 11/3/65 both entitled,  
"The Deacons For Defense"; and Washington Field Office  
airtel to Pittsburgh dated 11/5/65, titled "John Brown  
Commemoration Committee."

For the information of Washington Field Office,  
copies of the following in the case entitled "The Deacons  
For Defense" are enclosed:

1. Newark airtel to Bureau dated 9/20/65.
2. Newark LHM dated 9/20/65.
3. Pittsburgh airtel to New York dated 11/3/65.

For the information of the Newark Office, one copy  
of each of the following, in the case titled "JOHN BROWN  
COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE," are enclosed:

1. Washington Field Office airtel to  
Pittsburgh dated 11/5/65.
2. Xerox copy of announcement of the  
John Brown Memorial Pilgrimage.

③ - Bureau (RM)  
2 - Newark (Enc. 2) (RM)  
(157-1992)

REC-16

2 - New York (157-1542) (RM)  
2 - Washington Field (   ) (Enc. 3) (RM)  
2 - Pittsburgh

NOV 17 1965

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b7D  
b7E

ERF/emq

Approved: (11)

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)  
PG 157-429

It would appear that the John Brown Commemoration Committee may be an adjunct of The Deacons For Defense, and that the "Memorial Pilgrimage" scheduled for 12/11/65 at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., is identical with the planned meeting for 12/4/65, as set out in Newark LHM dated 9/20/65. In this connection, it is noted that the address for the John Brown Commemoration Committee is 100 West 82nd Street, New York, which was the address for the meeting of The Deacons for Defense mentioned in Newark airtel of 9/20/65. It is also noted that address for the West Side Unified Action Council is 100 West 82nd Street. W.S.U.A.C.

LEADS

NEWARK

Will maintain close contact with [ ] for additional facts on the contemplated trip to Harpers Ferry, W. Va., and will, unless UACB or New York, attempt to arrange for this informant to accompany the group to Harpers Ferry on 12/11/65. (U)

b7D

NEW YORK

1. Will expedite Pittsburgh request for characterization of The Deacons for Defense and related organizations such as West Side Unified Action Council and the John Brown Commemoration Committee, with the degree of relationship of those organizations, so that this information will be available for dissemination to the National Park Service and the West Virginia SPOL by 12/1/65. It is noted that National Park Service may decide to have additional rangers available for duty.
2. Will advise Pittsburgh if informants from New York will be covering the Pilgrimage.
3. Will advise Pittsburgh what specific coverage at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., if any, is desired.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

PG 157-429

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

WASHINGTON FIELD

Will maintain contact with FREDERICK E. WALLIN, who furnished the data concerning the Pilgrimage, and ascertain if he plans to attend the meeting on 12/11/65.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DATE: NOV 24 1965

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542)

SUBJECT:

CHANGED  
DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [REDACTED] 7-21-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-24-85

Title is marked "Changed" to reflect correct title of organization per New Orleans routing slip dated 11/9/65. Title previously carried as DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE; RACIAL MATTERS.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Re NYO teletype to New Orleans 11/8/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau and New Orleans are copies of LHM in captioned case. Information copies are also being supplied to Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia in view of Philadelphia letter to New Orleans dated 10/14/65, indicating that an article appearing in a Philadelphia weekly publication entitled "Nite Life" reflects CHARLES SIMS, leader of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ), is due in Philadelphia this winter as part of a nation-wide tour.

An information copy is also being supplied to Jackson in view of the trip made by one CHARLES SIMS, not further identified, to Jackson on 10/27/65.

Confidential sources utilized in attached LHM are identified as follows:

NY T-1 is [REDACTED]  
NY T-2 is [REDACTED]  
NY T-3 is [REDACTED]  
NY T-4 is [REDACTED]

- 2- Bureau (Encls. 8) (RM)  
1- Chicago (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)  
1- Jackson (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)  
1- Los Angeles (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)  
2- New Orleans (157-3290) (Encls. 2) (RM)  
1- Philadelphia (Encls. 1) (Info) (RM)  
1- New York

AGENCY: ACTION, OSI, SEC. SER.  
DATE: 2/7/65  
HOW FORW: [REDACTED]  
1Y: [REDACTED]

3 NOV 26 1965

1cc & cc LHM  
808 RB

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



NY 157-1542

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY T-5 is  
NY T-6 is  
NY T-7 is  
NY T-8 is  
NY T-9 is  
(X) NY T-10 is  
NY T-11 is  
NY T-12 is  
NY T-13 is  
NY T-14 is

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Careful consideration was given to all sources concealed and T symbols were used only where necessary.

This LHM is classified "~~Confidential~~" to protect the identities of the above sources. Unauthorized disclosure of information attributed to these sources might impair their future effectiveness and such impairment could have an adverse effect on the national defense interests.

The information supplied by Detectives of the <sup>Bureau of</sup> Special Services BSS, NYCPD, was supplied to SA GERALD A. JAMES.

On 10/27/65, MATTHEW SUPKO, Senior Ticket Officer, Delta Airlines, John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFKIA), advised SA GERALD A. JAMES that one C. SIMS purchased a first class round trip ticket to Jackson for \$180.44, departing NY 10/27/65, aboard Delta Flight 819 for Atlanta. This was an open ticket (no specific return reservation indicated). SUPKO stated Flight 819 was scheduled to depart JFKIA at 9:55 a.m. but was delayed until 10:45 a.m. SIMS was attempting to connect with Delta Flight 623 from Atlanta which was scheduled to arrive in Jackson at 1:25 p.m., 10/27/65. In the event SIMS missed Flight 623 the next flight from Atlanta to Jackson was Flight 411, scheduled to arrive at Jackson at 6:55 p.m., 10/27/65. SIMS advised Delta that his local phone number in NYC is FI 8-7543.

On October 27, 1965, SA JOHN J. DUNLEAVY made a pretext call (man who was to pick up SIMS to take him

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 157-1542

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

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to the meeting at Loeb Hall on 10/28/65) to FI 8-7543, which was answered by an individual who identified herself as [redacted] the [redacted] of CHARLES SIMS. [redacted] stated her father was going to the farm and would return by 6:00 p.m. 10/28/65, or the following morning.

It should be noted as set forth in attached LHM that it was announced that SIMS was unable to speak on 10/25/65, as he was required to return to Bogalusa, Louisiana, for a court appearance. However, the C. SIMS mentioned above departed New York City on 10/27/65. The NYO does not have sufficient background data available regarding the subject to determine if he is identical with the CHARLES SIMS who made the Jackson trip.

On 11/2/65, MATTHEW SUPKO, Supra, advised he checked the manifests on New Orleans flights for 11/1/65 for CHARLES SIMS with negative results.

On 11/3/65, THOMAS P. MORHAN, Security Supervisor, New York Telephone Company, 104 Broad Street, New York, New York, advised SA JAMES M. ANDERSON that New York City telephone number FI 8-7543 is listed to JULIA A. LOUPE, [redacted], NYC.

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NYO indices contain no identifiable references on one JULIA A. LOUPE.

On 11/1/65, Detective RAYMOND J. CLARKE, BSS, NYCPD, advised that Detective ALONZO STANLEY had called the office of CHARLES SIMS' attorney, JEREMIAH S. GUTMAN and told GUTMAN that in order to assure SIMS security while he was in New York City, BSS would have to know his itinerary. This is the reason for the phone call from GUTMAN's office indicating SIMS departed NYC 11/1/65.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Bufile 157-2466  
NYfile 157-1542

New York, New York

NOV 24 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons of Defense and Justice

Confidential sources mentioned in this communication and the appendix attached hereto have provided reliable information in the past.

The "Workers World", volume 7, number 20, page 3, dated October 14, 1965, contained an article captioned "President of Deacons for Defense to Speak in New York" which reflects that it was announced by Rictue Le Seur, a friend of the Deacons, from the newly opened office of the Friends of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (FDDJ), 271 West 125th Street, Room 209, New York, New York, that Charles Sims, founder of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ) and Robert Hicks, Vice President of the Bogalusa, Louisiana, Voters League will speak in New York on October 23 and 25, 1965.

The meeting on October 23, 1965, will be at 8:30 p.m. in the Unitarian Hall, Clinton and Fillmore Streets, West Brighton, Staten Island, New York.

On October 25, 1965, a rally will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Emanuel Temple, 37 West 119th Street, New York City.

A characterization of the "Workers World" is attached in the appendix hereto.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~GROUP 1~~

~~Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification.~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gsk/jh 7-21-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 20 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-24-85

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED,  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

157-2466-90

ENCLOSURE

Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

"The Worker", volume XXX, number 80, page 2, dated October 24, 1965, contained an article captioned "Deacons President to Speak in New York" which set forth substantially the same information as that contained in the above mentioned article.

"The Worker" is an east coast Communist newspaper.

On October 18, 1965, NY T-1 advised Charles Sims is to arrive via Delta Airlines during the afternoon of October 23, 1965. He is to be met at the airport by Mae Mallory, who is attempting to get press coverage of his arrival. Sims is to speak at Columbia University, New York University, and other unannounced locations. On October 29, 1965, a public meeting will be held at 853 Broadway, New York City, sponsored by Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF) where Sims and Mae Mallory are scheduled to speak. A social will be held at [redacted] Brooklyn, on an unannounced date for the benefit of Sims. NY T-1 advised [redacted]

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[redacted] is the residence of Kanowitz. Rubins, a member of the Workers World Party. (U)

On April 16, 1965, NY T-1 advised that Willie Mae Mallory is a member of the Workers World Party. (U)

A characterization of the YAWF appears in the appendix attached hereto.

On October 20, 1965, NY T-2 supplied substantially the same information set forth above but also advised that the DDJ was to hold a meeting on October 24, 1965, believed to be in Manhattan. (U)

On October 25, 1965, Detective Paul Brennan, Bureau of Special Services (BSS), New York City Police Department (NYCPD), advised that Charles Sims,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

President of the DDJ in Louisiana, arrived in New York City, 1:15 p.m., October 23, 1965, at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFKIA) on Delta Airlines Flight 976.

[On October 27, 1965, NY T-3 advised] he attended ~~(S)~~ (U) a fund raising affair for the DDJ at the Unitarian Church Hall, Clinton and Fillmore Streets, Staten Island, New York, from 8:50 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., October 23, 1965.

The source stated Mae Mallory took up most of the time relating her experiences in the civil rights movement and praising Robert Williams. She pointed out the similarities between Robert Williams' approach and the approach of the DDJ to the civil rights movement. Robert Hicks spoke about the various incidents that occurred in Bogalusa, Louisiana, while attempting to register Negroes to vote. Jerry Gutman, introduced as an attorney for Charles Sims, differed with Mae Mallory, stating that the DDJ is a legally constituted organization which is defensive and will remain so.

Robert Williams is characterized in the Revolutionary Action Movement which appears in the appendix attached hereto.

Charles Sims spoke about the background of the DDJ and stated the purpose of the DDJ is to protect Negro and white civil rights workers. He stated the DDJ is able to effectively deal with the Ku Klux Klan, however, he was critical of the local sheriff's office, stating the past Wednesday (October 20, 1965) the sheriff obtained the names of the DDJ

Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

leaders and arrested them on various charges.

A characterization of the Ku Klux Klan appears in the appendix attached hereto.

During the question and answer period which followed the speeches Sims stated his primary concern is with the Bogalusa chapter of the DDJ. He stated there are 50 DDJ chapters throughout the south although he declined to comment on the total number of members. Admission of \$2.00 per person was charged. Approximately 60 to 80 persons attended.

[On October 26, 1965, NY T-2 advised] he attended ~~(S)~~ (U) the above mentioned affair and provided essentially the same information as [NY T-3] but in addition stated ~~(S)~~ (U) Sims did not criticize any particular approach to the civil rights effort. Sim's main theme appeared to be that those engaged in bargaining on civil rights issues such as Robert Hicks should be assured protection for themselves and their families.

After the meeting a reception was held for the persons who had appeared at the home of Ricque Le Seur on Staten Island.

*Mrs. Dorothy Schneider*  
[On October 25, 1965, NY T-4 advised] that Dorothy ~~(S)~~ (U) Gail Schneider, Robert Schneider, Erdine Antonsen, Zekor Antonsen, Betty Duimovich and 25 members of the Brooklyn, New York, chapter of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) attended the above mentioned affair.

*Elizabeth Redman Duimovich*  
Dorothy Schneider

On October 5, 1964, NY T-5 advised that on October 4, 1964 a Communist Party (CP) meeting was held at the home of Dorothy Schneider and that one of the members present was Schneider's husband, Bob Schneider. ~~(S)~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

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

Robert Schneider

On October 5, 1964, NY T-5 advised that on October 4, 1964, a CP meeting was held at the home of Robert Schneider, [redacted], Staten Island. According to the source, Schneider was present at this meeting and collected Party dues from one of the members. (U)

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Erdine Antonsen

On August 19, 1963, NY T-6 advised Erdine Antonsen attended a Kings County Communist Party, United States of America (CP, USA) committee meeting which was held at 1110 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York, on August 15, 1963. (U)

Zekor Antonsen

On December 9, 1963, NY T-7 advised that on December 8, 1963, a CP meeting was held at the home of Bob Schneider, [redacted], Staten Island, New York. According to the source, during the course of the meeting Bob Schneider told the members present that there were four paid Party members on Staten Island. NY T-8 stated that Schneider mentioned Zekor Antonsen and Erdine Antonsen, his wife, as two of the four members and remarked further "They pay their dues in the city." (U)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Elizabeth Redman Duimovich (Betty)

[On June 15, 1964, NY T-9 advised] that ~~(S)~~ (U)  
as of that date Elizabeth Redman Duimovich  
was Chairwoman of the Sixth Assembly District,  
Kings County CP.

[On October 25, 1965, NY T-10 advised] he attended ~~(S)~~ (U)  
a fund raising affair at Washington Temple Church of  
God in Christ, 1372 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New  
York, on October 24, 1965, where approximately 40  
persons were present. This meeting was held after  
the regular church service which is from 9:00 p.m.  
to 10:00 p.m.

Charles Sims stated during his speech that  
he is not a speaker, he is a "fighter". He spoke  
about the background of the DDJ but made no  
mention of firearms. When Sims requested donations  
for the organization, most of the audience walked  
out, however, a collection was taken. The source  
characterized Sims as a very reserved, very uninter-  
esting speaker.

The "New York Herald Tribune", page 2, dated  
October 25, 1965, contained an article captioned  
"Armed Resistance By Negroes Urged" in which it  
was indicated that at a news conference Robert  
Hix, the Reverend William H. Melish and Charles  
Sims said "Negroes are going to start hitting back  
and perhaps should even arm themselves on the  
picket line." Hix qualified his statement by  
saying "Laws must be obeyed." The Reverend William  
Howard Melish, identified as a DDJ member, said  
"Arms were justified to protect life and property."

Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Reverend William H. Melish

*William Howard Melish*

[On April 16, 1964, NY T-11 advised] that William ~~(C)~~ (U) H. Melish was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship (NCASF) as of April 11, 1964.

The NCASF has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[On October 26, 1965, NY T-12 advised] 300 to ~~(C)~~ (U) 400 persons attended a meeting held at Emanuel AME Church, 37 West 119th Street, New York City, from 8:15 to 10:45 October 25, 1965, at which Jesse Gray, the master of ceremonies, apologized for the absence of Charles Sims, who was to be the main speaker. Gray stated that Sims had to return to Louisiana in order not to forfeit bail on a local charge.

Mae Mallory gave a speech in which she stated each gun for the Deacons cost \$80.00. Mallory asked those in attendance to pledge a gun individually for the Deacons. Several persons signed pledges for guns. A collection of \$126.00 was taken up for the Deacons.

Jesse Gray

[NY T-13 advised on November 20, 1958,] that Jesse ~~(C)~~ (U) Gray had been Organizer for the Harlem Region CP, until November, 1958.

NY T-6 advised on November 20, 1958, that according to William Patterson, Chairman of the New York District CP, Jesse Gray is no longer a member of the CP but he is friendly to the CP. ~~(C)~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

[On October 29, 1965, NY T-14 advised] Charles (X) (U) Sims of the Deacons spoke at a public meeting sponsored by the YAWF at Academy Hall, 853 Broadway, New York City. Sims recounted experiences of racial persecution and claimed that the persecution had been somewhat alleviated through the formation of the Deacons, which are armed for self defense. Sims indicated that the DDJ in Bogalusa had about 200 followers and indicated a new unit was being formed in Chicago. Sims asked for contributions to carry on the work of the DDJ and a collection was made for him.

The "Workers World", volume 7, number 22, page 1, dated November 11, 1965, contained an article captioned "Charles Sims, Deacon of Defense President, speaks in NYC" which reflects Sims addressed a meeting of 300 at Academy Hall, New York City, sponsored by the YAWF.

The article reflects Sims stated civil rights workers, some of them white, had been threatened with physical violence by the Klan and were about to be attacked when he and some friends started an armed defense guard in Bogalusa, Louisiana, in the early part of this year.

Having staked out his men around the local CORE headquarters, Sims saw the chief of police looking things over. At first inclined to ignore the chief, since he knew him as a racist probably in league with the Klan himself, he changed his mind, went over to him and said: "You better stop 'em. 'cause if you don't we're gonna kill them all."

The chief apparently did not take this statement lightly. There was no trouble and Sims reported: "That night a brand new Negro was born."



Deacons of Defense and Justice

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

A collection of \$400.00 was raised from the audience. Over \$200.00 was raised at a house party in Brooklyn later on.

On November 1, 1965, Detective Raymond J. Clarke, BSS, NYCPD, advised BSS was contacted by an unknown individual in the office of Jeremiah S. Gutman, 363 7th Avenue, New York, New York, who stated Charles Sims departed New York City on November 1, 1965, for return to Bogalusa, Louisiana.

1.APPENDIXUNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.,  
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy, and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, the Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South, with units in several Southern states.)

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Third source advised on August 4, 1965, that the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is currently an active organization, with Klaverns in several Southern states. This source said that ROBERT M. SHELTON is the Imperial Wizard of this organization, and was last elected to this position on September 5, 1964, at a National Klonvocation in Birmingham, Alabama. Source said that the activity of the United Klans of America is increasing and that the national office remains in Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

1. ~~SECRET~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ (U)

APPENDIX

"WORKERS WORLD"

On May 3, 1965, a confidential source advised that the "Workers World" is the official newspaper of the Workers World Party, published twice monthly, with editorial offices located at 46 West 21st Street, New York, New York.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ (U)

1.

APPENDIX

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

On April 17, 1959, a confidential 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 that 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 co-operation with the Communist Party (CP) periphery-individuals characterized by the minority as petty-bourgeois.

The minority program, according to source, advocated 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, source advised that this minority group had chosen the name Workers World Party.

On May 3, 1965, second source advised that 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 pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

1.

