

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT  
(AIM)  
IN

PORTLAND, OREGON

Compiled by Officers

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Publications by and about the American Indian Movement repeatedly refer to AIM's struggle as "war". A war fought to gain sovereignty and independence for Indian People; a war fought against the U.S. Government, its agencies and agents. Most of the "battles" are fought with law enforcement personnel who constitute the most visible and easily accessible extension of the government. It is, in our view, important for law enforcement personnel to be informed about anyone advocating the use of violence.

We submit the following information for the use of other law enforcement agencies only.

## AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT

The American Indian Movement was founded in Minneapolis, Minnesota in July, 1968 by Dennis Banks and Clyde Bellecourt. AIM's organization was confined to the Minneapolis area until late 1969 when chapters were established in Ohio, Wisconsin and South Dakota. At the time of this writing, AIM has chapters throughout the United States - those of major importance are located in South Dakota, Washington and Minnesota. AIM of Canada restricts it's membership to Indians, whereas it's U.S. organization allows for multi-cultural membership.

At it's inception, AIM was intended to be a civil rights organization with the purpose of providing work, education and health services to American Indians. The organization has since enlarged it's objectives to include demands for sovereignty and independence, redistribution of land, and the abolition of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to it's leadership, AIM is not a mere political organization, but constitutes a definite spiritual movement as well - it's spiritual leader being Leonard Crow Dog of South Dakota.

To bring about the desired change, AIM has employed means ranging from peaceful negotiation to destruction of property and violence. The most prominent examples in point being the "occupation" at Wounded Knee in 1973, and the Pine Ridge shootout in the summer of 1975.

Since 1971 law enforcement agencies across the country have had a growing number of violent encounters with the American Indian Movement. The most recent one, a shootout with Oregon State Police, took place near Ontario, Oregon on November 14, 1975.

This incident occurred when an Oregon State trooper stopped two cars travelling in convoy just west of the Idaho border. Federal fugitives Dennis Banks and Leonard Peltier were said to have been in the vehicles but, reportedly escaped during the exchange of fire with the officer. Dennis Banks was later arrested in El Cerrito, California on January 24, 1976. Leonard Peltier was arrested near Jasper, Alberta, Canada on February 6, 1976. Russell Redner, KaMook Banks, Kenneth LoudHawk and Anna Mae Aquash were arrested at the scene near Ontario, Oregon.

A search of the vehicles produced seven cases of dynamite (a total of 350 lbs.), timing devices and other bomb components as well as high powered rifles, police-type shotguns and heavy caliber pistols.

On May 12, 1976 Federal charges against Dennis Banks, KaMook Banks, Russell Redner and Kenneth LoudHawk were dismissed with prejudice by Federal Judge Robert Belloni. The government is, at the present time, awaiting the outcome of an appeal it has filed in the Circuit Court of Appeals.

Anna Mae Aquash, who had originally been arrested at Ontario, was found murdered March 8, 1976 on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

The State of South Dakota has served extradition papers on Governor Straub of Oregon for the return of Dennis Banks who faces charges of "riot where arson is committed", stemming from the Custer, South Dakota incident in February, 1973.

Canada is presently considering a request from South Dakota asking for Leonard Peltier's return to face murder charges stemming from the shooting at the Pine Ridge Reservation where two FBI agents and one Indian lost their lives.

## AIM TACTICS

In the past, the following tactics have been used by AIM to force confrontations with law enforcement personnel.

1. Attempts may be made to create an "incident" by involving police in a push and shove situation.
2. Background investigation of certain police officials may be conducted and results publicized.
3. Police or officials may find themselves misquoted frequently.
4. Phone calls threatening people's lives and the placing of bombs may be used to create tension.
5. Older women and children may force a confrontation with police who are later depicted as brutalizing women and children.
6. AIM headquarters may be protected by armed guards, and AIM patrol cars may cruise a neighborhood to protect Indians from police harrassment. These people may carry cameras and recording devices.
7. Red fliers attached to a car may signify AIM members, who may be wearing multi-colored pullover shirts that have ribbons sewn on shoulders and upper arms. Non-Indians and new members may carry a red ID card that has been signed by one of the organization's leaders. Non-Indians as well as Indians may adopt Indian names and use these as identification.
8. Police radio frequencies may be monitored as police phones may be tapped.
9. In the past AIM members have used automatic weapons. Weapons may be hidden in clothing (women's trousers), baby cribs and cradleboards, etc.
10. Young women may be employed to gain information from police.
11. Spray paint may be used in confrontations with the police.
12. AIM may have detailed knowledge of a given police agency's operations, and its political orientation.
13. Lawyers and press people appear to be close by on most occasions.
14. Complaints against police actions are brought to the elected official in charge of the agency, in the event that this

official is unwilling to confer with AIM representatives, it is likely that the press will be informed of this refusal.

15. The RED HAND WARRIOR SOCIETY, an organization with AIM usually furnishes body guards for AIM leaders who are not known to travel alone.
16. Those members of AIM who have been in Vietnam, provide training in hand-to-hand combat, the use of weapons, the assembling of explosive devices, the construction of fortifications, etc.
17. It is alleged that AIM has large explosives and arms supplies in the Pacific Northwest area.
18. AIM has in the past been able to raise money by scheduling lectures to be given by their leaders at universities across the country. Funds have also been raised from numerous sympathizers on a nationwide scale.