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15
2 MAR 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Security
(Investigations & Operational Support)

SUBJECT : Project MERRIMACK

1. The following observations and proposals are submitted in response to your request for ways and means to monitor local peace or protest groups to obtain advance knowledge of marches or demonstrations on Agency property, or any other actions which may be directed at the Agency:

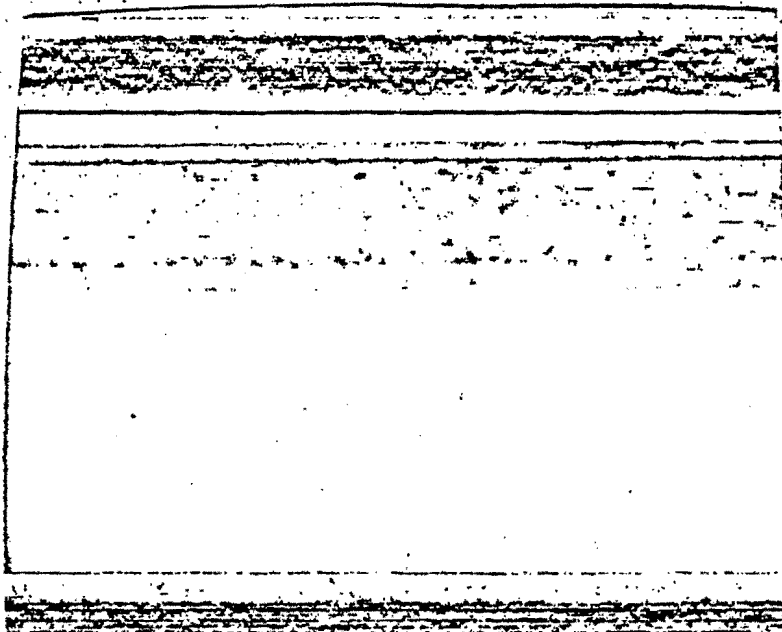
a. It is recognized that any project dealing with civil rights and student groups will be extremely sensitive, and that any implication that direction and control of an organization will be interfered with in any way must be avoided. With this in mind, we are exploring the possibility of gaining access to local "peace" groups and, if possible, the more militant groups such as SNCC and CORE, for the purpose of developing a "monitoring" capability relating only to demonstrations, pickets, protests, or marches.

b. [REDACTED] has a reserve cadre of multi-racial personnel, including construction workers, cab drivers, janitors, professional people, etc., both male and female, who can be activated and covertly used on this project. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] All are highly motivated. The Chief, [REDACTED] has been instructed to screen these individuals, select and activate the appropriate candidates, and formulate operational plans and requirements for the project. It is planned to pay the participants [REDACTED] per hour when actually employed.

plus transportation and incidental expenses. It is estimated that an initial fund of ~~XXXXX~~ could be used to activate and maintain this project for approximately 45 days. It is requested that these funds be made available at the earliest practicable date.

c. It is believed that the Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Avenue, N.W., will be an appropriate starting place in gaining access to procure knowledge of these groups and their activities. This "peace center" is reportedly an information and co-ordinating center for many of the local "protest" groups ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~. They publish a newsletter listing various speeches, rallies, marches, protests and other activities; they apparently raise funds for such activities and also distribute miscellaneous related literature, all of which are potential sources of the required information. It is believed that an entree can be gained to ~~other target groups through this apparatus~~.

d. There are four basic categories of "penetrators" to be considered for this effort:



Due to the immediate need of this service, it appears that ~~_____~~ initially will be the best-suited and most productive for our purposes. The possibility exists that the other types can be utilized as they are needed and/or available.

e. Reportedly, some groups may conduct a background inquiry on prospective members to establish their bona fides. This possibility must be considered in the selection, briefing and backstopping of the candidates. It is also noted that the FBI and other Federal and local Agencies may have their own agents or sources in these groups. Consideration will be given as we develop our assets as to whether or not co-ordination with other Agencies is necessary or desirable.

Coordinated with FBI

2. It is planned to identify this project as MERRIMACK. Preliminary steps have been taken by the Chief, ~~_____~~ to activate the project as outlined above. A comprehensive operational plan will be submitted for your final approval.

~~_____~~

Chief, Special Activities Division