APPENDIX

YOUTH AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

A confidential source advised on March 29, 1965, that the Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF), formerly known 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 confidential 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 29, 1965, that the YAWF maintains an office in Room 1214, 1123 Broadway, New York City, and publishes a magazine called "The Partisan."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

FBI

Date: 11/18/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTERED  
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Director, FBI  
FROM: SAC, Detroit (157-NEW) (P)

RALLY OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE SPONSORED BY CONGRESS OF  
RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE)  
11/20/65  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
RM

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM regarding captioned planned rally. Two copies of LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Division, which Office has an interest in the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2, ONI, OSI, USA and two copies being furnished Secret Service, all Detroit, Mich.

Source utilized in LHM is [REDACTED], racial informant (probationary) (U)

Detroit PD and Michigan State Police are aware of contents in LHM.

This matter will be followed and Bureau advised after rally.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 3 - Detroit
  - (1 - 157-706 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
  - (1 - [REDACTED]) (U)

FJP/fms  
(8)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP4 gpn/fk 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2.6  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-18-85

AGENCY: [REDACTED]

DATE FOR [REDACTED]  
BY: [REDACTED]

12 NOV 26 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

b7D

b7D

Community Relations  
Service (Counin)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Detroit, Michigan  
November 18, 1965

Re: Rally of Deacons for Defense and  
Justice Sponsored by Congress Of  
Racial Equality (CORE)  
November 20, 1965  
Detroit, Michigan

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On November 17, 1965, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that CORE is the sponsor of a rally for the Deacons for Defense and Justice to be held on Saturday, November 20, 1965, beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the new St. Peters Baptist Church, Woodrow Wilson and Pingree Streets in Detroit.

*Mich* According to the source, this rally is being held in an effort to raise money for the Deacons for Defense and Justice who are having difficulty raising funds in the South because of local hostility and economic pressures against them there. Source advised that Ernest Thomas, a Vice President of the Deacons for Defense and Justice from Jonesboro, Louisiana, will be the featured speaker at this rally.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1804/kt

157-2466-91  
ENCLOSURE

F B I

Date: 11/22/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-21-80 BY SP8/AV

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (157-1140) (C)

RALLY OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE SPONSORED BY CORE,  
11/20/65, DETROIT, MICH.

RM

Remyairtel and LHM 11/18/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned rally, which was held as scheduled on 11/20/65. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Division which office has an interest in the Deacons for Defense and Justice and two copies are being furnished the Chicago Division in view of reference in enclosed LHM to plans for establishing northern branch of the "Deacons" at Chicago, Ill.

One copy of LHM is being furnished G-2, ONI, OSI and USA, and two copies of LHM being furnished U.S. Secret Service, all Detroit, Mich.

Source utilized in LHM is \_\_\_\_\_

(by request).

Det. HAROLD BURLEY, Michigan State Police, Redford Post, Detroit, has been apprised of the data in LHM.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - Chicago (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - Detroit
- 1 - 157-706 (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)

FJP:sal  
(9)

D. C. Wick

AGENCY: ACT. GEN. OSI/SEC. SER.

DATE: 11/24/65  
HOW FORW: \_\_\_\_\_  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

b7D





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Detroit, Michigan  
November 22, 1965

Re: Rally of Deacons for Defense  
and Justice Sponsored by  
Congress of Racial Equality (CORE),  
November 20, 1965, Detroit, Michigan

Reference is made to memorandum at Detroit,  
Michigan, dated November 18, 1965.

On November 22, 1965, a source, who has  
furnished reliable information in the past, advised  
that on November 20, 1965, beginning at approximately  
8:00 PM and ending at approximately 11:00 PM, a rally  
for the Deacons for Defense and Justice, sponsored by  
CORE, was held at the new St. Peter's Baptist Church,  
Woodrow Wilson and Pingree Streets in Detroit. Source  
advised that approximately 100 individuals attended  
this rally and admission was charged for same.

*Mich.* According to the source, the keynote speaker  
was Ernest Thomas, a vice-president of the Deacons for  
Defense and Justice from Jonesboro, Louisiana, and  
several other local individuals also spoke. The tenor  
of the rally was a relating of the racial situation both  
in the North and the South and an explanation of the need  
for and purpose of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.  
It was stated that the main purpose of the rally was to  
raise funds which are to be used in plans toward establish-  
ing the first northern branch of the Deacons for Defense  
and Justice at Chicago, Illinois.

According to the source, the rally was peaceful  
and orderly.

This document contains neither recommendations  
nor 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.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 guffk

157-2466-92

SAC, Savannah

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

11/26/65

Director, FBI (157-2466)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

1 - Mr. Murphy

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18H/11-21-8  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-26-85

ReNYteletype to Bureau and Columbia, via Savannah.

Reteletype noted that Ricque LeSeur of "Friends of the Deacons of Defense and Justice," New York City, is interested in the formation of a civil rights or self-defense group in Saint George, South Carolina, similar to captioned organization. Certain unidentified individuals belonging to the "Saints of Saint George, South Carolina" contacted LeSeur to help organize them into a self-defense unit. LeSeur stated that Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) is working with the group, and LeSeur planned to contact CORE unofficially and find out how many men they can really count on. LeSeur stated that every man has a shotgun, but they lack radios and walkie talkies. LeSeur indicated he might go to South Carolina in the next few days and speculated that organizations (not specified) could help the group by donating a rifle. LeSeur indicated that such items in aid of the new self-defense organization should be sent to Nathaniel Lee,  ,  , South Carolina, telephone number   (U)

Savannah should check the accuracy of the above telephone listing as same appears to be one digit short.

New Orleans as Office of Origin regarding captioned organization, should make the necessary inquiries for any available information regarding the formation of the self-defense unit in Saint George, South Carolina.

The above caption should be utilized in this investigation until such time as the proper title of this organization is determined.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ 1 - New Orleans (157-3290)  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_ 1 - New York (157-1542)

Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The Deacons of Defense and Justice is a Negro organization whose main purpose is to arm Negroes for protection against Klan violence, and also has been active in racial demonstrations.

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

b6  
b7C

F B I

Date: 11/19/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)  
 FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)  
 RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Re San Antonio airtel and LHM dated 9/16/65 and  
 O-1 Form dated 11/12/65.

This case has been closed in the San Antonio  
 Office since 9/16/65, in view of the fact that there has been  
 no further activity on the part of the above captioned  
 organization in San Antonio Division.

There is enclosed for the Bureau a copy of the  
 Albany letter to San Antonio 10/13/65 captioned as above,  
 and setting forth information that MARK KLEIN and DOUGLAS  
 HAINLINE are both at Cornell University.

*0-7 to SA 11/24/65*  
*Incorporate info. in ALlet 10/13/65*  
*into a LHM + dis. locally to Sec-Serv.*  
*+ the military intelligence agencies.*  
*Also send cc's of the LHM as well as all*  
*correspondence relating to the Deacons of*  
*Defense to the Albany for*  
*dis. to Sec-Serv. to the Bur for dis.*  
*BPM:CV.*

## ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Albany (157-163) (Info)
- 1 - San Antonio
- GWHC/cbl
- (5)

REC 1

12 NOV 29 1965

C. C. Wick

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1881/jk

Approved: *[Signature]*  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

SAC, San Antonio (157-413)

10/13/65

SAC, Albany (157-163) (RUC)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTER

Re San Antonio airtel and LHM dated 9/16/65 to  
Bureau.

On 9/28/65, Mr. LOWELL GEORGE, Proctor, Cornell University, advised SA PETER F. MAXSON, that MARK KLEIN and DOUGLAS HAINLINE had both returned to Cornell University. On 9/23/65, Mr. GEORGE made available a copy of a one page throwaway which he stated that he had learned was being distributed on the Cornell University Campus. DOUGLAS HAINLINE obtained authority for this distribution. This material is captioned "Armed Negro Unit Spreads in South" and contains an account from the June 6, 1965, issue of the "New York Times" concerning the activities of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in various Southern states. The following is set forth:

"The Civil Rights Movement has outgrown total non-violence. While the racists' reaction to the Movement has become more and more ferocious, legal authorities have at best given only token aid to the Negro and, at worst, actually aided the racists.

"The Civil Rights Movement must now take up arms for its own protection--so that it can continue to exist and struggle.

2-San Antonio (RM)  
1-Albany

PFM:mjc  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP/86/1/K

157 413-47

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 13 1965	
FBI - SAN ANTONIO	

JAR

AL 157-163

"Here at firsthand an account of the Deacons Movement by ~~Mark Klein~~ who is speaking on 'Armed Self Defense--The Next Stage in the Negro Struggle'.

"Mr. Klein, a Cornell senior, participated in the Civil Rights Movement in Texas and has met and talked with Charles Sims, a major leader of the Deacons Movement who has given Klein permission to publicize the Deacons and to raise money for them."

The Shreveport then goes on to advertise this meeting to be held at 8:15 PM on September 28, 1965, at Ives Hall on the Cornell Campus and states that "the formation of a committee at Cornell to aid the Deacons will be discussed".

The September 29, 1965, issue of the "Cornell Daily Sun", a daily student newspaper published at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. contained an account of the above meeting. This account states that KLEIN, who was the speaker, received permission from Deacon leader CHARLES SIMS in Bogalusa, Louisiana, to raise money for the organization. During his speech, KLEIN stated that the Deacons of Defense and Justice are not an armed rebellion, not a terrorist revenge group, not a group dedicated to violence for violence' sake, but an organization to protect the home and family of the Southern Negro. He pointed out that between 1920 and 1930 there were over 3,000 documented Negro lynchings in the South and concluded that the situation has not greatly changed.

He claimed that CORE found out that their field workers were safer when the Deacons were around and that they then took the hypocritical attitude of "protected non-violence".

KLEIN stated that guns are not a solution to the problem of the Negro, but merely a protection under which to work. He said that local police, State justice and Federal help are all ineffective in protecting the Negro,

AL 157-163

claiming that sheriffs have deals with Klan members and that the FBI "takes notes and placates while you get beat up". He said that the Deacons' act as a deterrent to violence since "white racists are not willing to trade their superior lives for Negroes' inferior ones".

KLEIN claimed that in the Southern States, there is no law for the Negro or the Civil Rights worker and that if continue non-violence there is to invite more violence.

KLEIN indicated that he was trying to start a new group on campus to aid the Deacons and to bring a Deacon speaker up to Cornell.

TELETYPE UNIT

NOV 19 1965

ENCODED MESSAGE

b6  
b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI NEW YORK

9-17 PM EST DEFERRED

11/19/65

M.F.R.

TO DIRECTOR, FBI //15// AND COLUMBIA (VIA SAVANNAH)

COLUMBIA VIA (SAVANNAH) ENCODED VIA WASHINGTON

FROM NEW YORK

(157-1542)SS.

EXT. BY

REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW

11-19-88

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTER

FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFORMATION

[REDACTED] NOVEMBER EIGHTEENTH, SIXTYFIVE. RICQUE LE SEUR OF FRIENDS OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, NYC, IS INTERESTED IN FORMATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP OR SELF-DEFENSE GROUP IN SAINT GEORGE, SOUTH CAROLINA, SIMILAR TO DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE (DDJ). CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS (NOT IDENTIFIED) BELONGING TO SAINTS OF SAINT GEORGE, SOUTH CAROLINA, CONTACTED LE SEUR TO HELP ORGANIZE THEM INTO SELF-DEFENSE UNIT. LE SEUR STATED CORE IS WORKING WITH THEM. LE SEUR PLANNED TO CONTACT CORE UNOFFICIALLY AND FIND OUT HOW MANY MEN THEY CAN REALLY COUNT ON. LE SEUR STATED EVERYMAN HAS A SHOTGUN, BUT THEY WOULD NEED RADIOS AND WALKIE TALKIES. LE SEUR INDICATED HE MIGHT GO TO SOUTH CAROLINA IN NEXT FEW DAYS. HE SPECULATED THAT ORGANIZATIONS (NOT SPECIFIED) MIGHT HELP BY DONATING A RIFLE. LE SEUR INDICATED THAT SUCH ITEMS IN AID OF NEW SELF-DEFENSE ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE SENT TO NATHANIEL LEE, [REDACTED]

S.C., TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

LHM FOLLOWS.

10 NOV 26 1965

END

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

EX-113

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WA.. LLD FOR  
FBI WSASH DC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, BALTIMORE (157-1008) -RUC-

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERS  
OO: NEW ORLEANS

DATE: 11/30/65

Re Pittsburgh letter to Bureau 10/12/65; New York letter to Bureau 10/28/65; Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau 11/3/65.

Enclosed for New Orleans is one copy each of Baltimore airtel to Bureau 8/17/65 and re Pittsburgh letter and airtel.

On 11/19/65, Mr. ROBERT E. DUDLEY, Agent, Albert L. Zahn Agency, Real Estate and Property Management, 219 W. Washington St., Hagerstown, Md., was discretely interviewed by SA ROBERT I. MC ENROE relative to the Kennedy farm and farmhouse, commonly referred to as "JOHN BROWN's Farm" located in the southern part of Washington County, Md., mailing address of [redacted] West Va. It was determined that this property, previously utilized as a "regional" headquarters for the "Negro Elks", has been for sale for sometime. Dr. JAMES JULIAN, Silver Springs, Md., described by DUDLEY as "a prominent and wealthy Negro doctor", has signed a contract of sale with DUDLEY for the purchase of this property. DUDLEY advised 11/26/65 has been set as the date for "closing" this transaction, on which date Dr. JULIAN will take title to this property.

b6  
b7c

It was further determined from DUDLEY that there has been no affairs held at "JOHN BROWN's Farm" in recent months, and he was unaware of any meetings or gatherings of any size to be held at this site within the coming months. DUDLEY is unaware of the use to which Dr. JULIAN plans to put this property; he thought Dr. JULIAN might have intentions of establishing a boys camp there.

- 1808 RB

- ② - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - New York (157-1542) (Info) REGISTERED MAIL
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290 (Enc. 3) REGISTERED MAIL
- 1 - Pittsburgh (157-429) (Info) REGISTERED MAIL
- 1 - Baltimore

RIM:par

(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-88 BY SP/ [signature]

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



DEC 10 1965

REC-21

1 DEC 2 1965

INT. SEC.



BA 157-1008

In view of the above and the information contained in re Pittsburgh airtel 11/3/65 reflecting that captioned organization apparently has scheduled the affair, planned for 12/4/65, at the Hilltop House, Harper's Ferry, West Va., on 12/11/65, no further investigation of this matter is being conducted by Baltimore and no contact with Dr. JULIAN is being considered. Baltimore indices contained no information on Dr. JULIAN.

FBI

Date: 11/29/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext, code)

AIRTEL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413) RUC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RM

OO: NO

CLASS. & EXT. BY: SP1 gph/h 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW: 11-29-85

Re San Antonio airtel dated 11/19/65, and Bureau routing slip dated 11/24/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 8 copies of LHM on captioned subject matter.

Enclosed for Houston and New York are two copies each of LHM on captioned matter for informational purposes since these offices have an interest in the organization.

Four copies of the LHM are enclosed for Albany which is requested to disseminate two copies to Secret Service locally.

Two copies of the LHM are enclosed to New Orleans, office of origin, together with the following communications which may be of interest to the New Orleans Office:

- 3-Bureau (Encs. 8) RM
- 2-New Orleans (Encs. 13) RM
- 2-Houston (Encs. 2) RM
- 2-New York (Encs. 2) RM
- 2-Albany (157-163) (Encs. 4) RM
- 2-SA
  - (1-157-413)
  - (1-66-1620)

JJC:eks  
(13)

1cc & cc LHM  
808 RB

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY SLIP  
DATE

REC-49

7-2111-97

9 DEC 2 1965

CONF. SEC.

57 DEC 1965

ENCLOSURE

C. C. Wick

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

SA 157-413

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

San Antonio airtel to Bureau, 8/9/65,  
captioned The Committee to Aid the Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM  
dated 8/20/65, captioned The Committee to  
Aid the Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM  
dated 8/20/65, captioned The Committee to  
Aid the Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM dated  
8/26/65, captioned The Committee to Aid the  
Deacons.

San Antonio airtel and accompanying LHM dated  
8/28/65, captioned The Committee to Aid the  
Deacons.

Electrostat of undated and unaddressed letter  
signed by MARK KLEIN, Chairman, Committee to  
Aid the Deacons.

New York letter to San Antonio dated 10/7/65,  
captioned Committee to Aid the Deacons, RM.

One copy each of LHM has been disseminated locally to  
OSI, ONI, and 112th INTC. Two copies of LHM have been furnished  
Secret Service, San Antonio.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

File Where Located

SA T-1:

157-413-45

[REDACTED],

[REDACTED] (by request)

SA T-2:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b3  
b7D  
b7E

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

SA 157-413

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

CLASSIFICATION

The enclosed LHM is classified "~~Confidential~~" due to the fact that information furnished by SA T-2 could reasonably result in identification of a confidential informant of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof. (S) (U)

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
San Antonio, Texas

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

November 29, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gch/jr 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-29-85

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On September 28, 1965, Mr. LOWELL GEORGE, Proctor, Cornell University, advised that MARK KLEIN and DOUGLAS HAINLINE had both returned to Cornell University. On September 23, 1965, Mr. GEORGE made available a copy of a one-page throw-away which he stated he had learned was being distributed on the Cornell University campus. DOUGLAS HAINLINE obtained authority for this distribution. This material is captioned, "Armed Negro Unit Spreads in South" and contains an account from the June 6, 1965, issue of the New York Times concerning the activities of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in various southern states. The following is set forth:

"The Civil Rights Movement has outgrown total non-violence. While the racists' reaction to the Movement has become more and more ferocious, legal authorities have at best given only token aid to the Negro and, at worst, actually aided the racists.

"The Civil Rights Movement must now take up arms for its own protection -- so that it can continue to exist and struggle.

"Here at firsthand an account of the Deacons Movement by Mark Klein who is speaking on 'Armed Self Defense -- The Next Stage in the Negro Struggle.'

"Mr. Klein, a Cornell senior, participated in the Civil Rights Movement in Texas and has met and talked with Charles Sims, a major leader of the Deacons Movement who has given Klein permission to publicize the Deacons and to raise money for them."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)  
~~Group 1~~

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

104-2466-97

ENCLOSURE

RECEIVED  
AND  
1041  
SLIP (S)  
DATE 10/17/80

## DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

The throw-away then goes on to advertise this meeting to be held at 8:15 p.m. on September 28, 1965, at Ives Hall on the Cornell campus and states that "the formation of a committee at Cornell to aid the Deacons will be discussed."

The September 29, 1965, issue of the Cornell Daily Sun, a daily student newspaper published at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, contained an account of the above meeting. This account states that KLEIN, who was the speaker, received permission from Deacon leader, CHARLES SIMS, in Bogalusa, Louisiana, to raise money for the organization. During his speech, KLEIN stated that the Deacons of Defense and Justice are not an armed rebellion, not a terrorist revenge group, not a group dedicated to violence for violence's sake, but an organization to protect the home and family of the Southern Negro. He pointed out that between 1890 and 1930 there were over 3,000 documented Negro lynchings in the South and concluded that the situation has not greatly changed.

He claimed that the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) found out that their field workers were safer when the Deacons were around and that they then took the hypocritical attitude of "protected nonviolence."

