

DIRECTOR, FBI (25-330971)

3/18/60

SAC, NEW YORK (105-7809)

NATION OF ISLAM
IS - NOI

MALCOLM^O LITTLE

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies of a letterhead memo which is self explanatory.

A letterhead memo is being submitted in view of the reference to the Voice of America.

[REDACTED]

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See release 190-10535-9
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/5/83 BY 8269 JHE/WES
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 100-10535-107

New York, New York

March 10, 1960

Re: Nation of Islam
Internal Security - NOI

The "New York Amsterdam News" of February 27, 1960, page 21, column 1, Brooklyn Edition contained an article captioned "Malcolm X., Rev. James To Discuss Racism."

This article reflected that in separate pre-taped sessions Malcolm X minister of Muhammad's Temple of Islam, and the Rev. William James, pastor of Metropolitan Methodist Church, 1974 Madison Avenue, would discuss the pros and cons of "Negro Racism" on WJCA radio program "Pro and Con" on Thursday, March 3.

According to this article, the moderator Mr. William K. Kunstler, a professor of law at New York Law School, said the program will be heard in several U.S. states and will be broadcast via the Voice of America at several points overseas.

The "New York Amsterdam News" is a weekly newspaper published in New York City.

The following is a substantially verbatim account of the above referred to radio program.

See release 100-10535-5
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/15/83 BY 8269 HRS/WES/mjg
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100-330171-4286

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100-399371-

Nation of Islam

Recording of Radio Program
"Pro and Con"
Over Station WMCA on Thursday
(3/3/60), 10:35 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Pro and Con, giving you both sides of a current dispute. Tonight's controversy: Is Black Supremacy The Answer? Yes, says MALCOLM X, the New York Muslim minister. No, says Reverend WILLIAM E. JAMES, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Methodist Church in Harlem.

Now here to put your questions to both speakers is WILLIAM KUNSTLER, Professor of Law, New York Law School - Mr. KUNSTLER.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

1960 may well prove to be a year of decision for the American Negro. At this very moment the United States Senate is bogged down for a Southern filibuster designed to prevent the passage of legislation protecting the Negroes' voting rights. In several Southern states, Negro students are refusing to leave stores or restaurants that will not serve them because of their color. The day before yesterday, 1,000 Negroes marched on the first capitol of the confederacy in Montgomery, Alabama, in a protest against segregation. One group, known as the Muslims, have rejected the gradualism advocated by the NAACP and the Urban League and is stridently proclaiming that a white man's heaven is a black man's hell. Its members have been called racists and rabble rousers by their opponents. But even their most severe critics have to admit that the Muslims are growing rapidly.

Tonight we have with us MALCOLM X, the Muslim's New York minister, who feels that the Negro must take his destiny in his own hands. Opposing him is Reverend WILLIAM M. JAMES, the pastor of Harlem's Metropolitan Community Methodist Church, who rejects Mr. X's thesis in favor of love and tolerance among all peoples. Let's turn first to Mr. X.

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Mr. X, before we start our discussion tonight on racial extremism in Harlem, would you mind explaining for me the meaning of your name, what is the letter X.

MALCOLM X

Yes sir, Mr. KUNSTLER. As you know, during slavery time, the slave masters named most of the so-called Negroes, and today out of the 20,000,000 so-called Negroes here in America, Mr. ELIJAH MUHAMMAD teaches us that the first names that they have are slave names. After coming into the knowledge of Islam, we who follow Mr. MUHAMMAD use X. We replace the name of our slave masters with X, and some people would say that it doesn't make any difference, but there have been many cases of dark people in the South going to apply for rooms in a hotel and upon saying that their names were SMITH or JONES or JOHNSON or something like that, they were barred. Whereas, the same dark people who would use the names MOHAMMAD or HUSSAN or SHARIEFF, they would not run into the same JIM CROW practices as those who didn't have that type name. So a name does make a difference and since we've been disconnected with that Eastern culture for so long that we don't know the names we originally had, we use X today until we're made familiar or until we are qualified to be accepted back among our people in the east.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

Well, Mr. X, getting to the point at hand, ROY WILKINS, the Executive Director of the NAACP, has described your Temple of Islam as being no better than the Klu Klux Klan. You think this is an adequate comment on his part?

