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5 October 1970

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## SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Prospects for Washington Disruption by Black Militants, November 1970

The Black Panther Party has scheduled the second session of a constitutional convention for Washington in November (the first session was held at Philadelphia over Labor Day weekend). The convention dates are still not firm but are believed to be for a beginning either on 4 November or 11 November and will run for several days. The site has also not yet been determined. The Panthers are trying to obtain the National Guard armory. Reportedly, Washington police are attempting to prevent the use of the armory for the event.

In a late September address to several hundred students at the University of Maryland, Rennie Davis, leading new left spokesman and one of the recently convicted Chicago conspirators, brought up the use of Maryland's Cole Field House as a possible site for the Panther convention. The request has since been considered by the student government (which split 8:7 in favor) and the administration. Use of the Cole Field House has since been denied by the student government and university administration (in a combined statement) for a number of valid reasons. The Panthers have not publicly expressed disappointment and probably neither expected nor wanted a site so far removed from the more friendly environs of Washington.

Prominent Black Panther personalities will be in town for the convention. Huey Newton, David Hilliard, Elbert "Big Man" Howard and Willie Dawkins are expected among others. Dawkins, principal leader of Washington activities for the Panthers and reportedly a major drafter of the new constitution, is presently a fugitive. Dawkins, recently involved in a Louisiana "shoot out," is sought by police on conspiracy to riot charges.

At this date, local police expect no trouble from the anticipated convention. The gathering is expected to be, in fact, a convention and not a demonstration. The Du Pont Circle area has not been noted in underground or radical publications as a possible site for black militant

demonstrations, and the D. C. police intelligence unit is not in possession of any information indicating this possibility. The Du Pont Circle area is known as the domain of the hippies of Washington, a community characterized as principally Caucasian.

There are several disturbing factors that must, however, be considered. It is known, for instance, that white new left radicals embracing varied philosophies are soliciting the allegiance of black dissidents. At the first Panther constitutional convention session (a chaotic and nonproductive effort) white radicals in attendance numbered about 40 per cent. The percentage will probably be that high in Washington. The white radicals' extra-campus sympathy stronghold in Washington would be among the "hippie" community, hence Du Pont Circle cannot be completely dismissed as a possible white radical inspired and led Panther demonstration site. Secondly, the Panthers may fail to find a large and suitable meeting place. Washington police are expecting between 20,000 and 25,000 people to attend, and radical organizers (white or black) have never been known to call off or postpone meetings over "minor" technicalities. The obvious result would be 25,000 people bent on dissent and militancy with no place to meet except the streets of Washington.

No other black militant groups are believed to have sufficient strength and support in Washington to stage a significant and/or violent demonstration in the city at this time.

In summary, the chance of a black militant demonstration of consequence in Washington, specifically in the Du Pont Circle area in November, is considered unlikely.

As additional information is developed, it will be reported.