KLEIN stated that guns are not a solution to the problem of the Negro, but merely a protection under which to work. He said that local police, State justice and Federal help are all ineffective in protecting the Negro, claiming that sheriffs have beers with Klan members and that the FBI "takes notes and pictures while you get beat up." He said that the Deacons act as a deterrent to violence since "white racists are not willing to trade their superior lives for Negroes' inferior ones."

KLEIN claimed that in the Southern states, there is no law for the Negro or the civil rights worker and that to continue nonviolence there is to invite more violence.

KLEIN indicated that he was trying to start a new group on campus to aid the Deacons and to bring a Deacon speaker up to Cornell.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

## DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On August 8, 1965, while in Austin, Texas, KLEIN described "'the Deacons' as an armed Negro self-defense group."

[On September 20, 1965, SA T-1] supplied a copy of ~~(S)~~ (U) an undated letter signed by MARK KLEIN, Chairman of the Committee to Aid the Deacons, which reads as follows:

"I am sorry for taking so long to answer you. We have been very busy organizing for our committee.

"Enclosed are copies of New York Times articles on the Deacons, plus our own mimeographed leaflet. We are not ourselves Deacons, but merely their supporters, and we are organizationally separate from them.

"The purpose of our committee is three-fold:  
1) Create favorable publicity for the Deacons-- this is necessary because the Deacons have met hostility from the national press, the FBI, the Louisiana state government, and perhaps very soon, the House Un-American Activities Committee; 2) Raise money for the Deacons-- money is needed to buy weapons and ammunition, and to pay for legal expenses; 3) Help spread the Deacons, through publicity, to areas where they are needed.

"Of course, we urge other people in other cities who support the Deacons to form committees like ours, and if you desire, we can help you get started with some literature, though our supply is very limited. (We would appreciate it if you can find own means to print up literature.)

"Thank you for writing.

"Sincerely,

"/s/ MARK KLEIN

/t/ MARK KLEIN, Chairman,  
Committee to Aid the Deacons

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

"P. S. If you do decide to form a committee like ours, we hope you will let us know so that we may notify the Deacons and get final permission. We may also be able to give you some organizational advice."

At this time, KLEIN listed the address of the Committee to Aid the Deacons as P. O. Box 7933, University Station, Austin, Texas. The addressee of the above letter was not known by [SA T-1.] (C) (U)

On October 13, 1965, Mr. W. A. COWAN, JR., Assistant Agent in Charge, Intelligence Section, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas, advised he talked to MARK KLEIN and DOUGLAS HAINLINE at Huntsville, Texas, shortly after a meeting which was held in the Community Center, 1102 Angelina Street, Austin, Texas. Mr. COWAN stated that HAINLINE and KLEIN had indicated that there was not sufficient interest in the above organization in Austin and that it would "die on the vine."

Mr. COWAN pointed out that both HAINLINE and KLEIN have left Austin and there is no leadership for the organization, Deacons of Defense and Justice, in Austin.

[On October 15, 1965, SA T-2 informed] he had received no information indicating that the above organization is active in Austin. (C) (U)

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)





*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Antonio, Texas

November 29, 1965

Title            DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Character

Reference       San Antonio 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.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 08-28-2018 BY:  

FBI

12/6/65

b6  
b7C

Date:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

A I R T E L

(Type in plaintext or code) REGISTERED

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEWARK

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1821/PT 7-22-8  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12-8-85

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

RM

Newark File 157-1922

Bureau File 157-2466

JOHN BROWN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

IS- C

Newark File 100-43717

Bureau File 100-  
-----

Re Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau, dated 11/15/65. (U)

On 12/3/65,   was contacted by SA JAMES R. LAUGHLIN concerning referenced airtel. Informant advised he has no contact with any member of captioned organization. He will be alert to seize any opportunity to join any group from the New York area going to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, on 12/11/65. (U)

For the information of the Pittsburgh Office, this informant has not been active in captioned organizations. He has furnished information on activity involving communist matters in the Newark Division. He does not know how to get in touch with JUANITA (Last Name Unknown) who sold him a ticket to The Deacons Of Defense party held in September of 1965 in New York City, New York. (U)

Newark will maintain contact with   (U)

- 6 - Bureau  
4 - Pittsburgh (157-429)  
    (2-100-  
5 - Newark  
    (1 -  )

REC- 51 157-2466 98

8 DEC 7 1965

INT. SEC.

JRL:tlm  
6015Approved:  

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U) Per \_\_\_\_\_

b7D

b3  
b7D  
b7E

UNRECORDED - 100-44963

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL 12/10/65  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-441968)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-425) (P)

ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY TEAMS (ACT)  
IS - C*O DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE*

Reairtel from Philadelphia, 12/6/65. Also reWFOairtel and LHM captioned "ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK POWER, RACIAL MATTERS", dated 11/18/65, with no copies for Baltimore and New Haven.

5-Bureau

(1- 157-3022) (OBP)

(1- ) (DFDJ)

3-Baltimore (RM) (100-23349)

(1- 157- ) (OBP)

4-Chicago (RM) (157-303)

(1- 157-678) (OBP)

(1- ) (ERNEST THOMAS)

2-New Haven (RM) (100-18253)

6-WFO

(1- 157-583) (OBP)

(1- )

(1- 157-237) (LIAISON SOURCES)

(1- 157-433) (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)

(1- 157-448) (RACIAL RIOTS)

(Copy count continued on page 2)

HKK/dan  
(33)AIRTELALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1/SEL/jfb6  
b7C  
b7D157-2466-NOT RECORDED  
198 DEC 15 1965DEC 17 1965  
CARSON COPYApproved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-441968-1

WFO 157-425

(Continued copy count)

5-New Orleans (RM)

(1- ) (OBP)

(1- ) (DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE)

(1- ) (ERNEST THOMAS)

3-New York (RM) (100-152916)

(1- 157-1469) (OBP)

5-Philadelphia (RM) (100-47502)

(1- 157-1508) (OBP)

(1- [ ] (STANLEY BRANCHE)

(1- [ ] (WILLIAM DAVIS)

b6  
b7C

On 12/10/65, [ ]

b7D

[ ] (protect identity, has furnished reliable information in the past) stated as follows:

He has no information that STANLEY BRANCHE, Chester, Pennsylvania, plans to lead a new civil rights organization. BRANCHE indicated recently that he hoped to call a meeting of the leaders of ACT, Organization For Black Power (OBP), Deacons For Defense and Justice (DFDJ) and others (not named) on a future date (not named) to discuss future plans of activity. [ ] does not expect such meeting will take place until 1966, and he plans to attend when it is held.

b7D

WILLIAM DAVIS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, still hopes to plan [ ] [ ] a "fund raising" rally in Washington, D. C. for the benefit of the Deacons For Defense and Justice. This has to be approved by ERNEST THOMAS, currently in Chicago. THOMAS is Regional Vice President, DFDJ, and is to appear at the rally. The rally will not be held in 1965, but awaits plans for 1966.

WFO 157-425

[ ] stated that he knows of no plans for any future demonstrations by ACT in Washington, D. C. He had no information regarding future plans by ACT, OBP, and DFDJ elsewhere. b7D

Liaison will be maintained with [ ]. b7D

Optional Form No. 10  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 12/1/65

FROM: *gml/b* SAC, Savannah

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RM

BUFILE NO: 157-2466  
SAVANNAH FILE NO: 157-731  
COLUMBIA FILE NO: *157-122*

Due to the opening of the Columbia Office, the following action is being taken in captioned matter:

A. LOCATION OF FILE

1. ( ) Entire file transferred to Columbia herewith.
2. ( ) File transferred to Columbia except one copy following serials retained at Savannah:
3. ( *x* ) File retained at Savannah but one copy of following serials transferred to Columbia:

see pg. 2

B. OFFICE OF ORIGIN

- ( ) Savannah  
( ) Columbia  
( *x* ) New Orleans

C. STATUS

- ( *x* ) PENDING  
( ) RUC to Columbia  
( ) Closed to Columbia

*157-2466*  
NOT RECORDED

8 DEC 1 1965

- 1 - Bureau (RM)  
1 - New Orleans (RM)

- 1 - Columbia (RM)  
1 - Savannah

SAS:jfs

(4) *DEC 1 1965*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE *7-22-80* BY *SP1 gml/jf*

SV 157-731

1. SVmemo of Supv. JACK M. BYRD, 6/11/65
2. SVmemo of SAC JAMES T. NEAGLE, 7/21/65
3. CEtel to Bureau, 7/14/65
4. Newspaper clipping, "Wall Street Journal", 7/12/65
5. Buairtel to SV, 7/19/65
6. NOairtel to Bureau, 8/4/65
7. SVmemo of SA EDWARD H. GOODERHAM, 8/12/65
8. NOrep of SA MAURICE A. KELLIHER, 8/17/65
9. FD 209, 8/29/65
10. FD 209, 8/29/65
11. SVlet to Bureau, 9/15/65

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)  
ROUTING UNIT *cls 12-16-65*  
ERROR LETTER SENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DATE: 12/14/65

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka  
RM

*Re* Bulet to Savannah, 11/26/65. ~~(S)~~ (U)

  (PROB), who is in a position to furnish information concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice at Bogalusa, advised that he has no information concerning the "Saints of St. George in South Carolina". Source stated that he would remain alert for any such information of the group being formed and immediately advise this office if such takes place. ~~(S)~~ (U) b7D

*K*

~~CLASS. & EXT. BY~~ *SP1 gph/jh 7-22-80*  
~~REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2~~ *2*  
~~DATE OF REVIEW~~ *12-14-85*

- Em 208 RB*
- ③ - Bureau
  - 1 - Savannah
  - 2 - Columbia
  - 2 - New Orleans

MAK:mnw  
(8)

*[Signature]*

REC-48

EX-113

DEC 16 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~REC. SEC.~~  
*[Signature]*





FBI

Date: 12-10-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

(Type in plain text or code)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)  
(157- )  
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)  
(157-840)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18/1/1 7-22-88  
REASON - FCIM  
DATE OF REVIEW 12-10-88

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RM  
(ORGANIZATION)

EARNEST THOMAS  
RM

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau dated 11/12/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of  
a letterhead memorandum and for New Orleans three  
copies, concerning captioned matter.

b7D

CG T-1 is [redacted]

(protect -

requested).

REC-19

Current Informant Contacts

Source

ST-10 Date Contacted

12/8/65

18 DEC 13 1965

- 4 - Bureau (Enc. 9) (RM)  
(1 - 157- ) (EARNEST THOMAS)
- 3 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 3)  
(Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated)  
(1 - 157- ) (EARNEST THOMAS)
- 3 - Chicago  
(1 - 157-413)

LGR/mjt  
(10)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

AGENCY: ACSL ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.,  
DATE FORWARDED: 12/12/65, CRS  
HOW FORW: [redacted]  
BY: [redacted]

9. ENCLOSURE

EE: Wick

1cc & cc  
808 RB

DEC 28 1965

Approved: [redacted]

157-442-1  
UNRECORDED FILED IN

CG 157-572  
CG 157-840

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Source

Date Contacted

12/8/65

b7D

(X) Potential confidential  
Racial Source

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service, and the United States Attorney, Chicago, Illinois.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will furnish Chicago photograph of EARNEST THOMAS and any information received concerning the current whereabouts of THOMAS and any indication that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, may be organized in Chicago.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
December 10, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS  
(ORGANIZATION)

EARNEST THOMAS  
RACIAL MATTERS

Reference is made to memorandum dated November 12, 1965, at Chicago, Illinois.

On the dates indicated the following advised that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ) has been formed in Chicago. They also advised that there has been no indication that Earnest Thomas, who is associated with the DDJ, is presently in Chicago.

[REDACTED],  
Chicago, November 16, 1965.

b7D

[REDACTED],  
Chicago, December 7, 1965.

[REDACTED],  
December 8, 1965.

[CG T-1, December 8, 1965.] (~~C~~) (U)

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois area advised during December, 1965, that no information has been received

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpa/ll 7-22-85  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 12-10-85

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

151-2466-100

DEC 21 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

that would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago. They advised that Earnest Thomas has not been in Chicago for the past few weeks but is expected to return to Chicago sometime in the future.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (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.

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
December 10, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Title	DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  EARNEST THOMAS
Character	RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)
Reference	is made to 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.

[CG T-1] is an agency which collects intelligence information in the Chicago, Illinois area. ~~(S)~~ (U)

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

F B I

Date: 12/27/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Wick	_____
Mr. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)  
 FROM: SAC, SEATTLE (157-507) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
 RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

EARNEST THOMAS  
 RACIAL MATTER

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau 11/2/65; New Orleans  
 letter to Seattle 11/3/65 (IO).

Referenced communications pertain to a newspaper article appearing in the "Chicago Defender", Chicago, Illinois, which indicates that a northern branch of the Deacons of Defense and Justice is in Seattle, Washington. Law enforcement agencies and racial sources in Seattle, Washington, have been unable to furnish any information concerning the existence of this organization in the Seattle area, and these sources have been requested to notify this office immediately in the event any information concerning it comes to their attention. No mention of the Deacons of Defense and Justice has been made by local news media in this area. It is noted that the statement that a branch of this organization exists in Seattle, Washington, was made by the vice president of the organization, EARNEST THOMAS, while he was in Chicago.

In the event Chicago or New Orleans receive any other information concerning the alleged existence of a branch in Seattle, this office should be immediately notified.

3 - Bureau  
 2 - Chicago (157-572)  
 2 - New Orleans (157-3290)  
 1 - Seattle  
 OWL:msw  
 (8)

REC-51 157-2466-101

18 DEC 30 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 7-22-80 BY SP182/1/1

Approved: JAN 6  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent 3 M 1966 Per \_\_\_\_\_

157-4432-  
 UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>12/30/65</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>11/9/65-12/23/65</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA DONALD J. MC GORTY</b>	TYPED BY <b>bab</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>RM</b>	

SYNOPSIS:

## SUMMARY REPORT

### REFERENCE:

Report of SA DONALD J. MC GORTY at New Orleans dated 10/14/65.

- P -

### LEADS:

#### NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

#### AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with individuals in the Deacons for Defense and Justice in order to be aware of their activities.

### ADMINISTRATIVE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP/SLH/18

APPROVED <i>RK</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 8 - Bureau (157-2466) (RM) 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM) 1 - ONI, New Orleans (RM) 1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM) 1 - OSI, Barksdale AFB (RM) 2 - New Orleans (157-5624)		157-2466-102	REC-16
		8 JAN 4 1966	EX 100
		IN SEC.	

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;  
FBI, IND, CRD, ~~ISO~~ CRS

DATE FORW: 1/7/66  
HOW FORW: RUC  
BY: Bpm: CJ.

157-2466

NO 157-5624/bab

An extra copy of this report is furnished to the Bureau for dissemination to Secret Service, Washington, D. C., in view of the fact that the subject falls within Category 5(c) of the Agreement Between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection.

A copy of this report is being furnished to ICG, ONI and Secret Service, New Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, in view of their interest in Klan matters.

- B\* -  
(COVER PAGE)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana  
December 30, 1965

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Director  
United States Secret Service  
Department of the Treasury  
Washington, D. C. 20220

Re: Deacons for Defense and  
Justice, Ferriday, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

The information furnished herewith concerns an individual who is believed to be covered by the agreement between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection, and to fall within the category or categories checked.

1. ☐ Has attempted or threatened bodily harm to any government official or employee, including foreign government officials residing in or planning an imminent visit to the U. S., because of his official status.
2. ☐ Has attempted or threatened to redress a grievance against any public official by other than legal means.
3. ☐ Because of background is potentially dangerous; or has been identified as member or participant in communist movement; or has been under active investigation as member of other group or organization inimical to U. S.
4. ☐ U. S. citizens or residents who defect from the U. S. to countries in the Soviet or Chinese Communist blocs and return.
5. ☒ Subversives, ultrarightists, racists and fascists who meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - (a) ☐ Evidence of emotional instability (including unstable residence and employment record) or irrational or suicidal behavior;
  - (b) ☐ Expressions of strong or violent anti-U. S. sentiment;
  - (c) ☒ Prior acts (including arrests or convictions) or conduct or statements indicating a propensity for violence and antipathy toward good order and government.
6. ☐ Individuals involved in illegal bombing or illegal bomb-making.

Photograph ☐ has been furnished ☐ enclosed ☐ is not available  
☐ may be available through \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

1 - Special Agent in Charge (Enclosure(s))  
U. S. Secret Service

Enclosure(s)

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Copy to:**  
 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM)  
 1 - OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana (RM)  
 1 - ONI, New Orleans (RM)  
 1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM)

**Report of:** SA DONALD J. MC GORTY **Office:** NEW ORLEANS  
**Date:** 12/30/65

**File Number:** 157-5624 **Bufile:** 157-2466

**Title:** DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
 FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

**Character:** RACIAL MATTER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gdr/jk

**Synopsis:** Local unit of Deacons at Ferriday, Louisiana has present membership of 23 members. Increase in membership and activities due to recent acts of violence committed against Negroes at Ferriday, Louisiana. Activities include weekly meetings and an all night patrol of the Negro section. Each deacon has at least one weapon and the unit has three semi-automatic Carlines and two walkie-talkies which are used for patrolling.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

On November 9, 1965, VICTOR GRAHAM advised that the Deacons for Defense and Justice at Ferriday, Louisiana has still not gotten off the ground. He stated that over the past weekend the Vice President of the Ferriday Freedom Movement, MARY WHATLEY BOYD, made several phone calls to him in an effort to get his deacons to go to the Arcade Theater at Ferriday, Louisiana in order to afford protection for the people who were picketing there. He stated that he had to tell MARY WHATLEY BOYD that he was unable to go to the movie house inasmuch as the Deacons were completely disorganized and their membership was nil.

GRAHAM stated that early on November 9, 1965 he was visited by a FNU JACKSON who works in a barber shop in Natchez, Mississippi. He stated that JACKSON is one of the officers in the Natchez Unit for the Deacons for Defense and Justice. JACKSON stated that he would attempt

NO 157-5624/bab

to assist GRAHAM in fully organizing the Deacon chapter at Ferriday, Louisiana and in this respect would make a return trip on Thursday November 11, 1965.

GRAHAM stated that he did not know whether or not this organizational drive and membership drive put on by JACKSON of Natchez, Mississippi would assist in organizing the chapter at Ferriday, Louisiana. He stated that he has tried everything he knows of to get people interested in the unit, however, he could not get the unit off the ground.

GRAHAM further stated he knew nothing about machine guns which are allegedly in the possession of the Deacons of Defense and Justice at Bogalusa, and Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that if he did come across information as to their origin, descriptive data and serial numbers he would furnish this information to the FBI.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 12/29/65

SAMMY DAVIS, JR., III, [REDACTED],  
Louisiana, furnished the following information:

b6  
b7c

65  
46  
1/9

DAVIS advised that he is not a member of the Deacons for Defense and Justice at Ferriday, Louisiana, however, he knows all the members and they often come to him for advice and counseling. He stated that he has been asked to join this organization many times but feels that he should not join because he is trying to keep both factions, the Deacons and the Klan apart so that the level headed people in town, both white and Negroe can solve the racial problem without violence. DAVIS stated that the local Unit of the Deacons never really did get started until there were acts of violence committed against Negroes almost weekly. He stated that after about the second or third incident where in a Negro's house was fired at or a bomb was thrown at it, the Deacons really started to recruit members.

