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OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 455 7TH ST., OAKLAND 7, CALIFORNIA

Address all correspondence to Edward M. Toothman, Chief of Police

February 27, 1964

David H. Johnson
Chief of Police
222 S. W. Pine Street
Portland 4, Oregon

Attention: Lieutenant Jack Crawford
Intelligence Unit

Dear Jack,

The AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION was started in the Bay Area in November, 1961 under the guidance and direction of DONALD WARDEN. This is a BLACK NATIONALIST movement that is very similar to the BLACK MUSLIM or the NATION OF ISLAM movement. By DONALD WARDEN'S own admission the primary difference between the BLACK MUSLIM'S and the AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION is that the BLACK MUSLIM is a religious organization and the AFRO-AMERICAN is not. The BLACK MUSLIM movement has very strict rules and regulations for membership while the AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION has a very loose organizational structure and very few rules to abide by.

The BLACK MUSLIM'S recruit most of their members from the bottom of the social ladder - social outcasts. In contrast, the AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION recruits it's members on the college and high school campus.

DONALD WARDEN, the founder of the AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, is a practicing attorney who received his legal training at the University of California Boalt Hall of Law in Berkeley, California. He was considered to be a top student.

Here in the Northern California area, the BLACK MUSLIM'S and the AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION are very close. DONALD WARDEN has been the spokesman for the MUSLIM'S in almost every instance where the MUSLIM'S have had some legal difficulties. For example, during the BLACK MUSLIM'S uproar at San Quentin and the numerous criminal indictments of MUSLIM members, AFRO-AMERICAN and BLACK MUSLIM'S refer to each other as "Brother" and a spirit of camaraderie continually exists between the two organizations.

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At a meeting last fall in San Francisco, DON WARDEN shared the speakers platform with MALCOLM X and made a stronger and more militant talk on BLACK NATIONALISM than did MALCOLM X who, at that time, was the No. 2 man in the BLACK MUSLIM'S nationally.

The AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION is continually growing in strength. However, there are no figures available to support this. They now have active members throughout the Northern California area, as well as Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego. DON WARDEN hopes to make his organization national in scope. The AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION do not put out any printed material except for occasional leaflets so we are unable to forward you any material similar to that distributed by the MUSLIM'S that outline their view and policies.

The AFRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION nor it's members have not been a problem to the police in this area with the exception of their practice of having loud street corner meetings that occasionally bring in complaints of disturbing the peace and blocking traffic. So far they have cooperated with the Oakland Police Department. However, there has been some difficulty arising out of street meetings conducted in San Francisco.


In this area both the AFRO-AMERICANS and the BLACK MUSLIMS have had the support of both the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskites) although both, the AFRO-AMERICANS and the MUSLIMS, have publicly stated they do not want this support. (What may be said in private, however, is another matter).

You may also be interested in knowing that CLARENCE DEBIEW, since returning from your city of Portland, has not been a member of the BLACK MUSLIMS. He, along with several other MUSLIM castoff's, have created a new BLACK NATIONALIST ORGANIZATION called the "AMERICAN-AFRICAN DESCENDANT NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTITION PARTY". Subject DEBIEW now goes by the name of NASSER AHMAD SHABAZZ. This group is very small in number and so far has been very ineffective. They have attempted to spread the doctrine of the BLACK MUSLIM'S without having any know-how, organizational structure, or finance.

We hope this information will be of some value to you and if we can assist you further in this matter or any other, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Very truly yours,

E. M. Toothman
CHIEF OF POLICE

By 
Sergeant Carl Dahl
Intelligence Section

February 19, 1964

Edward M. Toothman
Chief of Police
455 Seventh Street
Oakland, California

Attn: Sgt. Carl T. Dahl
Intelligence Unit

Dear Carl:

About three years ago, a Clarence De Beiu came to Portland from San Francisco, as a Missionary for the Muslims. He held meetings in his home and later, in rented quarters, but received a rather cold reception from the Negro Community. After about a year, he moved back to the Bay area. During his sojourn here, one of our informants became friendly with him.

In the past few months, Donald Warden, an Oakland attorney, has twice been a speaker at meetings sponsored by a local right wing group called the Freedom Center. This organization is headed by Walter Huss. Warden claims to be National Chairman of the Afro-American Association and proclaims that Negroes should be helping themselves by starting their own businesses and taking care of their own.

The reason for this letter is that Warden contacted our informant and told him that he had been recommended to Warden by Clarence De Beiu. This would show a connection between the Afro-American Association and the Muslims. We would be interested in any information you might have on Donald Warden and his organization, and if this is an off-shoot of the Muslims.

Thank you for the help, and we will see you at Sacramento in April.

Yours very truly,

DAVID H. JOHNSON
Chief of Police

Per: Lieut. Jack L. Crawford
Intelligence Division

JLC:c

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

TO: Chief David H. Johnson

DATE: February 10, 1964

FROM: James E. Harvey, Sgt. Intelligence

SUBJECT: Possible Connection between the Muslims and the Afro-American Association

Sir:

The writer was contacted by Sgt. Ralph O'Hara, of the Metro Squad. Sgt. O'Hara stated that he had been contacted by a Negro subject who had acted as an informant for the Police Bureau during the attempt made by Clarence De Beiu to organize a local chapter of the Muslims, in this City, approximately two or three years ago. Sgt. O'Hara's informant operated as his agent during that time and was extremely cooperative with the Police.

The informant called Sgt. O'Hara to advise him that he had been contacted by Donald Warden, National Chairman of the Afro-American Association. Warden told the informant that he had been recommended by Clarence De Beiu, as being a hard worker. Warden then indicated his desire to have the informant work on behalf of the Afro-American Association in Portland.

According to the informant, Warden was brought to Portland recently by the Freedom Center, however, Warden intends to split from that group and establish a chapter of his own organization in town. It is Warden's intention to enter the manufacturing business in Portland and employ Negroes in a self-help program. Warden intends to apply for a City License for his business, however, the informant felt that such a business could be used as a propaganda vehicle for the Negroes employed there.

The informant had no reason to suspect Muslim connections, other than the fact that Warden mentioned that Clarence De Beiu had recommended the informant to him.

This informant has apparently engaged in no other political activities, which would bring his name to the attention of Warden, other than his role as an undercover agent in the Muslim group. Sgt. O'Hara stated that this informant will cooperate with the Police Bureau should any further information on the Afro-American Association's operations become desirable. O'Hara did state that the informant prefers to work through Sgt. O'Hara, rather than to be passed to an unknown officer.

Respectfully,

JAMES E. HARVEY
Sgt., Intelligence

JEH:c