MALCOLM X

Well sir, I believe that Mr. WILKINS is actually too intelligent to have made that statement and I find it hard to believe that he really said it. Plus, on the MIKE WALLACE show during the summer, Mr. WILKINS expressed ignorance of Mr. MUHAMMAD and his followers.

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I wonder then how he could so suddenly become an authority on us and how he can now find himself in a position to judge us, unless he's been doing some research since then or perhaps he's just expressing opinions about that which he knows nothing or he's parroting what he has been told to say or paid to say by those who have control over him. At any rate, I will challenge ROY WILKINS at any time, any where and under any conditions to a public debate concerning his charges that we who follow the Muslim faith are no better or are no different than the Klu Klux Klan, especially when there are over 600,000,000 Muslims on this earth that stretch from the China seas to the shores of West Africa and here in America. Mr. ELIJAH MUHAMMAD, who is our leader and teacher and who just returned from a tour of the Muslim countries of Africa and Asia where he visited the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Arabia and was warmly received. I very much doubt if Mr. WILKINS was familiar with Mr. MUHAMMAD and his program, that he would make such charges and if he is familiar, I doubt that he made those charges.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

Well, Mr. X, one point that might have lead to those charges was contained in the January 25th issue of the "New York Times", and it reads as follows:

Like Mr. MUHAMMAD, MALCOLM X describes the white race as made up of quote inhuman devils whose very nature is to lie, cheat, steal, decieve, hate and murder black mankind end quote. And then you go on to say, as the Times reporter says, that an avenging allah will soon wipe out the white devils. You think this is a fair commentary on whites in general, notwithstanding there might have been individual grievances?

MALCOLM X

Well, sir, I think that you'll say that where racial extremism is concerned, first you take the word extremism itself means exactly what it says. When a person is a racial extremist, to me he's extreme in his desire and in his love and in his devotion to his race. Taking it from that angle, it's not a crime to be a

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racial extremist. Catholics say that the Catholic church is the only church and the only way to get to heaven is through the Catholic church. Baptists say that no one can go to heaven unless they're baptized. And Jews themselves for thousands of years have taught that they alone are God's chosen people and that he would some day come and place them and them alone in the promised land. And now, despite this, the Catholics have never been accused of advocating Catholic supremacy, the Christians aren't accused of advocating Christian supremacy and the Jews are not accused of advocating Jewish supremacy, nor are they accused of teaching racial hatred. And also, the same Christian Bible that they go by is loaded or laced with promises that non-Christians will be destroyed in a fiery death some day by God himself and based upon that I find it difficult for Catholics and Christians to accuse us of teaching or advocating any kind of racial supremacy or racial hatred, because their own history and their own teachings are filled with it, if you're going to classify it as such.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

Mr. X, on the subject of religion, the Times also quoted one of Mr. MUHAMMAD's pamphlets as criticizing Christianity as "a religion organized and backed by the devil for the purpose of making slaves of black mankind" end quote, and then referred to the Bible as "the poison book."

MALCOLM X

Yes sir, anything you take that affects you so much so that it makes you absolutely helpless, can easily be classified as poison and we find that the so-called Negroes here in America today are in a miserable or pitiful condition, namely because of the type of conception they've gotten of religion from getting the wrong understanding of the Bible. They actually try and practice turning

the other cheek toward people who have used them. They practice loving their enemies. They practice praying for those who spitefully use them, and anytime a person believes in a teaching like that and practices it, it doesn't make them an intelligent person or man, it makes him a fool and a coward and when Mr. MUHAMMAD says that the bible is a poison book, he doesn't condemn the book as such but he condemns the condition that the reading of it has placed the Negroes here in America in.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

Mr. X, LESTER GRANGER, of the National Urban League, claims that the Temple of Islam can only become important in the time of crisis, like the present. Do you think you are a temporary movement to fill a need that is raised by a crisis?