DAVIS stated he knows for a fact that the local unit has three semi-automatic carbines and two walkie-talkies and that each individual member of the Deacons has at least one gun, either a shotgun, rifle or pistol. He stated that he has heard that they had been talking about going to either Bogalusa, Louisiana, or Jonesboro, Louisiana to secure automatic weapons for their patrolling duties. DAVIS stated that the local Deacons have a weekly meeting held at different places each week and that their activities include an all night patrol of the Negro area, 7 nights a week. In addition to these activities they also distribute literature which they have gotten from Jonesboro, Louisiana, which he believes is nothing more than recruiting literature for the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

DAVIS made available the following list of present members of Deacons for Defense and Justice of Ferriday, Louisiana, all are local residents.

- 3 -

On 12/23/65 at Ferriday, Louisiana File # NO 157-5624

by SA DONALD J. MC GORTY /bab Date dictated 12/38/65

NO 157-5624/bab

2

*Members of D-12055*  
*5/15/68*  
*4/2/68*  
LEON GRAHAM - a local barber

VICTOR GRAHAM - who works at the Concordia Parish hospital

HERMAN BROWN - employment unknown

LEVADO BROWN - painting contractor

*VICE PRESIDENT*  
RICHARD THOMPSON - a construction worker

SAMUEL WHITE - carpenter's helper

FRANK FLEMING - carpenter's helper

JAMES FLEMING - carpenter's helper

FRED BROWN - painting contractor

SHINE CALHOUN - employment unknown

STAFFORD REDVINE - who is employed at the Concordia Parish Hospital

*TR*  
FNU JONES - local Negro funeral director

ANTHONY MC CRANEY - who operates a service station

SIMON SMITH - electrician

FNU DUNCAN - truck driver

LIONEL HOOPER - laborer

VERNON SMITH - presently unemployed formerly a sergeant in the United States Army

ANTHONY WHITE - local minister

JOE DAVIS - employment unknown

JEFFERY SCOTT - who is the agricultural consultant for the local Negro high school

NO 157-5624/bab

3

MACK MOORE - who is a teacher at the local Negro high school

JOHNNY LLOYD - teacher at the local Negro high school.

DAVIS further advised that the following above mentioned individuals are the officers of the local Deacons for Defense and Justice Unit at Ferriday, Louisiana:

President	STAFFORD REDVINE
Vice President	RICHARD THOMPSON
Secretary	LEO GRAHAM
Treasurer	FNU JONES

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

4:24 PM CST 12-23-65 URGENT RRR

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-6-33)

FROM: NEW ORLEANS (175-201)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1801/1

RACIAL SITUATION, BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA. RACIAL MATTER.  
REFERENCE

RE NEW ORLEANS AIRTEL TO BUREAU, DEC. TWENTY TWO, LAST.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CLAXTON KNIGHT, CHIEF, BOGALUSA PD, ADVISED THIS DATE

THAT CHARLES SIMS, PRESIDENT OF THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE AND MEMBER OF BOGALUSA VOTERS LEAGUE, SUBMITTED  
A PARADE PERMIT TO THE CHIEF. THIS PARADE WOULD BE SPONSORED  
BY THE BOGALUSA VOTERS LEAGUE SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER TWENTY  
FOUR, NEXT AT TWO THIRTY PM. THE CHIEF ADVISED THE PARADE  
WILL BEGIN AT THE NEGRO LABOR TEMPLE AND PROCEED TO THE CITY  
HALL AND JAIL AND RETURN TO THE NEGRO LABOR TEMPLE.

CHIEF KNIGHT ADVISED HE IS NOT GOING TO PERMIT THE  
MARCHERS TO PARADE ON COLUMBIA STREET DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS TRAFFIC  
AND CROWD WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE  
POLICE TO CLEAR TRAFFIC FOR THE MARCH DOWN THE MAIN STREET OF  
BOGALUSA ON CHRISTMAS EVE. THE CHIEF ADVISED THE MARCHERS  
WOULD BE AFFORDED MAXIMUM POLICE PROTECTION.

END

~~LINE NINE WORD EIGHT SHOULD BE AND.~~

WA..MRW

FBI WASH DC

TUP

0 JAN 4 1966

NOT RECORDED  
202 DEC 29 1965

ORIGINAL FILED IN 157-6-33325

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 1/7/66

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184) (P)\*

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RM

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 10/25/65,  
with enclosed letterhead memorandums.

On 12/20/65, RAY DOYLE, Agent, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, (ATTU), United States Treasury Department, Los Angeles, advised that he has received no further information from the ATTU source concerning the shipment of machine guns from the Czechoslovakian Firearms Manufacturer to the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

DOYLE advised that the details of this transaction may take several months to obtain.

In view of the Bureau's interest in this matter, Los Angeles will maintain close contact with ATTU for information concerning this matter.

Los Angeles is placing this case in a pending inactive status, to be opened again in 60 days.

9-7 to L.A. 1/17/66  
Submit contents of  
relet in form of  
suitable for dissemination.  
BPM: ( )

REC-6

157-2466 - 103

3 JAN 10 1966

- 2 - Bureau (RM)  
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)  
1 - Dallas (Info) (RM)  
1 - Los Angeles

RNT/pkm  
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP182/fj

SUBV. CONTROL  
IN BUREAU



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO: *File* SAC JACKSON (Your file 157-3465) DATE: 1-6-66  
*12/28/65*FROM: *52* Director, FBI (Bufile and Serial 157-2466)  
Room No. 808 P.B. ☐ Post in file and destroy 0-1  
(For SOG use only)SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERSALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED☐ 1. Bufiles indicate this case is delinquent. Give specific reason for delinquency. *DATE 7-23-84 BY SP1 gcl/p*☒ Reurlet 10/26/65.☐ 2. DATE ☐ airtel ☐ letterhead memo ☐ submitted  
☐ report ☒ letter ☐ 90-day progress letter ☒ will be submitted *key 1/11/66*

Reporting employee \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 3. If valid reason exists for not submitting report at this time, state reason specifically and when report will be submitted \_\_\_\_\_☒ 4. Status of ☐ Appeal ☐ Inquiry ☒ Investigation  
☐ airtel ☐ letterhead memo  
☐ 5. Submit ☐ report ☐ 90-day progress letter by \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ letter

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 29 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	
(Date)	

(Place reply hereon and return to Bureau. Note receipt and acknowledgment on top serial in case file.)

FD-203 (Rev 5-1-60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	DATE <b>1/10/66</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/10/65-12/21/65</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka. Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA MAURICE A. KELLIHER</b>	TYPED BY <b>cay</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>RM</b>	

## REFERENCE:

New Orleans report of SA MAURICE A. KELLIHER, 8/17/65.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT - P -  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

## LEADS:

### CHICAGO DIVISION

#### AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Will maintain contact with sources and informants in order to determine if EARNEST THOMAS organizes a Chapter of the Deacons in that city.

### NEW YORK DIVISION

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 ghw / 7/17/80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-10-86

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
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- 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM)

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LEADS CONTINUED:

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Will, through informants and sources, be alert to any information concerning the Deacons attempting to establish Chapters in that area.

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with informants and sources in order to be aware of the activities of the Deacons in Washington Parish, Louisiana.

AT HOMER, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with leaders of the DDJ in that area.

- B -  
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NO 157-3290/cay/med

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with officers of the DDJ in order to be aware of pertinent activity on the part of the DDJ.

INFORMANTS

IDENTITY OF SOURCE

LOCATION OF INFORMATION

NO T-1 is [redacted]  
NO T-2 is [redacted]  
NO T-3 is [redacted]

[redacted]

(U) ~~(S)~~  
NO T-4 is [redacted]  
[redacted] (by request)

Mobile file 157-1017

NO T-5 is [redacted]  
NO T-6 is [redacted] (Former)

[redacted]

NO T-7 is [redacted],  
[redacted] (by request)

100-17230

NO T-8 is [redacted]  
[redacted]

New York File 157-1542

NO T-9 is [redacted]  
NO T-10 is [redacted]  
NO T-11 is [redacted]  
NO T-12 is [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

San Francisco File 157-573

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- C -  
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NO 157-3290/cay/med

ADMINISTRATIVE

Copies of this report are being furnished to listed offices for information purposes, inasmuch as there is a possibility that investigation will be requested by these offices.

Copies are being furnished to ICG, New Orleans, and Secret Service, New Orleans and Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, is being advised by separate communication covering the machine guns allegedly in possession of the Deacons.

This report is being marked ~~secret~~ in view of the fact information received from New York informant should not be disseminated unless under ~~secret~~ caption in order that the informant is not disclosed, which disclosure might impair his future usefulness. (S) (U)

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Copy to: 1-112TH INTELLIGENCE CORPS GROUP, NEW ORLEANS (RM)  
1-SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA (RM)

Report of: SA MAURICE A. KELLIHER Office: NEW ORLEANS  
Date: JANUARY 10, 1966

Field Office File No.: 157-3290 Bureau File No.: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: Chapters of DDJ located at Jonesboro, Bogalusa, Homer, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Information developed that Chapters may be organized in other areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. Bogalusa DDJ maintains bank account under name Courtesy Club at Washington Bank, Bogalusa, and informant advised this Chapter in poor financial condition during October, 1965. Some financial data concerning DDJ set forth. No information developed that Deacons are in possession of automatic weapons, but members do have access to rifles and hand guns. Informant advised Negro group in Bogalusa on 11/11/65, discussed possible violence in order to obtain their goal. EARNEST THOMAS, Jonesboro Deacon official, in contact with leaders of RAM and Organization for Black Power groups in Detroit. CHARLES SIMS, President of Bogalusa DDJ, in contact with Spartacists group in New Orleans, as well as making speeches sponsored by subversive groups in New York City, and Buffalo, New York. HENRY AUSTAN, DDJ, addressed Socialists Workers Party group in Cleveland on 11/23/65. (U)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SPT gch/lft 7-22-83  
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 7-10-86

DETAILS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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NO 157-3290/cay/med

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Characterizations of Revolutionary Action  
Movement (RAM), Spartacists, Socialists Workers Party,  
and the Workers World are attached hereto in the Appendix  
Section of this report.

- 2 -

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### ORGANIZATION

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

### PURPOSES

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United State and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.

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CHAPTERS

1. Jonesboro, Louisiana
2. Bogalusa, Louisiana
3. Homer, Louisiana

[On August 10, 1965, NO T-1 advised] that he understood that Negroes in Plaquemine, Monroe, and Ferriday, Louisiana, had requested assistance in forming DDJ Chapters. (U) (S)

On August 20, 1965, Detective WILLIAM NOLAN, Intelligence Division, New Orleans Police Department, advised that they had received information that the DDJ had started a chapter in the New Orleans area and that AUBREY WOODS, [REDACTED] was the co-ordinator of this movement in the New Orleans area. (U)

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On August 24, 1965, information was received from NO T-2 that a group of Negroes in Jackson, Mississippi, had made arrangements for representatives of the Deacons of Defense and Justice to come to Jackson, Mississippi, in order to discuss the formation of a chapter in that city. (U) (S)

On September 9, 1965, information was received from Doctor JACQUELINE JACKSON, Department of Sociology, Howard University, Washington, D. C., that in a conversation with Professor BENZION WARDY of the Political Science Department, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. was discussed, and Professor WARDY informed her that he had attended a meeting concerning this organization, which was held at Tuskegee on or about August 15, 1965. Doctor JACKSON advised that Professor WARDY informed her that he had attended this meeting, but did not discuss the organization with her, nor admit actual membership in such an organization.

[On September 1, 1965, NO T-2 advised] that he had received information that one First Name Unknown JACKSON, a Negro barber, was the head of the DDJ in the Natchez, Mississippi, area. JACKSON is alleged to have stated that (U) (S)

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there are twentyfive Deacons in the Tallulah, Louisiana, area; twentyfive men in the Vicksburg, Mississippi, area; and seventyfive Deacons with headquarters at St. Francisville, Louisiana. T-2 stated that JACKSON reported that they had one hundred Negroes ready for any trouble in the Natchez area, but the informant was unable to determine if JACKSON made reference to one hundred DDJ members, or merely one hundred local Negroes, which possibly included a few DDJ members. (S) (U)

[On October 9, 1965, NO T-3 advised] that members of the DDJ from Bogalusa, Louisiana, area had gone to Columbia, Mississippi, to establish a DDJ chapter in that area; and [T-4 advised] that individuals from Holmes County, Mississippi, as well as individuals from Columbia, Mississippi, made inquiries concerning the establishment of Deacon Chapters. (S) (U)

On November 5, 1965, NO T-1 advised that he had received information that the New Orleans DDJ under AUBREY WOODS was scheduled to move into Plaquemines Parish during the week of November 5, 1965, and attempt to organize a DDJ Chapter in Boothville, Louisiana. (S) (U)

#### MEMBERS

[On August 10, 1965, NO T-1 advised] that the following individuals were members of the Bogalusa Chapter of the DDJ: (S) (U)

CHARLES SIMS, President

ROYAN BURRIS, Vice President

LA. JOSEPH WHITE, former secretary

ANDREW SMITH

LUKE VARNADO

MILTON JOHNSON

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ELMER ~~BARNER~~

LA. SAM ~~BARNES~~

BILL ~~CRAWFORD~~

MIZELL ~~BUTLER~~

O. J. ~~NELSON~~, also known as Candy

On August 20, 1965, OBIE BROWN, [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED], a self-admitted member of the DDJ, advised that  
the following individuals were members of the Bogalusa  
Chapter:

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LEMUEL ~~BROWN~~

LA. OTHA ~~PETERS~~

THEODORE ~~NEWMAN~~

CHARLES ~~WEARY~~

JOSHUA ~~MUNDY~~, Varnado, Louisiana

HAROLD RAY ~~MINGO~~, Varnado, Louisiana

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b7C

On August 12, 1965, NO T-1 advised that ALBERT ~~DAVIS~~ (U)  
DAVIS, [REDACTED], Louisiana, treasurer and acting  
secretary of the DDJ, and BERTRAND ~~WYRE~~, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] were members.

LA. On August 26, 1965, NO T-1 advised that at a rifle  
practice held by the DDJs on August 21, 1965, the following  
individuals were in attendance:

ROBERT ~~BRYCE~~

LA. L. C. ~~MC GEE~~

GEORGE WEST ~~SKIPPER~~

REECE ~~PERKINS~~ (U)

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FINANCES

[On August 12, 1965, NO T-1 advised] that the ~~(S)~~ (U) present monetary payment to join the DDJ was \$10.00, with a \$2.00 monthly dues payment.

[On August 20, 1965, OBIE BROWN, [redacted] Louisiana, advised that he was paying \$3.00 a month dues as a result of his membership in the DDJ; and he further stated that GAYLE JENKINS of Bogalusa maintains the financial records for the DDJ. LA.

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b7c

[On September 2, 1965, NO T-2 advised] that he had ~~(S)~~ (U) received information which indicated that at a meeting set up to formulate plans for the Deacons, it was reported that there was to be a \$10.00 individual initiation fee and a monthly dues of \$2.00. A \$100.00 membership fee was indicated for a Unit to affiliate with the State Organization, and this \$100.00 membership fee was to be used principally for the purchase of radio and other communications equipment.

[On September 24, 1965, NO T-3 advised] that the ~~(S)~~ (U) money of the DDJs is held under the name of the Courtesy Club at the Washington Bank in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

[NO T-3 advised] that, in his opinion, A. Z. YOUNG ~~(S)~~ (U) who is connected with the civil rights movement in Bogalusa is out to "milk" the civil rights activities in that area; and he further believed that CHARLES SIMS would not be above siphoning off some of the money obtained ostensibly for the Deacons for his own personal use.

U.S.A. [NO T-3 reported] that it was his understanding that ~~(S)~~ (U) LOUIS LOMAX, west coast TV celebrity, allegedly gave \$15,000.00 to the Deacons; and [T-3] attempted to track down the distribu- ~~(S)~~ (U) tion of this money. He had ascertained that \$5,000.00 had been given to the Bogalusa Voters League (BVL); \$5,000.00 used for the expenses of the organization headed by LOMAX, concerning the Bogalusa movement; and \$5,000.00 used as bond money for people involved in civil rights arrests. [T-3] ~~(S)~~ (U) stated that it was his understanding that \$500.00 had been

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used for bond money for HENRY AUSTAN and MILTON JOHNSON, who had been arrested following the shooting of ALTON D. CROWE in Bogalusa, Louisiana, during the summer. [T-3 stated] he (X) (U) also understood that \$7,500.00 had been received from various sources in connection with the BVL and the Deacon organization in Bogalusa, which money had been used for expenses.

[On October 9, 1965, NO T-3 advised] that it was his (X) (U) understanding that there had been a meeting of the Bogalusa and Jonesboro Chapters of the DDJ and the Bogalusa Chapter, as of October 9, 1965, was no longer contributing ten per cent of their dues to the Jonesboro, headquarters; and they were only furnishing ten per cent of the initiation fee. [T-3 advised] that he understood that CHARLES SIMS, President of the (X) (U) Bogalusa Chapter of the DDJ had obtained approximately \$1,900.00 during a trip to the west coast, at which time he made an appearance in connection with the DDJ movement.

LA. [On October 26, 1965, NO T-3 advised] that CHARLES (X) (U) SIMS and ROBERT THICKS, member of the DDJ, had recently been in New York in an effort to raise money for the Deacons, but very little money had been collected. [T-3 stated] that it was (X) (U) his understanding that the current plans of the Deacons in Bogalusa were to contact those individuals throughout the U. S. who have been active in fund raising for the Deacons to obtain as much money as possible for the Bogalusa Chapter in order to continue their activities in that community.

