

V. BREAK FROM THE NOI

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A. Break By Subject

The March 9, 1964 edition of "The New York Times" contained an article on page 1 which reflected that on March 8, 1964, MALCOLM X publically announced that he had broken with ELIJAH MUHAMMAD and the NOI due to his continued suspension, and that he would organize a politically oriented "black nationalist party".

On March 12, 1964, Special Agents of the FBI attended a press conference held by MALCOLM X in the Park Sheraton Hotel, 7th Avenue and 55th Street, New York City. At this press conference MALCOLM X passed out a copy of the public statement he issued on March 8, 1964, concerning his break with the NOI. This statement reads as follows:

"There has been talk of a split between me and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. After 90 days of complete silence, I would like to make my position in this controversy crystal clear. Mr. Muhammad is the one who taught me everything I know and the one who made me into whatever I am. 4

"I believe Allah has given him the best diagnosis of the ills that beset America's 22 million Negroes, and this same God has also given him the only solution that will eliminate the basic 'causes behind our people's social, economic, political, moral, mental and spiritual ailments.

"My chief concern is the plight of 22 million American Negroes. During this 90 days of silence, I have reached the conclusion that I can best spread Mr. Muhammad's message by staying out of the Nation of Islam, and continuing to work on my own among America's 22 million non-Muslim Negroes. But I will always remain a Muslim, and will always teach what Mr. Muhammad has taught me, as I best understand it.

"Later this week, I shall call a press conference and announce my plan of operation, and as long as I am a True Believer, as the Holy Quran says, Allah will bless me with success.

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"Since there has been talk that I am trying to split the Muslims, I want it clearly understood that my advice to all Muslims is that they stay in the Nation of Islam under the spiritual guidance of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. It is not my desire to encourage any of them to follow me."

Also at this press conference MALCOLM X passed out a copy of the telegram he sent to ELIJAH MUHAMMAD on March 11, 1964. This telegram reads as follows:

"The National Officials there at the Chicago Headquarters know that I never left the Nation of Islam of my own free will. It was they who conspired with Captain Joseph here in New York to pressure me out of the Nation. In order to save the National Officials and Captain Joseph the disgrace of having to explain their real reason for forcing me out, I announced through the press that it was my own decision to leave.

"I did not take the blame to protect those National Officials, but to preserve the faith your followers have in you and the Nation of Islam.

"Despite what has been said by the press, I have never spoken one word of criticism to them about your family. I will always be a Muslim, teaching what you have taught me, and giving you full credit for what I know and what I am. You are still my leader and teacher, even though those around you won't let me be one of your active followers or helpers. The present course I am taking is the only way I can circumvent their obstacles and still expedite your program.

"The tears you shed in Arizona gave the public the impression that you also are of the opinion that I left of my own free will, so I am giving a copy of this wire to the press. May Allah bless you with health and success. I am still your brother and servant.

"Malcolm X"

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On March 9, 1964, from 10:00 - 10:30 p.m., MALCOLM X appeared on the news commentary and interview program "The World At 10", over TV station WNDT, Channel 13, New York City, where he was interviewed regarding his split with the NOI. MALCOLM X explained that he was suspended (on December 4, 1963) for disobedience to ELIJAH MUHAMMAD as the result of his remark on the assassination of President KENNEDY, since ELIJAH MUHAMMAD had previously told him not to comment on the assassination. He stated the suspension was originally for 90 days but he recently learned that the suspension would be for an indefinite time.

The March 14, 1964 edition of the "New York Amsterdam News", a Negro weekly newspaper published in New York, New York, on page 1, contained an exclusive interview by that paper with MALCOLM X concerning his break with the NOI and the formation of the MMI.

In this interview, MALCOLM X charged that NOI headquarters in Chicago had been waging a power struggle against him that led to his suspension in December, 1963. The article quoted MALCOLM X as stating "they forced me to take the stand I am taking because I had to find a way to circumvent the forces in the movement that opposed me and at the same time to expedite Mr. MUHAMMAD's program as I understand it."

This article reflected that MALCOLM X's announcement to split with the NOI and form his own group was brought on by a letter he received on March 5, 1964, from ELIJAH MUHAMMAD informing him that he was to remain on suspension for an indefinite time.

B. Reaction of NOI Officials

The March 10, 1964 edition of the "New York Journal American", a daily newspaper published in New York, New York, contained an article on page 1 which reflected that NOI leader ELIJAH MUHAMMAD in Phoenix, Arizona, was on the verge of tears when he heard of subject's break with the NOI and he declared "I never dreamed this man would deviate from the NOI. My people are adapted to peace. They believe in peaceful solutions".

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Nation of Islam

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The March 28, 1964 edition of the "Chicago Defender", a daily newspaper published in Chicago, Illinois, contained an article on page 1 captioned "Hit MALCOLM X As Judas". This article indicated that PHILBERT X, NOI Minister in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Flint, Michigan, and a brother of subject, denounced subject as a traitor for breaking with the NOI and forming his own group. PHILBERT X stated he had brought his brother into the NOI ten years ago and he claimed subject's actions were caused by "resentment" over the suspension given him by ELIJAH MUHAMMAD. He described subject's new organization as "dangerous", and he denounced subject as a BRUTUS, JUDAS, and BENEDICT ARNOLD. He added that subject would do anything to gain mention and news coverage.

Similar articles to that above appeared in the following newspapers:

"New York Journal American", March 27, 1964, page 1.

"New York Post", a daily newspaper published in New York, New York, of March 27, 1961, page 4.

"New York Herald Tribune", a daily newspaper published in New York, New York, March 28, 1964, page 5.

The March 29, 1964 edition of the "Chicago Sunday Tribune", a daily newspaper published in Chicago, Illinois, contained an article on page 20, which reflected that subject was not upset by his brother PHILBERT's attack against him, and subject claimed that PHILBERT was using someone else's words and was forced to make the statements he made.

67D [REDACTED] of the NOI described subject as a traitor to ELIJAH MUHAMMAD who always wanted to be in the limelight and who left the NOI for personal gain. He further described subject as a disobedient follower who was not satisfied with being the number 2 man in the NOI.

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The April 4, 1964 edition of "The New Crusader", a weekly Negro newspaper published in Chicago, Illinois, contained an article by ELIJAH MUHAMMAD entitled "Mr. MUHAMMAD Speaks".

In this article subject's break with the NOI was discussed. ELIJAH MUHAMMAD stated that subject disobeyed him by failing to keep quiet after his suspension, and when told he would have to remain quiet for a longer time subject went out on his own. ELIJAH stated in the article that he places his trust in ALLAH, while subject is going to trust himself. He then stated "I am sorry for the poor fools who refuse to trust the god of The Honorable ELLJAH MUHAMMAD, and follow MALCOLM for self-victory".

VI. AFFILIATION WITH THE MUSLIM
MOSQUE, INCORPORATED

A. Formation of the MMI

On March 12, 1964, Special Agents of the FBI attended a press conference by subject in the Park Sheraton Hotel, New York City, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. which was attended by approximately 60 representatives of the press. At this press conference subject publicly announced the formation and incorporation of his new organization named "Muslim Mosque, Incorporated".

At this press conference subject read the following opening statement concerning himself and the over-all program of the MMI, which statement was made available in printed form to those present at the conference:

"Because 1964 threatens to be a very explosive year on the racial front, and because I myself intend to be very active in every phaze of the American-Negro struggle for HUMAN RIGHTS, I have called this press conference this morning in order to clarify my own position in the struggle...especially in regards to politics and non-violence.

"I wish to speak to you for ten or fifteen minutes and then open myself for questions.

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