MALCOLM X

Well sir, if we are only a temporary movement, then LESTER GRANGER and Mr. WILSON and the press that's raising so much to do about us are wasting their time. If we're temporary, all they have to do is sit back and wait until we collapse. As it says in one part of the bible, I think it was Gamaleo, he advised the people don't touch that group because if they're not with God, as they say, they'll come to naught, but if they are with God and God is behind them, be careful how you deal with them because you might find yourself in opposition against God.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

Mr. X, some of the leaders in Harlem, and I'm referring now particularly to Dr. JAMES H. ROBINSON of the Presbyterian Church of the Master, have called you a hate group and Dr. ROBINSON said hate groups are dangerous because they can set off a spark and quote. Do you think that that you would classify yourself as a hate group?

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MALCOLM X

Well sir, number one, the charge isn't so surprising, because, I'm sorry to say, but it's true, many Negro preachers, religious leaders, know absolutely nothing about the origin of their own denominations, the origin and history of christianity, and they know much less about the religions of the East and especially the religions of Africa and Asia. Muslims are not a hate group, we're not bitter toward the white man in fact I believe that we Muslims who follow Mr. ELIJAH MUHAMMAD get along better with white people than the same christian Negroes who go to Reverend ROBINSON's church, who profess to love white people, in fact most white people recognize us as Muslims and respect us for what we are just as we respect them. We recognize the white man and respect him for what he is and this mutual understanding of each other provides the most sensible climate for what ever relationship or activity must take place between us. They don't have any trouble out of us, we don't have any trouble out of them.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

But aren't you, Mr. X, aping the plantation philosophy that has in one sense given rise to your movement by your own feeling that a Negro should buy black for example and do nothing with whites at all, as, for example, when Premier TOURE was here last November, the President of the new African republic of Guinea. When he was here, there was a movement to remove from the dias a white representative of the State Department, I believe a white woman interpreter, for him. Don't you think you're reversing and doing the same thing as the Southerners have done with the Negroes for generations?

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MALCOLM X

Sir, to my knowledge, there was not a Muslim who follows the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD at that reception at the YWCA given for President SEBASTIEN TOURE. We knew nothing about it and we had nothing to do with it, and the way it was reported in the paper it was twisted to make it look like we were involved. But we had nothing to do with it. We don't participate in actions like that, we don't do anything to embarrass people.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

Yet, if I can interrupt you for a moment, further, you, at your own meetings banned white reporters and white guests.

MALCOLM X

We sir, then that too should be understood. As you know, in last year, I think it was sometime in May, we had a trial out in Queens, Long Island, a police brutality case, at which time our home were shot up, the police shot at our women, at children and at our babies and threatened to throw my wife, who was pregnant at that time, down the back stairs because she wasn't moving fast enough for them and this trial lasted for three weeks in the Queens County Court and it was worse than a Mississippi court room, in so far as justice was concerned. And at that time the nine white dailies in New York didn't send one reporter out there to cover it, they weren't interested in the truth or in justice for Negroes but, rather, that which they can twist and use against us. They want to cry about the injustices in Mississippi but they want to divert the attention of what's going on here in New York to hide their own faults. And I say again, sir, where was Mr. WILKINS? The Jews had their MOSES, the christians had their Jesus and the Arabs had their MOHAMMAD, we here in America today have our MOSES and our MOHAMMAD in the person of the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD.

WILLIAM KUNSTLER

Thank you Mr. X. Now we'll talk to Reverend WILLIAM M. JAMES, who rejects your nationalism and feels that Negroes will benefit more from cooperation with the white race than by going it alone.