On October 1, 1965, NO T-1 advised that CHARLES SIMS had stated that the DDJs are bankrupt, even though he and HENRY AUSTAN had received money to travel throughout the country. According to T-1, SIMS stated the money had been contributed to New Orleans flood victims in the name of the Deacons, but that the money had been obtained from the BVL; and at the present time there was a slight internal strife going on between the BVL and the DDJs. (X) (U)

On October 23, 1965, NO T-1 advised that at a meeting held on October 21, 1965, at the ILA Hall in New Orleans, which was attended by CHARLES SIMS, Bogalusa, EARNEST THOMAS, Jonesboro, and AUBREY WOOD, New Orleans, leaders of the DDJs, as well as members of the Spartacists Club, HENRY AUSTAN spoke, and as a result aroused the (X) (U)

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enthusiasm of the members present so that they went out to the Negro community at New Orleans soliciting funds and according to NO T-1 collected a considerable amount of money for the fight of the BVL and the DDJ in Bogalusa. (S) (U)

NO T-1 stated that he does not know how much of this money actually arrived in Bogalusa, as he stated there have been fund drives in the past where considerable amounts have been raised and only a small amount actually turned in to the BVL and the Bogalusa Chapter of the DDJ. T-1 stated that he feels that SIMS and AUSTAN keep a good portion of the money as traveling funds as they have been doing for the past several months. (S) (U)

NO T-1 stated that HENRY AUSTAN was scheduled to go to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on October 23, 1965, to solicit funds in the Negro churches on Sunday morning for the Bogalusa group. (S) (U)

#### WEAPONS

On August 10, 1965, NO T-1 advised that he does not believe that the Bogalusa DDJ possesses any machine guns, M-14 rifles, or grenades. He advised that CHARLES SIMS, President of the Bogalusa DDJs, had purchased military surplus arms at Rolan's on South Rampart Street, New Orleans. These purchases are believed to be 30.06 rifles and side arms, and the only other equipment presently known to be possessed by the Bogalusa Deacons are walkie-talkies. (S) (U)

On August 21, 1965, NO T-1 advised that it was his understanding that a shipment consisting of three 30.06 rifles, three M-1 carbines, two 4.10 shotguns, and two over and under shotguns are to be delivered to a member of the DDJs at Bogalusa. He further advised that the Bogalusa Deacons are scheduled to have target practice on August 21, 1965, at a location approximately 1½ miles north of Bogalusa on the Varnado Road. (S) (U)

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On October 6, 1965, NO T-1 advised that he had heard that AUBREY WOODS, New Orleans member of the DDJ, supposedly had purchased a case of weapons for the Bogalusa Deacons, but he had no further information concerning this equipment. (C) (U)

On October 19, 1965, a representative of the Alcohol Tax and Tobacco Unit, U. S. Treasury, at Los Angeles, California, advised that he had received information which indicated that the Deacons at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, allegedly received on July 19, 1965, 420 machine guns that had been manufactured in Czechoslovakia.

On October 20, 1965, NO T-1 advised that he had not received any information from individuals whom he had contacted which would indicate that the Deacons presently had any automatic weapons in the State of Louisiana. He stated that he had heard that AUBREY WOODS, President of the DDJ in New Orleans, stated that the possibility exists that automatic weapons could be obtained from California, which weapons were not further described by WOODS; and these would be sent to New Orleans. (C) (U)

POSSIBLE VIOLENCE

On November 11, 1965, NO T-1 advised that a meeting had been held at the residence of ROBERT HICKS, Vice President of the BVL, at which time members of HICKS' family, CHARLES SIMS, President of the DDJ, JOHN HAMILTON and JOHNNY TOWNSEND, members of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and other members of the BVL were present. (C) (U) LA.

At this meeting, a discussion was held concerning the possibility of bombing or burning stores in the 400 block of Columbia Street, Bogalusa, Louisiana, which is the main shopping center. ROBERT HICKS, at this meeting, said he was in favor of attempting to set up a group of local people in Bogalusa to perform this violence; however, that if this could not be done, there was a possibility of bringing (C) (U)

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people in from Chicago and Detroit with an "I don't care" attitude, who would know how to set up plans and to execute the destruction of stores on Columbia Street. (S) (U)

NO T-1 advised that he was advised that this plan to destroy stores on Columbia Street was favored after HICKS had realized what could be done if they could knock power out in the Bogalusa area similar to the way it had been cut off in the Northeast in the immediate past. HICKS said that it would be necessary to have someone with experience along these lines in order to knock out the power; and this is where out-of-town people would be brought in. (S) (U)

On November 10, 1965, NO T-1 advised that HICKS had mentioned tentative plans concerning the destruction on Columbia Street to a meeting of Negro adults at the Ebenezer Church on November 9, 1965. This plan was considerably toned down from what was discussed at the previous meeting at HICKS' residence; and, it was the belief of the people present that this plan would not materialize. T-1 advised however that there was concern over this fact, since it was believed there are some individuals in the Negro community in Bogalusa who might hear of this plan and believe that they could make use of this plan, as individuals, or with a small group, and make an attempt at burning or destroying a store on Columbia Street. (S) (U)

#### ASSOCIATION WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS

NO T-5 advised on September 8, 1965, that MAXWELL STANFORD, AL HAYNES and JOHN ANDERSON of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) on August 31, 1965, had met with EARNEST THOMAS of the DDJ at Jonesboro, Louisiana. These individuals, according to T-5 discussed bringing the Deacons and the RAMs along with the Organization for Black Power together. STANFORD told THOMAS that if he would agree to bring the Deacons into the groups, meaning RAM and Black Power, THOMAS would have the support of these groups. (S) (U) LA.

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During the discussion, STANFORD allegedly told THOMAS that JESSIE GRAY, the leader of the Organization for Black Power, is supposedly going to obtain \$30,000.00 and THOMAS could obtain \$10,000.00 of this money. STANFORD did not say when or how GRAY was to obtain this money. (S) (U) LA

At this meeting, STANFORD allegedly told THOMAS that it would be beneficial for him to attend a forthcoming Black Power meeting being planned in Detroit, Michigan, over the Labor Day week end and that if he were present, he, THOMAS, could become acquainted with some of those people involved in their cause. STANFORD told THOMAS, according to the informant, that he, THOMAS, could put pressure on militant groups in the South and that he, STANFORD, would do the same thing in the North. STANFORD indicated to THOMAS that he wanted unity between the groups and was of the belief that they could assist one another. STANFORD indicated that pressure could be applied to politicians, policemen, and anyone else where the situation called for such. STANFORD stated if harm did come to any of their members that they would retaliate and pressure would be put on people responsible for this harm. (S) (U)

During this discussion, STANFORD advised THOMAS he would be furnished money for his expenses in making this trip to Detroit; and in a brief talk concerning SIMS from Bogalusa, who supposedly has a group of the Deacons, there appears to be a division or misunderstanding between THOMAS and SIMS. (S) (U)

During this discussion, between THOMAS and STANFORD, THOMAS indicated that he had a training camp someplace in Mississippi and that RAM members and Black Power members could be sent there for guerrilla-type training. (S) (U)

THOMAS indicated he needed carbines for the Deacons and STANFORD said he possibly could obtain such weapons for him. STANFORD indicated a need for hand guns; and THOMAS said, according to the informant, that he possibly could obtain some for their use. (S) (U)

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[On September 7, 1965, NO T-6 advised] that a (X) (U) meeting was held in Detroit, Michigan, over the Labor Day week end under the sponsorship of the Organization for Black Power; and, at this meeting, there were representatives of the RAM. According to the informant, GEORGE MERRITT and EARNEST THOMAS, members of the DDJ from Jonesboro, Louisiana, were in attendance.

According to the informant, THOMAS spoke at one of the sessions of this conference, at which time, he pointed out the tremendous need for such groups as the Deacons, with which he is affiliated, as well as the need for protection for the many civil rights type groups and Negroes in the South. During his talk, THOMAS indicated that the Deacons have a two-way radio hooked up and that they have a supply of weapons available for their use. THOMAS advised that he was not at liberty to divulge the membership of the organization, the details of their organization, or the amount of weapons available, or the source from which these weapons were obtained.

[On September 3, 1965, NO T-7 advised] that CHARLES (X) (U) SIMS, President of the Deacons at Bogalusa, Louisiana, had received a letter from Spartacists in New Orleans; and SIMS at that time stated that he did not want anything at all to do with any Communist or Communist-type organization. Informant stated that SIMS was afraid that the people in Spartacists would try to take over the Deacons if SIMS allowed them the use of the name of the Deacons in their activities.

[NO T-7 further advised] that SIMS had been (X) (U) LA. approached by DOUG HAINLINE and MARK KLEIN, who appeared at SIMS' residence in Bogalusa and requested permission of SIMS to solicit money for the Deacons in Texas. At this time, the name Spartacists was not mentioned. T-7 stated SIMS had been introduced to KLEIN by DOTTIE NANCE, whom SIMS believed to be one of the persons actually setting up an office for the Spartacists in New Orleans. 101

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(On October 27, 1965, NO T-8 advised) that CHARLES ~~(S)~~ (U) SIMS, President of the DDJ, Bogalusa, Louisiana, spoke at a fund raising affair for the Deacons at the Unitarian Church Hall, Clinton and Filmore Streets, Staten Island, New York, on October 23, 1965. SIMS spoke about the background of the DDJs and the purposes for the organization.

The "Workers World," Volume 7, Number 20, page 3, dated October 14, 1965, containing an article captioned, "President Of Deacons For Defense To Speak In New York," reflected that it was announced by RICTUELE SEUR, a friend of the Deacons from the newly opened office of the Friends of the DDJ (FDDJ), 271 West 125th, Room 209, New York, New York, that CHARLES SIMS, founder of the DDJ, and ROBERT HICKS, Vice President of the BVL will speak in New York on October 23, and October 25, 1965.

The meeting on October 23, 1965, will be at 8:30 PM in the Unitarian Hall, Clinton and Filmore Streets, West Brighton, Staten Island, New York.

On October 25, 1965, a rally will be held at 8:00 PM in Emanuel Church, 37 West 119th Street, New York City.

"The Worker," Volume XXX, Number 80, page 2, dated October 24, 1965, contained an article captioned, "Deacons' President To Speak In New York," which set forth substantially the same information as that contained in the "Workers World." "The Worker" is a east coast Communist newspaper.

On October 29, 1965, NO T-9 advised that CHARLES SIMS, President of the Bogalusa, Louisiana, Chapter of the DDJ, spoke at a meeting of the Buffalo Labor Forum, which was held at the Buffalo Branch Workers World headquarters, 831 Main Street, Buffalo, New York. According to the informant, SIMS spoke concerning the background of the Deacons and pointed out that the organization is not interested in international politics, but is only interested in civil rights. ~~(S)~~ (U)

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[On November 23, 1965, NO T-10 advised] that an ~~(S)~~ (U) open forum sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party was held at Eugene V. Debs Hall, Room 25, 5927 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. At the conclusion of the meeting, HENRY AUSTAN of Bogalusa, Louisiana, spoke and advised that he was in Cleveland to organize a local "Deacons For Defense" Committee. According to the informant, AUSTAN stated that he is not a non-violent pacifist, but rather he believes in violence on the part of the Negro in order to protect himself, even to the extent of armed violence.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)MISCELLANEOUS

[On August 23, 1965, NO T-13 advised] that ROBERT (S) (U) HICKS, President of the Voters League in Bogalusa and a charter member of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ), and CHARLES SIMS, member of the DDJ in Bogalusa, spoke at a dinner held in Detroit, which dinner was held for the Deacons of Bogalusa, Louisiana, and sponsored by Group on Advanced Leadership. During this meeting HICKS and SIMS talked about the experiences and background of the civil rights struggle in Louisiana and told how the Deacons came into being. At this meeting a collection was taken up for the Deacons and \$509.00 was turned over to ROBERT HICKS.

The "Chicago Daily News," a Chicago, Illinois, newspaper, issue of October 15, 1965 carried an article captioned "Militant Negroes Here Forming Armed Unit to Fight the Klan." This article went on to relate that EARNEST THOMAS, a Deacons Vice President and full-time paid national organizer, indicated that the Deacons were organizing a Chicago chapter.

On October 25, 1965, Sergeant SAM NOLAN, Human Relations Section, Chicago Police Department, advised that no information had been developed by that Department which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ had been formed in Chicago. Sergeant NOLAN advised that THOMAS had reportedly attempted to interest various groups and individuals in Chicago in forming a Chicago chapter but had no success in these attempts.

On October 13, 1965, RONALD BEDFORD was contacted by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the vicinity of his residence on [redacted]

[redacted] of Boston, Massachusetts. Concerning the "Friends of the Deacons," BEDFORD stated there were only actually four members in the Boston group and he advised that a number of people have attended various meetings held by the Deacons but none have evidenced enough interest to join or return to subsequent meetings. BEDFORD stated that the group meets at the Boston Action Group Office, 384 Bluehill. The purpose of this group is to raise money

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b7c~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NO 157-3290:med

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

to assist the Deacons of Bogalusa. BEDFORD stated that it was desired that only Negroes should be admitted to membership, but there is a white group of approximately sixteen persons who are sympathetic to the "Deacons."

On July 26, 1965, NO T-12 advised that EARNEST THOMAS, Vice President and Chief Organizer of the DDJ, spoke at a reception held on July 24, 1965 in Berkeley, California, at a meeting sponsored by the Berkeley Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality. NO T-13 advised that THOMAS said he was in the area to raise funds and that the current aim of the Deacons was to bring full-time membership into their organization. (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

## A P P E N D I X

1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

### REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

A source advised on September 9, 1964, that the Revolutionary Committee of the Fourth International (RCFI) was also known as the Spartacist Committee and the Spartacist Group. This source described the RCFI as being composed of former members of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) who had split from the SWP and who were led by James Robertson. This source stated that this political unit has its main center in New York City, where it publishes "Spartacist" on a very irregular basis, but their formal meetings are held at least once a week.

A second source advised on March 4, 1964, that Farrell Dobbs, National Secretary of the SWP, sent a letter to all SWP branches in February, 1964, in which he advised that the expelled leader of a minority faction of the SWP, James Robertson, announced on February 10, 1964, that his faction would publicly criticize the SWP and had followed this with a public organ called "Spartacist" in which they attacked the SWP.

The July-August, 1964, issue of "Spartacist," in its masthead describes this publication as follows: "... published bi-monthly by supporters of the Revolutionary Tendency expelled from the Socialist Workers Party." This masthead sets forth that the editor of the publication is James Robertson, and its main address is Post Office Box 1377, General Post Office, New York, New York.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

## A P P E N D I X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)  
A P P E N D I X

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY -  
NEW YORK LOCAL

A source stated on August 25, 1960, that the New York Local (NYL) of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was founded during 1938 in New York City.

A second confidential source stated on April 8, 1964, that the NYL was affiliated with and followed the aims and purposes of the National SWP.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A P P E N D I X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



New Orleans, Louisiana  
January 10, 1966

Title	DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
Character	RACIAL MATTERS
Reference	Report of SA MAURICE A. KELLIHER dated January 10, 1966, at New Orleans, Louisiana

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

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 08-29-2018 BY: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U) DATE: 1/11/66

FROM : SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INC., aka;  
RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

00: New Orleans

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 SPL/f1 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-11-86

Re Jackson letter to Bureau, 10/26/65 and Jackson  
letter to San Francisco, 12/13/65, no cc Bureau.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM  
with two copies for New Orleans and one copy for San Francisco.  
One copy each is being forwarded to INTC, OSI, ONI, and  
Secret Service, Jackson.

Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) and the  
Jackson Police Department, Jackson, Mississippi, have been  
advised of results in the LHM.

The first source mentioned in the LHM is [REDACTED]  
the second source is [REDACTED] and the third source is [REDACTED]  
(PROTECT). The sources were contacted by SA JAMES O.  
INGRAM. (U)

JAMES JACKSON, [REDACTED] Miss.,  
was interviewed by SA CIARENCE G. PROSPERE.

An information copy is being submitted to San  
Francisco in view of their interest in this matter.

- 2-Bureau (157-2466) (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2-New Orleans (157-3296) (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 1-San Francisco (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 4-Jackson (157-3465) (1-[REDACTED] 1)-[REDACTED] 1)-[REDACTED] 1)-[REDACTED] 1)

JOI/sjw  
(9)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.,  
DEPT. ISD, CRD, CRS by Carrier  
DATE FORW: 1/11/66  
HOW FORW: 3PM:00  
BY: [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

cc & cc  
808 RB  
51 JAN

INVS. SEC.

b3  
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JN 157-3465

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

At Bogalusa, Louisiana

Will, through sources, continue to advise the Jackson Division of any Deacons reportedly traveling to Mississippi for meetings or attempting to form chapters in Mississippi.

JACKSON

At Jackson, Mississippi

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of Deacons of Defense and Justice. If chapters in Mississippi organized, will attempt to determine leadership, strength of members, activities, as well as arms acquired.

Will attempt to determine potentiality for violence or any outside influence on members or chapters if formed.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

January 11, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS

On November 10, 1965 Detective Sergeant Philip La Bruzzo, Daly City, California Police Department, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that he had been informed that on the previous day an individual representing the Deacons For Defense and Justice appeared as a speaker at the College of San Mateo, San Mateo, California. At the time of the speaker's appearance, a handbill was passed out to those in attendance indicating the organization is located at 319 North Pine Street, Natchez, Mississippi. A copy of the handbill was made available and it is set forth as follows:

"DACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

"319-North Pine Street

Natchez, Mississippi

"October 23, 1965

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"Because of recent violence in Natchez and Adams County, it became necessary for the Negro citizens to organize a chapter of Deacons for Defense of Justice. The purpose of this organization is to protect the lives and property of the negro citizens from hooded night riders, and members of such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, whose objective is to deprive the negro of his civil rights by violence, intimidation, bombing and other violent acts.

"We are in need of funds to purchase such items as Walkie Talkies, Radio Equipment, Uniform Equipment and Cars that are radio equipped to patrol the negro neighborhood.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpl/fv 7-22-86/157-2466-105  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-11-86

ENCLOSURE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF CHANGES  
DATE 5/21/80

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Any contribution that you give will be greatly appreciated. Make all checks, money orders payable to the Natchez Sportsmen Club. The name "Sportsmen Club" is used in order to obtain a Mississippi state charter.

"Yours truly,

"NATCHEZ CHAPTER OF DEACONS FOR  
DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

"JAMES JACKSON, PRESIDENT"

Sergeant La Bruzzo stated that based on information he had received, no mention was made of purchase of guns in the leaflet, however, during the course of the speaker's appearance, he indicated that any donations received would be used among other things for the purchase of firearms for self-defense.

Sergeant La Bruzzo stated that the leaflet contained a telephone number [ ] which was to be called for further information.

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On November 10, 1965 Mr. William J. Walsh, Dean of Men and Co-ordinator of Student Activities, College of San Mateo, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that on the previous day an individual had appeared as a speaker on the campus from captioned organization. He stated that the appearance had been cleared by the college, however, he knew nothing of the details of the talk.

Mr. Eric Gattman, Co-ordinator of Curriculum, Evening College, and Faculty Chairman, Faculty-Student Civil Rights Committee, College of San Mateo, advised on November 10, 1965 that on the previous day Thomas Stokes, representing the Deacons for Defense and Justice had appeared as a speaker on the campus. Gattman stated that Stokes' appearance was unsponsored, however, he had been introduced by the Chairman of the Faculty-Student Civil

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Rights Club and had been in the company of Clifford Boxley, a student at the College of San Mateo. Mr. Gattman stated that at the time Stokes requested permission to speak on the campus, a check had been made by the college with responsible personnel of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Through this organization, they had been advised that the Deacons for Defense and Justice were legitimate and responsible individuals, however, they personally did not agree with the goals or their proposed use of arms for self-defense. As a result, it was decided by college officials to permit Stokes to speak, however, permission to appeal for funds was denied.

Gattman stated that he was present during the entire speech by Stokes and that after listening to him talk, he was convinced that Stokes was sincere and felt that he made a good impression. He advised that Stokes' statements appeared to be responsible with the exception of one statement in which he indicated that the Ku Klux Klan had infiltrated "every phase of American government."

Gattman stated that Stokes respected the college's request that he not appeal for funds, however, during the question and answer period did state that the men in the organization carried guns but would not use them first, however, would defend their lives if necessary. Stokes was asked where he obtained firearms and he replied that this information was secret and that he could not tell.

