

DIRECTOR, FBI (25-330971)

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On Friday, March 24, 1961, at 8:00 p.m., the Harvard Law School forum presented a program "The American Negro: Problems and Solution." This program was in the nature of debate with MALCOLM X (LITTLE), identified as a "black Muslim leader," presenting the point of view in favor of complete segregation between the Negro and the white man, as the solution to the Negro problems. WALTER CARRINGTON, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Massachusetts State Commission Against Discrimination, spoke in favor of integration of the Negro and the white man as a solution to Negro problems.

SA [redacted] attended this affair which was held in Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts, before an estimated audience of 1600 persons, about 20 per cent of whom were Negroes. Most of the Negro audience were judged to belong to the NOI based on the headdress worn by the females and the golden emblem worn in the lapel of the men's suits.

The speakers were introduced by ROGER D. FISHER, Professor of Law, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The first speaker was MALCOLM X, introduced as one of the leading figures in the "black Muslim" movement and minister of that movement's mosque in New York City, New York. Professor FISHER gave a background sketch of MALCOLM X and stated MALCOLM X was brought up in Michigan, was the only black pupil in his school classes and his ability and brilliance in school often brought down the resentment of his white classmates upon him.

- 3 - Bureau (25-330971) (RM)
- 1 - 100-399321 (MALCOLM X LITTLE)
- 2 - New York (105-7809) (NOI) (RM) (Encls. 1 - 105-8999) MALCOLM X LITTLE
- 1 - Chicago (100-35636) (info) (RM)
- 2 - Boston (97-145)
- 1 - 100-27649 (MALCOLM X LITTLE)

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MALCOLM's home burnt to the ground while the local Fire Department refused to fight a fire in a Negro home. MALCOLM X traveled all about the country committing all types of illegal acts and was confined in Massachusetts State Prison where he became converted to Islam and became a follower of Elijah Muhammad.

MALCOLM X commenced his talk by stating that it must be appreciated that the movement he is a part of is not political in nature, but entirely religious. He explained that the followers of ELIJAH MUHAMMAD believe ELIJAH is one of the prophets mentioned in the Bible and is as great as the prophets JESUS or MOHAMMED. ELIJAH MUHAMMAD's followers believe that he is the last and greatest of the prophets. As a prophet, God, whom Muslims call ALLAH, speaks through ELIJAH MUHAMMAD. When ELIJAH MUHAMMAD sets forth a program of any sort, such as segregation of the Negro from the white man, his followers must accept it as coming directly from ALLAH. They have no choice but to accept it as right and as the will of ALLAH.

MALCOLM X's talk continued in a religious vein. He discussed the 300 years of slavery of the "so-called American Negro," who are denied the opportunity to be taught or to practice the Muslim religion which MALCOLM X claimed was the religion of their forefathers. MALCOLM X discussed the great Negro civilizations from which the forefathers of the "so-called American Negroes" were brought into slavery. He pointed out that many accusations are made against ELIJAH MUHAMMAD as not being a true Muslim and as not practicing the true Muslim religion. He repudiated these accusations by pointing out that ELIJAH MUHAMMAD recently traveled to the Far East, even visiting the Holy City of Mecca and was every where received by Muslim leaders and welcomed as a true Muslim.

MALCOLM X discussed the program demanded by ELIJAH MUHAMMAD that the United States give land to the Negroes in this country in which the Negroes can set up their own government, be segregated from the white race and build their own economy. MALCOLM X stated that the United States government should assist this new country in any way necessary for a period of 45 - 50 years until the country can get on its feet and make its own way.

MALCOLM X claimed that God plans to destroy all opposition to ELIJAH MUHAMMAD. This will come about through the War of Armageddon which will end with black supremacy. He mentioned this war as a prophecy in the Bible and made no mention of Muslim participation in it. MALCOLM X referred to his group on several occasions as "the black masters." This reference appeared to describe the position the followers of ELIJAH MUHAMMAD would be in following the War of Armageddon.

WALTER CARRINGTON was introduced as a Negro graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, a member of the Massachusetts Bar and a practicing attorney in Massachusetts. Mr. CARRINGTON attacked MALCOLM X's position of segregation of the Negro as "the greatest boon to the Klu Klux Klan since the invention of the bed sheet." He pointed out that the "black Moslems" claim to number 100,000. He stated that this is a relatively small and insignificant group when the entire twenty million Negroes are considered as a group. Mr. CARRINGTON believes that the remaining nineteen million, nine hundred thousand Negroes are not in sympathy with the "black Moslems" and wanted integration and want it now. Mr. CARRINGTON pointed out that ELIJAH MUHAMMAD has figured out that the War of Armageddon was to take place in 1914, but God has given seventy years grace to the Negro to afford him an opportunity to join ELIJAH MUHAMMAD. This would place the date of the War of Armageddon at 1984. Mr. CARRINGTON stated that the Negro doesn't want to wait until then, but wants integration and civil rights now. He called the "black Moslems" a segment of the Negro race which has done nothing to advance the Negroes position. CARRINGTON stated that MALCOLM X has stated his beliefs and explained his religion, but he has not told the audience what he actually teaches inside the temples which the white man is forbidden to enter and what he is teaching on the streets of Harlem in New York City.

It was noted that the NOI members in attendance did not applaud CARRINGTON during his talk except upon the rare occasions when MALCOLM X applauded. At the conclusion they offered no applause for CARRINGTON's address until MALCOLM X finally started to clap. The entire audience was orderly and no incidents were noted.

BS 97-145

A program of the debate is furnished the New York Division as an enclosure to this letter. Also furnished the New York office as an enclosure are newspaper clippings of the affair published in the morning editions of the "Boston Globe" and "Boston Herald" of March 25, 1961.