

CIA Moves to Turn Black Panthers Into Zombie Countergang

OAKLAND, August 5 (IPS) — The National Caucus of Labor Committees intelligence and security units are investigating the unsuccessful attempt July 31 by Oakland Police to assassinate Black Panther Party (BPP) founder Huey P. Newton. The preliminary estimate clearly points to a CIA/LEAA takeover move to eliminate Newton and direct police-controlled elements within the Panthers to turn the BPP into a BLA-style zombie countergang.

According to sources in and around the Black Panther Party, two members of the Oakland Police department entered the Fox Bar, known to be frequented by Panther Party members, on Wednesday night and attempted to provoke a fight that was to result in the murder of Newton and other longtime Panthers. When a quick mobilization of BPP security prevented any shooting, police called for reinforcements, which reportedly included two U.S. Treasury agents. As a result of the incident, seven people were arrested. Newton was beaten and carried off in leg shackles. He is now out on \$5,000 bail on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and interference with the police.

Why The Murder Attempt?

In itself this incident would appear to signal a resurgence of the kind of police terrorism that was used to cripple the Panthers in the late 1960s and set them up for the wave of frameups of 1970-71. In fact, that is precisely the impression the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is endeavoring to create. Oakland Police Chief Hart's statement last night that he intends to "rid the city of the Black Panther Party" fills out the scenario even further.

But even a cursory glance at a recent issue of *The Black Panthers* indicates that something different is taking place. The Party newspaper has been churning out a steady stream of LEAA propaganda: calling for community control of the police and the refunding of the Berkeley School of Criminology (part of the LEAA university consortium), among other things.

Less than 48 hours before the most recent attempt on Newton's life, Elaine Brown, a member of the Central Committee of the BPP, was speaking, in Bobby Seale's absence, before the National Convention of the Urban League. Joining her on the panel was notorious counter-insurgency agent Patrick Murphy. Murphy now heads up the Police Foundation, a Ford Foundation-funded think tank set up to serve as a wedge in the CIA's move to shore up control over the LEAA. Prior to his move to the Police Foundation, as Commissioner of the Detroit and New York City Police Departments, Murphy was

responsible for the reorganizations to set up the apparatus which has framed up, murdered, and brainwashed numerous potential revolutionaries. Far from posing any kind of threat to the CIA, the Panthers have actually been strange bedfellows of the CIA's domestic arm.

Panther About-Face on Labor Committee

Several months ago, the Labor Committees were prompted to do a preliminary investigation into the background of David DuBois, current editor of the *Black Panther*. At that time, the NCLC was approaching the Panthers with the proposal for a united front campaign to expose the LEAA. The Panthers agreed to discuss the matter seriously provided that *New Solidarity* publish a retraction of previous statements to the effect that the BPP was controlled by police agents. As the LEAA campaign began to gain significant support throughout the country, the Panthers' communication with the Labor Committees was severed; and a few weeks later a slanderous attack against the NCLC, originally released by Liberation News Service (a known resting place for agents awaiting new assignments in the socialist movement) was reprinted in the *Black Panther*. This served to further confirm *New Solidarity* charges of police control of at least a significant portion of the Party leadership.

The Control Agent

DuBois' credentials are more appropriate to a low-level member of Rockefeller's cabal than to the editor of the Black Panther Party press. In fact, DuBois is not a member of the Party. The stepson of W.E.B. DuBois, a piece of good fortune he has used as a foot in the door on four continents, David left the U.S. in 1953 after having been expelled from the Communist Party U.S.A. for attempting to push the CP into creating an international black nationalist student movement (an idea he picked up in Prague in 1950).

Choosing journalism as the vehicle through which he would work towards the goal of building a Pan-African movement, DuBois spent the next 13 years in Africa and the Middle East. He became heavily involved in the All African Journalist Association, was with the Middle East News Agency and held editorships with the *Egyptian Gazette*, and the *Arab Observer* (both notoriously rightwing Egyptian government newspapers for English-speaking Arabs). While in Egypt DuBois was employed by the Ghana government as the Publicity and Information Secretary for President Kwame Nkrumah. At this time he was also in frequent contact

with Carlos Moore, a rabid anti-communist Pan-Africanist whose ties to the CIA are strong.

Back in the United States after 13 years of self-imposed "exile," DuBois made the rounds of the entire domestic Pan-African movement here, finally settling down in the national socialist swamp of Berkeley, California. His entree into that milieu came with an invitation from Anthony Platt, radical criminologist at the Berkeley School of Criminology, to join him in teaching a course on "Crime and Nation Building." Platt had been personally recruited to the School of Criminology by LEAA founder Joseph Lohman and went on to set up the Radical Criminologists.

In 1973, apparently following several conversations with Huey Newton, DuBois was invited to take on the editorship of the *Black Panther*. The preconditions necessary for DuBois to apply his international expertise for building CIA controls on black organizations to the Panther Party were already present in the leadership and worldviews of the organization. DuBois' presence served merely to abort any potential in the BPP for breaking out of that controlled environment. Witness to this is the rapid about face vis-a-vis the Labor Committees.

Huey on Ice

What is the reason behind the playing out of police attacks against the Panthers, directed particularly at

Newton? Clearly the Panthers are of little use to the CIA in their current capacity as left shadows for LEAA programs. In the San Francisco Bay Area there are many such shadows. The only really useful role the BPP can play for Rockefeller is as a zombie terrorist counter-gang — a terrorist gang with tremendous credibility and with a legitimate history in the left.

With Newton alive, such a role is impossible for the Panthers. The Huey Newton image defines certain parameters in which the Party can operate, and this excludes overt terrorist actions. The scenario changes, however, with Newton dead, the victim of Oakland Police Department bullets. At that point, the blood of "fallen comrade Newton" becomes the rallying cry for a wave of terrorist actions.

To the extent that this is the operation now set in motion, Newton and the core of other old-time Panthers targeted by the CIA/LEAA for a similar fate, can feel very little reassurance about their escape Wednesday night.

Their only safety at this point is to open the whole issue to public exposure — to begin investigating openly the inside-outside set-up of the Black Panthers and to begin actively engaging once again in real revolutionary organizing with the Labor Committees against the CIA.