Gattman further stated that there was no direct statement that donations would be used for the purchase of firearms, however, based on the questions asked Stokes it would be possible for someone to believe this was implied.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

On November 10, 1965 it was determined that Telephone Number [REDACTED] is listed to C. M. Boxley, [REDACTED], California.

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James Jackson, [REDACTED], Mississippi, advised on December 6, 1965 that he is employed at the Economy Barber Shop, 319 North Pine Street, Natchez, Mississippi and he has been active in civil rights demonstrations and marches held in Natchez during August through October, 1965.

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Jackson stated that he has a relative, exact relationship unknown, by the name of Clifford Boxley, who resides in Redwood, California. Jackson stated he did not know the exact address, but when he was asked if this was C. M. Boxley who resides at [REDACTED], California, he stated this was the same individual and is the correct address of Clifford Boxley. Jackson stated Boxley has been living in California for the past six years and is employed by the "Youth Council" on which he could furnish no further details.

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b7C

Jackson stated Boxley has recently been to Natchez to visit as Boxley was originally from Natchez. During this visit, Boxley and Jackson thought of the idea of preparing a letter for dissemination, and upon viewing a copy of a letter captioned, "DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE" dated October 23, 1965, and signed "NATCHEZ CHAPTER OF DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, JAMES JACKSON, PRESIDENT," Jackson stated that he and Boxley had composed this letter and that to his knowledge, there was only one copy of this letter made which was carried to California by Boxley when Boxley returned to California. Jackson stated that when Boxley returned to California that a friend of his (JACKSON's), by the name of RICHARD LEWIS, accompanied Boxley to California and that Jackson paid the expenses of Lewis and Boxley.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

After arrival in California, Boxley gave a 1957 Oldsmobile to Lewis to return to Jackson. Jackson stated that then he paid the expenses of Lewis to return the automobile to Natchez and that he presently has this 1957 Oldsmobile in his possession.

Jackson stated that he does not know if Boxley had copies of the letter prepared by them made in California and then disseminated these in California. Jackson pointed out that to date he has received no money for the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

Jackson stated that he did not know anyone by the name of Thomas Stokes and he had no information regarding Stokes making a speech at the College of San Mateo, San Mateo, California. Jackson stated that the identity of Stokes was possibly known to Clifford Boxley.

Jackson stated that actually there was no organization of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in the Natchez area, but that he carried himself as the president of that organization, which does not actually exist.

Chief of Police E. E. Johnson, Columbia, Mississippi Police Department, advised on October 29, 1965 that he has made inquiries concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice and he has received no pertinent information concerning the organization.

Sheriff J. C. Knippers, Walthall County, Mississippi, advised that he has contacted numerous sources in his county and around Tylertown, Mississippi and he has obtained no information that chapters of the Deacons of Defense and Justice are being organized.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Andrew Smith, Sheriff, Holmes County, Lexington, Mississippi, advised on November 18, 1965 that he has received no information that there are any Deacons of Defense and Justice chapters in Holmes County.

Reverend Robert Beech, National Council of Churches, 522 Mobile Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, advised on December 13, 1965 there were no chapters of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Forrest County, Mississippi to his knowledge.

[A source who has furnished reliable information in the past and who is familiar with some phases of the Deacons of Defense and Justice advised on November 29, 1965] that to his knowledge, there are no chapters formed within the State of Mississippi. [The source was re-contacted on January 7, 1966 and he advised] he has obtained no pertinent information regarding the Deacons of Defense and Justice. ~~(S)~~ (U)

[A second source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 4, 1965] that there is no Deacons of Defense and Justice organization in the State of Mississippi.

[A third source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 10, 1966] that there is no organization or chapters in existence in the State of Mississippi. This source advised he is in daily contact with Negro civil rights workers.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

SAC, New Orleans (157-3290)

1/21/66

Director, FBI (157-2466)

1 - Mr. Murphy

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS

Rerep of SA Laurice A. Kelliher dated 1/10/66 at New Orleans. Your attention is directed to Part 1, Page 102, FBI Handbook which requires the submission of seven copies of investigative reports regarding racial matters.

It is noted, however, that reports regarding captioned organization are disseminated to seven government agencies at the Seat of Government.

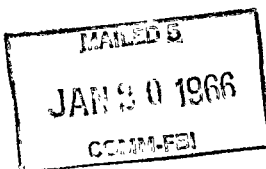
In view of the foregoing, in the future you are instructed to submit to the Bureau nine copies of investigative reports of letterhead memoranda regarding this organization.

BPM:sss  
(4)

NOTE:

Deacons of Defense and Justice communications are disseminated at the Seat of Government to the three military intelligence agencies, Civil Rights and Internal Security Divisions of the Department, and the Community Relations Service at the request of that agency.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



EX-101  
REC 58

JAN 21 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gpl/fv

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JAN 26 1966 *coh.*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: *ST*

DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 1/31/66

FROM: *WJH*

SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P\*)

SUBJECT:

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RM

OO: New Orleans

*703*  
Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated January 7, 1966; Bureau 0-7 dated January 17, 1966.

Enclosed for the Bureau is an original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning information received from Agent RAY DOYLE, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, (ATTU) U. S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles. Three copies of the LHM are being designated for the Office of Origin, New Orleans, and one copy for Dallas, inasmuch as the Dallas Office of the ATTU covers Louisiana. One copy each is also being sent to OSI, Maywood, California, FIO, Los Angeles and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

This LHM is being classified ~~confidential~~ because this information could possibly identify the ATTU source.

- de*  
**ENCLOSURE**  
(3) - Bureau (Encls. 8)(RM)  
1 - Dallas (Encl. 1)(RM)  
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(Encls. 3)(RM)  
2 - Los Angeles

RNT:maw

(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gpl/jf

REC-81

157-2466-1107

3 FEB 3 1966

AGENCY: AGS, ONI, ONI-SEC. SER.

DATE: 2/15/66 *Com. Relations Service*

HOW MANY: RLS

BY: BPM: (9)

60 FEB 18 1966 *157-1184-924 9+D &*  
*227*

*Bates*  
**SUBV. CONTROL**

*IN FILE*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Los Angeles, California  
January 31, 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEACONS OF DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE

On December 20, 1965, a representative of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U. S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California, advised that no further information has been received concerning the shipment of machine guns from the Czechoslovakian Firearms Manufacturer to the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

He said that it may take several months to obtain the details of this transaction

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 sel/jh  
ON 7-22-80

CONFIDENTIAL

~~GROUP 1~~

~~Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification~~

157-2466-107

ENCLOSURE



WFO 157-538

Invitations to attend the rally will be sent to the leaders of ACT and Organization for Black Power (OBP) in Philadelphia, New York City, Detroit, and Chicago. These plans have not been made final. However, these leaders will be requested to be in Washington, D.C. on the morning of February 27, 1966, to permit a meeting of these leaders for the purpose of discussing future plans of the OBP. These plans have not been completed.

There is no idea how many persons from outside of Washington will attend the meeting and rally.

Contact will be maintained with  to ascertain further plans for the meeting and rally.

b7D

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

1/31/66

FROM: SAC, NEWARK - euc-

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RM  
Newark File 157-1922  
Bureau File 157-2466

JOHN BROWN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE  
IS - C  
Newark File 100-48717  
Bureau File 100-

Re Pittsburgh airtel to Bureau dated 11/15/65 (U)

  was recontacted re above organization and its trip to Harpers Ferry on 1/10/66 and advised he had no further information and had secured no further information regarding the identities of the leaders or members in New York. (U)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S)  
DATE 8/21/80  
*Class 4*

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
  - 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
  - 2 - Pittsburgh (157-429) (RM)
  - 1 - New York (157-1542) (Info) (RM)
  - 2 - Newark
- JRL:ks  
(10)

REC-10 157-2466-108

8 FEB 2 1966

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gch/fu 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-31-86

69 FEB 9 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

SUBV (Info)

100-444912-296477  
UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

F B I

Date: 1/31/66

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)  
(157- )FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)  
(157-840)SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RM  
(ORGANIZATION)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISEEARNEST THOMAS  
RMRemyairtel to Bureau, 12/10/65; and report of  
SA MAURICE A. KELLIHER 1/10/66, at New Orleans captioned,  
"DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED, aka - RM."

On the dates indicated, the following advised that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ), has been formed in Chicago. They also advised that there has been no indication that EARNEST THOMAS, who is associated with the DDJ is presently in Chicago, nor has there been any indication that he has been in Chicago within the past several months:

- 21-924 900
- 4 - Bureau (RM)  
(1 - 157- ) (EARNEST THOMAS)
  - 3 - New Orleans (157-3290) (DDJ) (RM)  
(1 - 157- ) (EARNEST THOMAS)
  - 2 - WFO (Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc.) (RM)
  - 3 - Chicago  
(1 - 157-413)

LGR:keh  
(12)CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/SLH/jh 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 1-31-86

60 FEB 10 1966

Approved: 3/1/66

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

M

Per

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 157-2466-109



CG 157-572  
157-840

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

LYNWOOD HARRIS, Human Relations Section, Chicago  
Police Department, 1/6 & 31/66;

[redacted], who has furnished reliable information  
in the past, 1/25/66;

b7D

(U) [redacted] (protect), who has furnished  
reliable information in the past, 1/27/66;

[redacted] (protect requested) [redacted]  
Chicago, Illinois, [redacted]  
[redacted]

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will furnish Chicago  
any information received concerning any indication that a  
chapter of the DDJ may be organized in Chicago.

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. By letter to the Bureau dated  
1/5/66, from Washington Field captioned, "Organization for  
Black Power - RM", Washington Field advised that on 12/15/65,

[redacted],  
[redacted] (protect identity), who has  
furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the  
DDJ had recently organized an office in Chicago.

b7D

Washington Field re-interview [redacted] concerning  
any information that he has which would indicate that a chapter  
of the DDJ has actually been formed in Chicago.

b7D

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will continue to be alert  
for any information concerning the opening of a Chicago  
chapter of the DDJ, and the Bureau and New Orleans will be  
kept fully informed of developments in this matter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

2/4/66

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

RM

Bufile 157-2466 ✓

WFO file 157-794 (P)

ERNEST THOMAS

RM

Bufile 157-

WFO file 157-801 (P)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gpl/j

Re Chicago airtel dated 1/31/66 in above caption.  
 On 2/4/66 [redacted]

b7D

(protect his identity)

who has furnished reliable information in the past, stated as follows:

ERNEST THOMAS of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DODJ) has been in Chicago, Illinois, for some time and reportedly has organized a Chapter of the DODJ in the "Negro Ghetto" area of Chicago. THOMAS has indicated that he can come to Washington, D.C. for the "fund raising" rally to be held at the WUST Radio Station, on 2/26/66, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Originally the

- 1-924 9th ✓
- ⑤ - Bureau (1-157-3022) (OBP)
  - 3 - Chicago (RM) (1-157-572) (DODJ) (157-678) (OBP) (1- [redacted]) (THOMAS) (157- [redacted]) (ACT)
  - 4 - New Orleans (RM) (1-157-3290) (DODJ) (1-157- [redacted]) (ERNEST THOMAS)
  - 4 - New York (RM) (1- [redacted]) (JESSE GRAY) (1-157-1469) (OBP)

- 2 - Philadelphia (Info) (RM) (1-157-1508) (OBP)
- 7 - WFO (1- [redacted]) (1-157-237) (LIAISON SOURCES) (1-157-461) (RM) (1-157-425) (ACT) (1-157-503) (OBP)

b6

b7C

b7D

EX 109 REC-6

NRK:neh

(20)

FEB 10 1966

AIRTEL

G. C. Wick

57 FEB 21 1966

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

event had been planned for 2/27/66, at the same place. The plans are not complete as to the program and who will be on the program. Congressman ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, and DICK GREGORY will be on the program. Others who plan to attend are JESSE GRAY, Head of the Organization For Black Power (OBP) and LAWRENCE LANDRY. The number of persons who will be invited to attend a meeting on 2/26/66 at WFT of Negro leaders in the OBP has not been finalized. This meeting is to discuss possible future plans of OBP. The meeting will be held from about 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on 2/26/66, to be attended by invitation only. It will not include any members of RAM.

The "fund raising" rally for the benefit of DODJ will be publicized in Washington, D.C. newspapers and will raise funds by "free will offering" or sale of admission tickets depending on the type of permit available from the District of Columbia permit authorities. There is no DODJ organization in Washington, D.C. at present and [ ] wants to prevent the DODJ from organizing in D.C. by having the ACT group in D.C. sponsor the "fund raising" rally on 2/26/66.

b7D

Copy of this being sent Philadelphia as OBP leaders there may be invited to attend the 2/26/66 meeting in D.C.

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Contact will be maintained with [ ] to ascertain final plans which [ ] has promised to furnish when completed.

b7D

WFO will submit information from [ ] in a LEM when final plans for the rally on 2/26/66 become known.

b7D

Tolson ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 Wick ☒  
 Casper ☒  
 Callahan ☒  
 Conrad ☒  
 Felt ☒  
 Gale ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Sullivan ☒  
 Tavel ☒  
 Trotter ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Holmes ☒  
 Gandy ☒

# DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☒ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

R-1

URGENT 2-8-66 7:01PM

TO DIRECTOR

FROM NEW ORLEANS 082322

SPEECH MATTERS.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 6

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gsh/fm

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 4, 1966 RECEIVED NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE FEBRUARY 8, 1966 FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JOSEPH P. HENRY, JR., DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA REQUESTING SAC OR SOMEONE FROM "YOUR LEGAL STAFF REPRESENT YOU" AT A PUBLIC DEBATE ON LAW AND CITIZENSHIP ON FEBRUARY 10, 1966, NEW ORLEANS. LETTER STATED SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, THE MAYOR, CORE, NAACP AND MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE PRESENT.

THIS LETTER BEING ORALLY ACKNOWLEDGED, ADVISING MR. HENRY THAT DUE TO HEAVY WORK COMMITMENTS I WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND OR SEND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FBI AND HE WILL BE OFFERED COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET "THE FBI, GUARDIAN OF CIVIL RIGHTS". UACB.

RECEIVED: 7:24PM DLH

REC- 57

157-2466-111

FEB 14 1966

MR. TOLSON FOR THE DIRECTOR

NOTED  
126

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Wick  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gda/lk  
2/17/88

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

RM

(Bufile 157-2466)

(WFO file 157-794) (MUC)

ERNEST THOMAS

RM

(Bufile 157- )

(WFO file 157-801) (P)

Re WFO airtel 2/4/66, in above caption.

On 2/16/66, [redacted] (protect identity), [redacted]

[redacted], who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised SA HILMER E. KEEBS that ERNEST THOMAS of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ) has an office at 4054 Crenak Road, Chicago, Illinois, office telephone 521-8413, and also has an office in Jonesboro, Louisiana. This information should be handled most discreetly to protect [redacted] identity.

- 192490D
- 3 - Bureau
  - 4 - Chicago (RM)
    - (1- 157-572) (DDJ)
    - (1- [redacted]) (ERNEST THOMAS)
  - 4 - New Orleans (Info) (RM)
    - (1- 157-3290) (DDJ)
    - (1- 157- ) (ERNEST THOMAS)
  - 2 - New York (Info) (RM)
  - 2 - Philadelphia (Info) (RM)
  - 4 - WFO
    - (1- [redacted])
    - (1- 157-237) (LIAISON SOURCES)

HMK:ela  
(19)

C. C. Wick

157-2466-112

1 FEB 23 1966

ST-104

b6  
b7C  
b7D

FEB 24 1966

54 MAR 1 1966

WFO 157-794

[ ] stated the "fund raising rally" scheduled for 2/26/66, in Washington, D. C., will not be held for the benefit of the DDJ. The affair will be for the benefit of the Washington, D. C. Chapter of ACT as plans have been changed. ERNEST THOMAS will however be one of the speakers for the 2/26/66 "fund raising rally" in Washington, D. C., at Radio Station WUST.

b7D

[ ] stated there are no DDJ members and no DDJ organization in Washington, D. C. No further investigation being conducted regarding the DDJ.

b7D

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will follow the "rally" of 2/26/66, in Washington, D. C., through liaison with [ ] and report concerning ERNEST THOMAS.

b7D

F B I

Date: 2-28-66

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL (Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)  
(157- )  
FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)  
(157-840)  
SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE  
AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RM  
(ORGANIZATION)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

EARNEST THOMAS  
RM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/SL/11 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 2-28-86

Remyairtels to Bureau dated 12/10/65, and 1/31/66,  
and Washington Field airtel to the Bureau dated 2/17/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a LHM,  
three copies for New Orleans, and two copies for Washington  
Field concerning captioned matter.

Referenced Washington Field airtel advised that  
information was received on 2/16/66, that EARNEST THOMAS of  
the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ) has  
an office at 4054 Cremak, Chicago, Illinois, office telephone  
521-6413. There is no Cremak Road in Chicago and this  
apparently should be Cermak Road.

A telephone call to Chicago telephone number    
was made by SA LELAND G. RICHIE on 2/24/66, and  
an operator advised that this number has been discontinued  
and all calls for this number are being taken by ROSE MARIE

- ④ - Bureau (Encl. 9) (RM) (1 - 157-EARNEST THOMAS)  
3 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Info.) (Encl. 3) (RM)  
(Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated)  
(1 - 157-EARNEST THOMAS)  
2 - Washington Field (Encl. 2) (RM) (Info.)  
(1 - 157-794) (DDJ) (Info.) (1 -  ) (EARNEST THOMAS)  
3 - Chicago (1 - 157-413)  
LGR:fm  
(12)

b6  
b7C

REC-133

157-2466-113

9 MAR 2 1966

Sent                      M Per                     

55 MAR 11 1966 Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL (U)

INT. SEC.

UNREC COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN 157-441

AGENCY: ACSL ONI, CS/SEC, S/SEC  
DATE FORW: 3/3/66  
HOW FORW:                       
BY:                       
CC ATX LHM 924940

ENCLOSURE  
Approved:                       
Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

LOVE, [REDACTED], Chicago, telephone number [REDACTED].

b6  
b7C

Chicago files reveal that on 6/1/62, the [REDACTED] (protect - requested) advised that the Chevrolet automobile with 1962 Illinois License Number [REDACTED], issued to ROSE MARIE LOVE, [REDACTED], Chicago, was parked in the vicinity where the annual convention of the Nation of Islam was being held on 2/25/62, at Chicago.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

On 2/24/66, ROBERT RUSSELL, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chicago, advised SAs JOHN P. O'BRIEN and RICHIE that he is the janitor at 4054 West Cermak Road, Chicago. He stated there is no office of the DDJ at 4054 West Cermak Road and EARNEST THOMAS has never resided at this address and he is not personally acquainted with THOMAS. CLAUDELL KIRK, male, Negro, age [REDACTED], weight 180 pounds, employed by the General Motor Corporation, Electro-Motive Division, McCook, Illinois, resided at [REDACTED] for approximately three months and he was evicted six weeks ago because of nonpayment of rent. His current address is not known but he has a brother, first name unknown, who is employed by the Post Office at 2300 South Pulaski, Chicago. RUSSELL stated that on several occasions he had noticed that KIRK had received mail from EARNEST THOMAS and literature concerning the DDJ.

b6  
b7C

Chicago files reveal the following is the identification record of CLAUDELL KIRK, male, Negro, born [REDACTED] at Birmingham, Alabama, FBI Number [REDACTED], received from the Identification Division of the FBI, Washington, D.C., under the date of 8/25/58:

b6  
b7C

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
PD Chicago Ill	<del>CLAUDELL KIRK</del> [REDACTED]	11/11/48	robbery	12/27/48 Ind Dec Term 1948GJ

b6  
b7C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



CG 157-572

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
Cook Co Jail Chicago Ill	CLAUDE KIRK [redacted]	8/18/52	193-1 C.C. Weapon	8/28/52 bail given MC
PD Chgo Ill	CLAUDELL KIRK [redacted]	10/31/52	aslt to kill (robb)	GJ \$30000
Co Jail Chicago Ill	CLAUDELL KIRK [redacted]	11/3/52	robb aslt to kill	2/4/53 sent to pent'y b6 b7C
SP Joliet Ill	CLAUDELL KIRK [redacted]	2/4/53	Rob Armed	2-7 yrs
SPen Pontiac Ill	CLAUDELL KIRK [redacted]	3/9/53 trans fr Joliet	robb armed	2-7 yrs
USM Oxford Miss	CLAUDELL KIRK [redacted]	8/15-58	viol Dyer Act	

CG T-1 is [redacted]

(protect-requested).

~~(U)~~ b7D

Current Informant Contacts

Source	Date Contacted
[redacted]	2/24/66
[redacted]	2/24/66
Potential Confidential Racial Source	
Former [redacted]	2/24/66

b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

CG 157-572

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

One copy of this LHM is being designated for Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service, and USA, all Chicago, Illinois.

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information concerning the opening of the Chicago chapter of the DDJ and the Bureau and New Orleans will be kept fully informed of all developments in this matter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chicago, Illinois  
February 24, 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

EARNEST THOMAS  
RACIAL MATTERS

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S)  
DATE 5-12-75 BY 100554

Reference is made to Chicago memorandum dated  
December 10, 1965, at Chicago, Illinois.

[Chicago T-1 advised on February 24, 1966,] that ~~(S)~~ (U)  
Earnest Thomas, Vice-President and Regional Organizer of  
the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ), was  
the speaker at the meeting of the Friday Night Socialist  
Forum (FNSF) held on February 18, 1966, at Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas stated that the DDJ was formed at Jonesboro,  
Louisiana, in July, 1964, for the purpose of protecting Congress  
of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Non-Violent Coordinating  
Committee (SNCC) workers in Louisiana who were being beaten  
and sometimes murdered by the "red necked sheriffs". Thomas  
said that in one week the DDJ had 500 armed Negroes.

Thomas referred to the civil rights demonstrations  
as a "game" and said that he cannot understand people who  
demonstrate for their rights and said they should take what  
is rightfully theirs. Thomas did not mention  
how people should take what is rightfully theirs.

Thomas said that the anti-poverty legislation was  
enacted just to placate and "sugar coat" the Negro. The only  
people who will benefit from this legislation are the "fat  
politicians; they get the cream while the masses get the non-fat  
milk". He ridiculed education as being the solution of the

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpd / ft 7-22-80  
REASON FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 2-28-86

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

ENCLOSURE

157-2466-113

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
EARNEST THOMAS

---

Negro problem because he knows that many Negroes with college degrees are nothing but janitors.

Thomas claimed that 50% of the soldiers in Vietnam are Negroes and stated "I guess the power structure feels if they can kill off seven or eight million of us that will solve the problem." The power structure ought to arm the Negroes in the South and solve the problems there before taking on international problems.

Thomas stated that he foresees a black revolution in Chicago this summer and that the Federal Government better do something to solve the problems of the Negroes or it will not be safe for white people to go through Negro neighborhoods. He mentioned the Watts Riot in Los Angeles and said the Jews were exploiting the Negroes and the Negroes probably burned stores and records so that the Jews would not know what Negroes owed money to them.

Thomas said that Chicago is going to be the regional headquarters for the northern area of the DDJ and stated they have 62 chapters of the DDJ strategically located so that whenever necessary they can apply pressure if necessary. He said they have a broad base of operations and if he is ever killed there will be someone to take over the leadership. He said that if he was killed there will be a retaliatory act, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and for every one of them that are killed, three of the best whites will die. He added that they are not going to bow to the power structure or anyone else.

A characterization on the FNSF is contained in the appendix pages of this memorandum.

On February 24, 1966, Lynwood Harris, Human Relations Section, Chicago, Illinois, Police Department, advised that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago or that the DDJ has obtained any office space in Chicago. He also stated that

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
EARNEST THOMAS

---

Earnest Thomas reportedly is in and out of Chicago frequently and is not known to have any permanent residence in Chicago.

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois, area advised during February, 1966, that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago or that the DDJ has obtained any office space in Chicago.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM,  
Aka. Militant Labor Forum

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that the Forum is a paper organization set up by the Chicago Branch, Socialist Workers Party (CBSWP), Chicago, Illinois, for Socialist Workers Party (SWP) members and sympathizers. Open meetings held under the auspices of this Forum are geared to the activities that the SWP is pursuing at a particular time, e.g., unemployment, election campaign, Cuba, segregation, etc.

SUZANNE BUCH, a CBSWP member, is in charge of the Forum and schedules meetings under the name of the Forum in order to conceal the SWP sponsorship of same. The meetings of the Forum generally are held at Chicago SWP headquarters although the Forum, in the past, has sponsored other affairs, such as meetings, socials and picnics held at other locations.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

1

APPENDIX

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY,  
CHICAGO BRANCH

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that it was his understanding that the currently active Chicago Branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was one of the founding branches of the SWP at a 1938 Chicago Trotskyist Convention, and it follows the aims and principles of the SWP which maintains national headquarters in New York City.

Members of the Chicago Branch serve on the SWP National Committee, and per capita membership dues and a sustaining fund quota are sent by this branch on a monthly basis to SWP National Headquarters.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

This document contains neither recommendations nor 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.

APPENDIX

5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Chicago, Illinois  
February 28, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Chicago file 157-572

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED  
EARNEST THOMAS

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Chicago letterhead 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.

[Chicago T-1] is an agency which collects intelligence information in the Chicago, Illinois, area. ~~(U)~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



SAC, Washington Field (157-794)

3/9/66

Director, FBI (157- 2466)

1 - Mr. Murphy

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERS

Enclosed is a copy of an article appearing on Page B-5 of the February 27, 1966, edition of "The Evening Star," published in Washington, D. C., which notes the plan of captioned organization to form an armed chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Washington, D. C.

Enclosed article notes that Julius Hobson will act as coordinator of the chapter which is to be formed this summer. Hobson is the leader of the Washington branch of Associated Community Teams (ACT).

You should contact [ ] and obtain from him all particulars regarding the formation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice chapter in Washington, D. C., and include same in letterhead memorandum form, furnishing nine copies to the Bureau.

b7D

Enclosure

1 - New Orleans (157-3230)

NOTE:

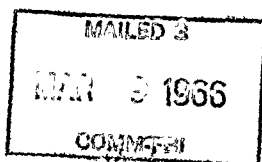
The Deacons of Defense and Justice is an armed Negro organization organized in Louisiana for protection against Klan violence. The Deacons have also been active in racial demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana. We have used [ ] as a source in racial matters.

b7D

Associated Community Teams is a militant civil rights organization.

BPM: deh  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 JPC/1481



EX 105

157-2466-114  
16 MAR 10 1966

55 MAR 17 1966

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SAC, New Orleans

3/14/66

Director, FBI (157-2466)  
(100-441758)  
(100-387728)

1 - Mr. Rushing

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS

SPARTICIST  
SECURITY MATTER - SWP

ROBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP4 JRM/KC

Jack N. Rogers of the Louisiana State Un-American Activities Committee and Louisiana State Senator Knowles called at the Bureau on 3/10/66 and expressed concern over what they termed a close liaison between Spartacist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated.

Rogers said that his sources had indicated that Spartacist is collaborating with and helping to finance the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. He noted also that Spartacist had made frequent favorable references to Robert F. Williams. Williams is a Negro racist who fled to Cuba in August, 1961, to avoid a kidnapping trial and is now a Bureau fugitive. He has since carried on a violently anti-United States propaganda campaign through a radio program called "Radio Free Dixie," which is broadcast into the southern part of the United States from Cuba, and through the publication of a newsletter entitled "The Crusader," which is introduced into the United States through a source in Toronto, Canada. Williams is a Security Index subject of the Charlotte Office.

Rogers speculated that Spartacist may be receiving funds from Cuba through Williams and he wanted to know if Williams' broadcasts revealed any favorable comments regarding Spartacist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, in Louisiana. He wondered if any public source material was available concerning the above.

TDR:fhd (8)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

19 MAR 17 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAILED 9  
MAR 15 1966  
COMM-FBI

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Letter to New Orleans

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

SPARTICIST

ROBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS

157-2466

100-441758

100-387720

Contact Rogers and advise him that based upon available information regarding the Williams' broadcasts no comments appear concerning either Spartacist or the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. At that time, advise Rogers that we would like any information he has available regarding Spartacist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, that would be of interest to this Bureau. Properly explore any information furnished.

NOTE:

Rogers and Senator Knowles called at the Bureau and furnished the above information to Inspector Joseph A. Sizoo and Section Chief F. J. Baumgardner.

F B I

Date: 3/16/66/

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-794) (P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RACIAL MATTERSALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1/gk/jkReBulet dated 3/9/66. Also reWFOlet and LHMs  
captioned "ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY TEAMS (ACT); RACIAL MATTERS",  
both dated 3/14/66, and 3/16/66.Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM  
also two copies to Chicago and four copies to New Orleans.Copies of LHM being disseminated to Secret Service,  
local military intelligence agencies and AUSA.LEAD [redacted] is the LHM source.

b7D

WASHINGTON FIELDAT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will maintain contact with  
[redacted] regarding "Deacons For Defense".

b7D

REC-32

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 9)
- 2 - Chicago (Enc. 2) (157-572) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 5 - WFO
  - (1- [redacted]) (EARNEST THOMAS)
  - (1-157-237) (LIAISON SOURCES)
  - (1-157-425) (ACT)
  - (1- [redacted])

b6  
b7C  
b7DHHK:lam  
(12)

AGENCY: ACT

DATE: 3/21/66

AIRTELApproved: [signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

CC - Wick

1CCATY LHM 902940



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Washington, D. C. 20535

March 16, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED (DDJ)

The source mentioned in this memorandum has furnished reliable information in the past.

"The Sunday Star", a weekly Washington, D. C., newspaper, issued February 27, 1966, page B-5, had an article captioned "Negroes Plan Armed Unit On Rights". The article stated the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" (DDJ), planned to form an armed chapter of the DDJ in Washington, D. C., with Julius Hobson, leader of a Washington organization called Associated Community Teams (ACT), as acting coordinator of the new chapter of DDJ. This had been announced at a meeting held in Radio Station WUST Music Hall, Washington, D. C., on February 26, 1966.

The March 13, 1966, issue of "The Washington Post", a weekly Washington, D. C., newspaper, on page B-6, had an article captioned "Brutality, Laid To Police By Pickets".

The above article reported that eight members of the Washington, D. C., group of ACT, picketed the Fifth Precinct, 500 E Street, S. E., of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), on March 12, 1966. Julius Hobson, Chairman of ACT led the pickets and according to the article, stated the eight pickets were ACT members and that two of them also belonged to "Deacons For Defense". The two "Deacons" were helping the forming of a Washington chapter to protest police brutality, according to Hobson's comments.

On March 15, 1966, a source advised that Julius Hobson, Chairman of the Washington, D. C., chapter of ACT is of the following opinion regarding the "Deacons For

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gsk/jfr

157-1111-116

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED (DDJ)

Defense" mentioned in the two newspaper articles:

Some of the comments made on February 26, 1966, at the rally sponsored by ACT at the WUST Radio Hall were deliberately made to create the impression that the "Deacons For Defense" would organize in Washington, D. C., with Hobson as acting coordinator. There is no "Deacons For Defense" organization in Washington, D. C., nor is such a group to be organized in D. C. An understanding to that fact exists between Ernest Thomas, a leader of the "Deacons For Defense", Chicago, Illinois, and Julius W. Hobson. Thomas would like to organize such a group in D. C., but will abide by Hobson's desires that the Deacons stay out of the D. C. area. Hobson does not want a group that advocates arming its members.

The source stated further as follows:

Julius Hobson was one of the eight ACT pickets who marched in front of the Fifth Precinct Station of the MPD, on March 12, 1966, protesting police brutality in Precinct Number Five. Hobson was very angry concerning the incorrect information attributed to Hobson in the "Washington Post" issue of March 13, 1966, page B-6. The article indicated Hobson had said two of the eight ACT members were members of the "Deacons For Defense" and were to form a Washington chapter of the "Deacons For Defense". Hobson denied ever making such a statement to a newsman or anyone else. Hobson stated ACT, to his knowledge, has no members who belong to "Deacons For Defense" of which Ernest Thomas is an organizer.

The source also recalled as follows:

Recently a Negro family in MPD Precinct Number Five, had a wedding reception. Members of the MPD forced their way into the reception and created a disturbance while making arrests. This resulted in accusations that the MPD used brutality. "High Up" officials of the MPD

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED (DDJ)

then refused to hold a hearing to determine whether the police were at fault. The general feeling among Negroes is that the MPD should have an open hearing regarding the foregoing incident in order to bring out the true facts. The Negroes in the MPD Precinct Number Five, feel the MPD officials have "white washed" the entire incident. ACT plans to demonstrate at Precinct Number Five on March 19, 1966, in furtherance of ACT's protest against the "police brutality" as displayed at the wedding reception. The protests will continue until the MPD agrees to discuss "Police Brutality".

ACT does not desire a large number of pickets at Precinct Number Five. A large group is difficult to control and could get out of hand. ACT desires that only ACT members, willing to abide by Hobson, will be welcome to future picket lines.

The source also stated as follows:

The references to ACT and Deacons For Defense on the signs carried by the ACT pickets on March 12, 1966, were made to create a feeling that the "Deacons" are coming to D. C. to organize. This hint of possible alliance was deliberate and psychological which had the approval of Ernest Thomas. It does not exist. Hobson believes these hints may bring about changes in the attitudes displayed by the privileged toward those less fortunate as it regards jobs, housing, freedom from police brutality.

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recommendations nor 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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) (100-441758) DATE: 3/23/66  
(100-387728)

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (100-17230) (88-3588)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTERS

SPARTICIST  
SECURITY MATTER - SWP

ROBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP4 JEM/SIC

Re Bureau letter 3/14/66.

Mr. JACK N. ROGERS, Committee Counsel, Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities, State of Louisiana, Commerce Building, Baton Rouge, La., was contacted on March 21, 1966, by SA ELMER B. LITCHFIELD and Mr. ROGERS was advised that based upon available information regarding the broadcasts of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, no comments appear concerning either Spartacist or the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated. Mr. ROGERS was also advised that the Bureau would like to have any information he has available regarding Spartacist and the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, that would be of interest to the Bureau.

Mr. ROGERS stated that if he received any information he felt was of interest to the Bureau he would be happy to make the information available to the Bureau. He stated that he was trying to obtain information regarding the Spartacists and had received some information from the House Committee (House Committee on Un-American Activities) on March 21, 1966. He did not state what the information was, but appeared to be a clipping from a newspaper and a copy of a publication apparently put out by the Spartacist.

Mr. ROGERS asked that the following be specifically called to the attention of Mr. FRED BAUMGARTNER and stated that Mr. BAUMGARTNER would under-

REC 5

MAR 24 1966

2 - Bureau (RM)  
2 - New Orleans

EBL/cmg  
(4)

303

SUBV. CONTROL

UNREC COPY FILED IN

APR 11 1966



NO 157-3290

EBL:cmg

stand; he, ROGERS, has "learned since in Washington, D. C., through a source, that the big money shipment came into country from Canada several months ago and ended up in Atlanta, Ga."

Any information furnished by Mr. ROGERS will be submitted to the Bureau under appropriate caption.

See memo  
F. J. Baumgardner, Jr. to  
W. C. Sullivan, 9/29/65  
captioned  
"Jack Brady  
Jack Minchin  
Bill Sanders  
Security Matter - 1"

F B I

Date: 3/24/66

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U))Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)TO: Director, FBI  
FROM: SAC, Detroit (157-NEW)

APPEARANCE OF ERNEST THOMAS,  
VICE PRESIDENT, DEACONS OF  
DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,  
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA,  
SPONSORED BY THE  
FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM,  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
4/1/66  
RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) [REDACTED] 5/21/80

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter. Two copies are being furnished the New Orleans Office, which is office of origin of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2, USA, OSI, ONI and two copies being furnished U.S. Secret Service, Detroit, Michigan.

Contents of the LHM have been made available to the Detroit PD and Mich. State Police.

b7D

Source referred to in the LHM is [REDACTED] (Racial Informant - Probationary) (U)

The Bureau will be advised of the results of THOMAS' appearance.

- 4 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)  
    (1 - 157-2466)  
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)  
    (1 - 157-3290)  
4 - Detroit  
    (1 - 157-706 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)  
    (1 - [REDACTED]) (U)  
    (1 - 157-1042) (U)

TPD/rms  
(10)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18N/fh 7-22-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 3-24-80

NOT RECORDED  
46 APR 6 1966

b7D

ENCLOSURE

53 APR 15 1966

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL FILED IN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Detroit, Michigan  
March 24, 1966

Re: Appearance of Ernest Thomas,  
Vice President, Deacons of  
Defense and Justice, Incorporated,  
Jonesboro, Louisiana, Sponsored  
By the Friday Night Socialist Forum,  
Detroit, Michigan  
April 1, 1966

A characterization of the Friday Night  
Socialist Forum is contained in the  
appendix attached hereto.

All unidentified sources utilized in the  
appendix have furnished reliable information  
in the past.

On March 23, 1966, a source, who has furnished  
reliable information in the past, advised that Ernest Thomas,  
Vice President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated,  
from Jonesboro, Louisiana, will speak at Detroit, Michigan, on  
April 1, 1966, at a forum sponsored by the Friday Night Socialist  
Forum which will be held at 3737 Woodward Avenue, Detroit,  
Michigan.

The source advised that some of the proceeds derived  
from this affair would be utilized to assist the Deacons of  
Defense and Justice, Incorporated, in connection with their  
activities in the Louisiana area.

The Articles of Incorporation of the  
Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ)  
as on file with the Secretary of State,  
for the State of Louisiana, reflects  
that the Deacons of Defense and Justice,  
Inc. is a Louisiana corporation  
domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The  
location and business office address of  
its registered office shall be Amos  
Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road,  
Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1824/JS

ENCLOSURE

CLOSURE

157-2466

Re: Appearance of Ernest Thomas, Etc.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

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APPENDIXFRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM

On May 19, 1965, a source advised that the Friday Night Socialist Forum (FNSF) is a name used by the Detroit, Michigan Branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in sponsoring forums, socials and other functions which are open to the public. Primarily, FNSF pertains to weekly public forums held at SWP headquarters, for the purpose of spreading propaganda of the SWP, developing contacts, facilitating recruitment and members into the SWP, and presenting subjects of a controversial nature in the social, political and economic fields. Usually speakers are members of the SWP and they give the socialist viewpoint of the subject discussed. The money collected at these FNSFs goes into the Detroit Branch, SWP treasury.

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

UN

Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2406)

DATE: 3/25/66

FROM:

SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT:

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RM~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

Re Chicago letter dated 12/3/65, captioned, MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., SM-C; Chicago airtel and LHM dated 2/28/66, captioned as above, and Bureau 0-1, dated 3/22/66, captioned as above. (U)

The sources referred to in referenced letter, with whom Chicago is in constant contact, have provided no information which would indicate that KING, through the SCLC or the Deacons, is attempting to create a racial disturbance here, in the context as alleged by original source of this information, Bureau source [redacted]. (U)

The current status of the Deacons is set forth in referenced Chicago LHM of February 26, 1966. Any information obtained by Chicago which appears to have a bearing on this allegation will be expeditiously provided the Bureau and interested offices. (U)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 gdl/jk  
ON 7-22-80  
5180 RCB/ELM  
3-25-86

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
  - (1 - 100-106670) (MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.)
- 1 - Atlanta (100-5586) (RM)
- 1 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
- 2 - Chicago
  - (1 - 100-35356) (MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.)

JCS:mav  
(7)

REC-79

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11-15 79 pte

COPY FILED IN 100-106670

b7D

F B I

Date: 4/20/66

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (9-2164)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE; GRAMBLING, LA.;  
AARON C. CARPENTER, CORINNE T.  
CARPENTER, COLLIE J. NICHOLSON -  
VICTIMS  
EXTORTION - RACIAL MATTERS  
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

Re New Orleans airtels 4/14 and 4/15/66.

Enclosed herewith are eight copies of a LHM.

One copy of instant LHM is being designated  
to the U. S. Attorney, Shreveport, La., ICG and  
Secret Service, New Orleans.

Final report will be submitted in this  
matter once the report has been received from the  
FBI Laboratory concerning the extortion letters to  
COLLIE J. NICHOLSON.

NOT RECORDED

199 MAY 3 1966

ENCLOSURE

3- Bureau (Enc. 8)  
2- New Orleans

CDN:mln  
(5)

1cc LHM to  
CSI-ONE G-2  
for Las. 376  
LORD-1-92

MCF-22

REC-81

16 APR 22 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1800

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

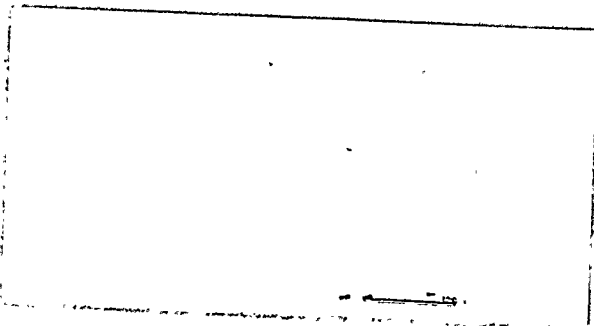
Per \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED, FILED IN 9-43008-1

New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 20, 1966

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
GRAMBLING, LOUISIANA;  
AARON C. CARPENTER, CORINE T.  
CARPENTER, COLLIE J. NICHOLSON -  
VICTIMS

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron C. Carpenter and Collie J. Nicholson of Grambling, Louisiana, were interviewed concerning letters they had received from the Deacons of Defense and Justice.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-22-80 BY SP1 gcl/jk

157-2466-  
ENCLOSURE



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/15/68

Mr. ARDEN C. CARPENTER was contacted concerning a letter he had received from the Deacons of Defense and Justice. He advised that he and his wife had received a letter from the Deacons of Defense and Justice on March 31, 1968. Originally, he had not been bothered by the letter even though his wife became quite upset over the letter. Then, someone went through the storage room on the carport and broke the antenna off of one of their cars. Nothing was taken from the storage room, but it was possible to tell that someone had been there because everything had been disturbed. Mr. CARPENTER advised at that time his wife had become very angry and wrote a letter to the Post Master General of the United States and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She had previously written a letter of reply to the Deacons of Defense and Justice and had also written a letter to the Mayor of Grumblyng protesting the fact that the Deacons of Defense and Justice had been permitted to use town hall for one of their meetings.

Mr. CARPENTER advised that he did not understand the letter that they had received from the Deacons of Defense and Justice. His wife felt that it had something to do with the time off they took to go to a meeting of the Association of College Unions - Internationals in New Orleans recently. He personally felt that it may have something to do with his employment practices at the student union of Grumblyng College, of which he is Director. It may have been that he refused to give someone time off when they wanted it, although Mr. CARPENTER advised that he cannot remember the last time this situation occurred.

Mr. CARPENTER provided the following list of persons employed at the student union:

**ALBERT COLLINGSWORTH,**

On 4/5/68 at Grumblyng, Louisiana File # EO 9-2164

by SA CHARLES D. HEURDTER/mlk Date dictated 4/15/68

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EDNA MAE FERGUSON,

ANITA AUZERRE,

EDDIE HENDERSON,

TERREY GREEN,

BERNARD LOCKETT,

BETTY GILES,

WILLIAM CULVERTSON,

JAMES PAYNE,

JAMES POTTIE,

JESSIE THOMPSON,

CLAUDE WOODARD,

MAVIS KIDD,

LIZZIE WHITE,

ARTIS BISSIC,

HINNIE ROBINSON,

BERDELL THROW,

FAYE KELL WALKER,

Mrs. SHELTON,

Mrs. WESLEY

Mr. CARPENTER advised that he had met Mr. F. D. KIRKPATRICK at the barber shop that very morning. Mr. KIRKPATRICK advised him that no one in his organization was responsible for sending the letter to Mr. and Mrs. CARPENTER. Mr. CARPENTER advised that

NO (9-2164)/min

13

he knew that Mr. HINCHETTE was the secretary of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Mr. CARPENTER stated that he had heard that the following people were members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Grambling, Louisiana, but he had no proof:

Mr. LEON LEON, President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Biology Teacher, Grambling College;

MAJOR A. SMITH, Vice-President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, President of the student body, Grambling College;

Mr. JOHN J. COOK, social science instructor at Grambling College;

Mr. FRANKLIN WILSON, social science instructor at Grambling College;

Doctor STEWART.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	AARON C. CARPENTER
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	
Place of Birth:	Pattison, Mississippi
Height:	6' 0"
Weight:	160 pounds
Build:	Slender
Hair:	Black and graying

b6  
b7c

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 19, 1966

Mrs. CORINNE T. CARPENTER was interviewed concerning a letter she had received from the Deacons of Defense and Justice through the mail on March 31, 1966. She advised that on March 19, 1966, she and her husband had traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, to attend a meeting of the Association of College Unions-Internationals. They returned to Grambling, Louisiana, on March 24, 1966. On March 31, 1966, they received the letter from the Deacons of Defense and Justice which was postmarked March 30, 1966.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that immediately upon the receipt of the letter, she made copies of the letter, composed a letter of her own in answer to the one she had received and mailed it back to the Deacons of Defense and Justice. She advised that she put the original of the letter she received and her answering letter in an envelope and addressed it to the Deacons of Defense and Justice. She then put this envelope into another envelope with a note to please forward to the proper people and addressed the outer envelope to Dr. F. D. KIRKPATRICK. Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she understood that Dr. KIRKPATRICK was the Secretary of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Dr. KIRKPATRICK lives in Grambling, Louisiana.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she had heard that the Deacons of Defense and Justice had held an organizational meeting in the town hall of Grambling and on April 1, 1966, she had sent a letter to the Mayor of Grambling to protest this activity being conducted in the town hall.

On April 2, 1966, the antenna on one of their cars was broken off while the car was in the driveway. Also, someone had been in their storeroom on the airport and disturbed things and left the light burning. At this time Mrs. CARPENTER felt that the letter and the breaking into her carport

On 4/8/66 at Grambling, Louisiana File # NO 9-2104

by SA CHARLES D. LINDSCORPE /ghh Date dictated 4/15/66

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NO 9-2164

storeroom may have been pointed and decided to write a letter to the Post Master General of the United States with a copy to the Director, FBI, about the letter.

On April 7, 1966, a letter was returned from the Mayor of Grambling and also Mr. KIRKPATRICK called that evening. He advised Mrs. CARPENTER that he was a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice and he was sure that none in his organization was responsible for sending Mrs. CARPENTER that letter.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that actually the letter from the Deacons of Defense and Justice did not make any sense to her. She advised that she felt that it was referring to the trip that she and her husband made to New Orleans and how they got the time off from school. She further advised that the parts about going into clubs and working together did not make sense at all.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that the letter from the Deacons of Defense and Justice, her reply to them, her letter to the Mayor of Grambling, her letter to the Post Master General, and the letter from the Mayor of Grambling were as follows:

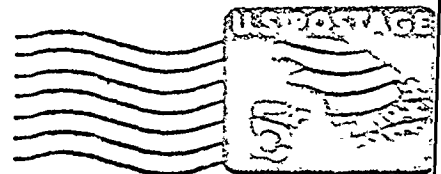
Dear Uncle Tom,

Uncle Tom I am bowing. You went to a meeting and it took you a week to go but you do not want the workers to leave the campus at any time.

You were seen going in and out of the clubs while at the meeting in New Orleans.

If we are to work together there must be an understanding.

Deacons of Defense and Justice



Mr. A.C. Carpenter  
Grambling  
Louisiana

[redacted]

[redacted] Louisiana [redacted]

April 1, 1966

b6  
b7c

Mr. Lawrence F. O'Brien  
Postmaster General  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICES  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

RE: Attached is a photocopy of a letter and an envelope received by me from the DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE operating in the Grambling, Louisiana, community.

Yesterday, March 31, 1966, I received a letter from -- surmised from the typed signature (?) - the DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE operating in the town of Grambling, Louisiana. The letter was disgusting to me for many reasons and from as many viewpoints, but I am contacting you because there are (I believe) ordinances against using the United States mail for poison-pen letters and other correspondence of this nature and other just as repulsive communiques.

My answer to this letter is also attached. I did not address it to any one person, but it was sealed in an envelope and addressed to the DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, (with the request that it be delivered since the DEACONS did not see fit to put their address on their letter to me) AND placed in another envelope addressed to the reputed organizer of this questionable group and mailed.

This group (THE DEACONS) has organized recently in Grambling. I don't know their mission; intimidation might be its objective - judging by the letter I received. It (THE DEACONS) has deposited money in the Grambling Federal Credit Union here in the town and has met at TOWN HALL (this I am still attempting to verify through the mayor and town's aldermen). I do have several names of suspected participants and the "ring leader."

It has been reported that this group is placing similar (to the one I was mailed) letters under the doors of faculty and staff members who live in college housing. Further, from some of the students come reports that

Mr. Lawrence F. O'Brien

2

April 1, 1966

that this DEACON NIMF LEADER is organizing the students for the GREAT SOCIETY - whatever that is. I can imagine the proper administrative authorities will handle this area. I am concerned about the citizens of Crumbling (who do not subscribe to these cowardly attacks on them and on others) having the necessary legal steps taken to stop these strange, twisted minds housed in the shapes of human beings from attempting to feed their appetites of hate on persons who (through fear) can be intimidated. I don't feel that I can be intimidated, but I am apprehensive that attacks such as the letter received by me on March 31, may tempt me to avenge a wrong which I feel or will feel has been committed against me.

Is there anything that can be done legally through your office to stop these people? If not, can you refer me to the proper department?

By carbon copy of this letter, I am apprising the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION of this incident. Enclosures of all materials to you are also being sent to Mr. Hoover via carbon copy.

My position at Crumbling College is Director of Favrot Student Union. The meeting to which the DEACON'S letter refers is the recent national conference of the ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE UNIONS - INTERNATIONALS in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 20-23. A brochure of our town and a card folder of scenes of our union are also enclosed.

I shall appreciate any help or advice you can give me.

Very truly yours,

Aaron C. Carpenter

/c

Enc: Letters and Brochures

cc: Director J. Edgar Hoover  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Washington, D. C.



[redacted]  
[redacted] Louisiana [redacted]  
April 1, 1966

Mayor D. T. Woodard  
TOWN OF GRAMBLING  
Grambling, Louisiana 71245

Dear Mayor Woodard:

RE: Meetings in TOWN HALL

Am I correct in believing that only persons, organized groups, or chartered organizations which have an objective of civic improvement for our town of Grambling are given permission to meet in TOWN HALL? I make this inquiry because it has been brought to my attention that an organization recently formed in our community known as THE DRAGONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE has been allowed to use the town edifice for a meeting place.

It is possible that I don't understand this organization's definition of "civic improvement"; but if some of its activities (woeful exhibitions of progress, one of which my family has been a victim) bespeak its definition, I - as a qualified elector - protest the use of TOWN HALL by this group (THE DRAGONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE).

I shall certainly appreciate your early reaction to my inquiry and protest.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs) Corinne T. Carpenter

cc: Dr. Alvin J. McNeil, Grambling, Louisiana ✓  
Mr. Milton Kelly, Grambling, Louisiana  
Mr. L. B. Land, Grambling, Louisiana  
Mr. A. D. Smith, Grambling, Louisiana  
Dr. Ruth Bradford, Grambling, Louisiana

March 31, 1966

DEAR DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE: (?)

Your note was received. To say that the message and delivery of it followed so closely the reputed operations of the KLU KLUX KLAN as to make me wonder which of the two organizations wrote the master piece, is to put it in the frame work of dignity and intelligence; and I find that the cowardly method of accusation and delivery of your poison-pen missive can claim neither dignity nor intelligence.

When I attend official meetings, my stay is officially approved - as for attendance, as well as the time to be away; when I attend clubs, it is with my money and after the fulfillment of any and all of my official obligations. I TELL YOU THIS SIMPLY AS FACT - NOT AS JUSTIFICATION OF MY ACTIONS, BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL YOU QUALIFY IN UNDERSTANDING NOR IN SUPPORTING THE NEGRO CAUSE TO HAVE ANYONE JUSTIFY ANYTHING TO YOU!

-As far as "working together" with you, I HAVE WONDERED - EVER SINCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR OPERATION IN THE GRAMBLING COMMUNITY WAS KNOWN - JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING/////////??????? Your letter failed in this point of clarification.

BEFORE YOU SEND ME ANOTHER LETTER (as you surely must do in order to have followed your quaint train of thought and to continue your despicable pattern of operation), please - for your own edification - objectively check my record as to my activities, beliefs, and support of my race's efforts (currently and in the past - before coming to Grambling, Louisiana) for first-class citizenship.

ON ANY ENCOUNTER WITH YOU, DEAR DEACONS, I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO REACT TOWARD YOU AS I WOULD THE AWFUL KLU KLUX KLAN - BECAUSE BOTH OF YOU ARE TRYING TO DEPRIVE THE NEGRO RACE OF ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THESE UNITED STATES - AND ONE NEGRO IN PERSON: ME!

Submitted for your edification,

ONE OF YOUR POISON-PEN RECEIVERS

Enc: Your letter to me (I've made a photocopy for my files and for future use.)

# Town of Grambling

— HOME OF GRAMBLING COLLEGE —

Grambling, Louisiana 71245

April 7, 1966

Mrs. Corinne Carpenter.  
Grambling, Louisiana 71245

Dear Mrs. Carpenter:

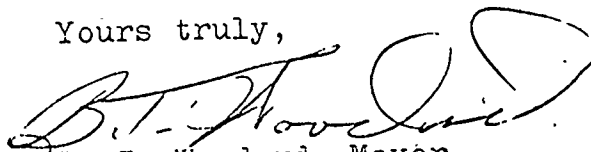
In reply to your recent letter with reference to use of the Town Hall, you are eminently correct about the uses and practices of a town on same. It is, as you stated generally used for civic groups of the town who have common interest for the betterment of the town. These groups are girl scouts, boy scouts, voter's league, general community meetings and etc.

I hope no citizen will hold the Town Council responsible for the meeting held recently by a group in the town hall. I realize it was an error on my part for not having questioning the representative as to the nature of its meeting. I will in the future assure you that all meetings will be cleared as to its nature or purpose before granting privilege for such meetings to be carried on.

I was told that a group of citizens wanted to meet to discuss community relations. I later learned that this meeting was held by the Deacon of Defense. I was not present at the meeting, but I do not approve of any meeting of a subversive nature to be held in the town hall.

I wish to thank you for calling my attention to the same, and I assure you this will not happen again.

Yours truly,



B. T. Woodard, Mayor  
TOWN OF GRAMBLING

BTW/csg

NO 9-2164/dbh

The following description was obtained  
through observation and interview:

Name	CORINNE T. CARPENTER
Race	Negro
Sex	Female
Date of Birth	October 8, 1916
Place of Birth	Vicksburg, Mississippi
Height	5'5"
Weight	130 pounds
Complexion	light
Build	medium
Hair	black and graying
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED], Louisiana
Occupation	Assistant Professor, Grambling College, School of Business

b6  
b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 20, 1966

COLLIE J. NICHOLSON was contacted concerning a letter he had received from the Deacons of Defense and Justice. He advised that he has found the letter laying on the back seat of his car on Wednesday morning April 6, 1966. He had no idea why the letter had been placed there or who could have done it. He stated that he assumed that either someone had used that Deacons of Defense and Justice as a disguise in sending the letter, or it was one member of the Deacons that sent the letter and not the organization as a whole.

Mr. NICHOLSON advised that he was not a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice and had never been approached to become a member because he was sure that the members knew that he would not belong to the organization. He felt the members also knew that he was not an "Uncle Tom" because he did participate in the march from Selma to Montgomery and other Civil Rights activities in the area. As far as his "Uncle Tom" writings were concerned, he wrote only sports for the newspaper.

Mr. NICHOLSON advised that as far as he knew he did not have any enemies either inside or outside of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. He comes in contact with almost everyone at the school through his work on the paper but he does not teach any classes or come in close contact with any students. He advised that he was at a loss to explain why he had received the letter and he assumed it to be a joke and not sent by some one in the Deacons of Defense and Justice. He advised that he had really forgotten about the whole situation and was not worried about it at all.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	COLLIE J. NICHOLSON
Race	Negro

On 4/12/66 at Crambling, Louisiana File # NO 9-2164

by SA CHARLES D. NEUDORFER/jnc Date dictated 4/18/66

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NO 9-2164  
CDN/jus

Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	Winnfield, Louisiana
Address	[REDACTED], [REDACTED], Louisiana
Height	5'11"
Weight	170 pounds
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Dark
Characteristics	Mustache
Marital Status	Divorced
Occupation	Reporting and Publications, Grambling College

b6  
b7C

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