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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**

**SUBJECT: NATION OF ISLAM**



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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6/28/55

SAC LETTER NO. 55-43

(1) THE MUSLIM CULT OF ISLAM -- Captioned monograph has been prepared by the Central Research Section at the request of Special Agents investigating this Cult and should be added to your field office library and afforded the usual security precautions.

As we know, though small, this is an especially anti-American and violent Cult about which almost nothing is known by the average Agent, who has found it most difficult to investigate. Therefore, you are requested to make certain that every Agent now investigating this Cult, and every Agent newly assigned to do so, study and absorb the contents of this monograph.

Two copies are being furnished to the Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Newark, New Haven, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington Field Offices. Five copies are being furnished to the New York Office and one copy to each of the other offices.



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## PREFACE

At the request of the field offices, this monograph has been prepared, explaining the origin, ideology and workings of the Muslim Cult of Islam (MCI).

Inasmuch as a knowledge of the orthodox religion of Islam is considered essential to an understanding of one of its most deformed branches, a brief history of the Islamic religion, an outline of its doctrines and a very brief explanation of the divisions of the Koran have been included in the first section of this monograph.

The anglicized forms of names and titles have been utilized; however, for purposes of information, the first reference to each has been followed by the Arabic form.

In view of the extreme fanaticism prevalent throughout the MCI, and the absolute lack of a doctrinal core, an attempt has been made in the second section of this monograph to set forth general patterns of belief and behavior, compiled through an over-all study of the various temples throughout the United States. Although there are some basic rules accepted throughout the Cult, it appears that many of the local leaders have adopted



the privilege of personal interpretation.

In the third section, an attempt has been made to illustrate the chasm existing between the orthodox religion of Islam and the unorthodox MCI.

The various enrollment forms and data, considered pertinent by the Cult, have been included in the Appendices.

The material in this study which relates to the history of Islam has been obtained from public sources and is documented as such. All of the data relative to the MCI has been obtained from confidential sources and is classified as confidential.

This monograph is intended to serve as an investigative aid to field office agents and to facilitate the handling of any problems which may arise in the conduct of such investigations. In view of the aberrant ideology and practices of the MCI, it is necessary to go into detail and present all of the information in the Bureau's possession which is considered essential to the successful handling of investigations regarding this group and the development of informants among its members.



## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

### A. Summary

This monograph includes a background of the orthodox religion of Islam, and the workings and organizational setup of the Muslim Cult of Islam. An effort has been made in the last section to point out those tenets of the orthodox religion that have been adopted as a structural part of the Cult, and the eccentric alterations made in them.

### B. Conclusions

1. The MCI is a fanatic Negro organization purporting to be motivated by the religious principles of Islam, but actually dedicated to the propagation of hatred against the white race. The services conducted throughout the temples are bereft of any semblance to religious exercises.
2. Organizationally, the MCI is a collection of autonomous temples bound by a tremulous personal relationship between the heads of the temples and the headquarters of the Cult in Chicago, Illinois.
3. The MCI, although an extremely anti-American organization, is not at the present time either large enough or powerful enough to inflict any serious damage to this country; however, its members are capable of committing individual acts of violence.
4. The aims and purposes of the MCI are directed at the overthrow of our constitutional government, inasmuch as the Cult members regard it as an instrument of the white race; therefore, it is obvious that this group, as long as it retains the ideas now motivating it, will remain an investigative problem to the FBI.



## I. THE RELIGION OF ISLAM

### A. Brief History

"Read: In the name of thy Lord who createth," <sup>1</sup> said the voice to Mohammed (Muhammad), \* who could not read. And thus was born "The Slave of Allah," "The Prophet of Islam," the man who united the wandering tribes of the Arabian desert and enabled them to emerge from the darkness of primitivism and savagery and build a civilization rich in scientific and cultural achievement. It was the twenty-fourth night of the month of Ramadan\*\* when the angel Gabriel brought the first revelation to Mohammed on Mount Hira. \*\*\*For the rest of Mohammed's life he continued to have these revelations, which were eventually compiled to form the bible of Islam, known as the Koran (al-Qur'an), "The Reading," -- the Reading of the man who knew not how to read. <sup>2</sup>

\*Born about 570 A. D. in Mecca, Arabia.

\*\*The ninth month of the year during which all Moslems fast. It falls in different seasons because of the lunar calendar.

\*\*\*A hill in the Arabian desert on which Mohammed received the first of the revelations.



For the first three years of his mission, Mohammed was considered a fanatic by the people of Mecca\* (Makka), and because of this he relegated his teachings to his family and intimate friends. Like most prophets, he was not without honor save in his own country. At the end of the third year, he received the command to "arise and warn" and thereafter preached in public. From 620 A. D., Mohammed's affairs at Mecca were in a crisis. By public standards, his mission was considered a failure until he met a group of men from Yathrib (later called Medina), a city more than two hundred miles away, who, recognizing him as the awaited Prophet, returned to their city and told what they had seen and heard. This was the only place which proved receptive to his teachings and it was in Yathrib that the future of Islam lay. 3

In the Summer of 622 A. D., to avoid being murdered, Mohammed fled from Mecca during the night and made his way to Yathrib. This is the famous hegira (hajj) from Mecca to Yathrib, from which the Moslem\*\* counts the years. It was in Yathrib that Mohammed built a theocratic state, and from Yathrib that he ruled a rapidly growing empire. The lonely prophet was now the armed conqueror!

\*The capital of Arabia fourteen centuries ago.

\*\*The more familiar form of the word Muslim.



Mass conversions are rarely made without bloodshed, and Islam was no exception. A series of savage conflagrations accompanied the rapid spread of the new religion over the sands of Arabia. Perhaps the most significant of these battles occurred between three hundred of Mohammed's men and one thousand Meccans at a place called Badr. The victory of Mohammed's inferior force was interpreted as a divine sanction of the new faith. Previous to this battle, Islam was a religion with a state; after this it became a state. But the tides of war were not always so favorable to Mohammed. More than a year later, amid the beating of timbrels, Mohammed's army was cut to ribbons on the plains of Ohod by hostile tribes, and only saved from complete annihilation by the exhaustion of the enemy. In 629 A. D., after a pilgrimage which Mohammed had sent to Mecca returned unharmed, he decided to venture there himself. His pilgrimage was made without incident and he won valuable converts in the city of Mecca, among whom were some who had previously fought against him. In 630 A. D., he marched against Mecca, which fell without a struggle. Pagan Arabia had been converted, and the missionaries of Islam were free to carry the Prophet's word to the Eastern Empire, Persia and Ethiopia. 4

Within a hundred years after Mohammed's death, in 632 A. D., not merely Arabia, but Syria, Persia, Egypt, Northern Africa and Spain



had been conquered by Mohammed's successors, called caliphs. Until the 11th century, when the Moslem world was split by the rise of the Turks, this culture was matched only by the Byzantine civilization. 5

## B. The Principles of Islam

Set forth below are the main principles of the orthodox religion of Islam, as taught by the Koran, and as strictly adhered to by past and present followers of Mohammed:

### 1. Articles of Faith

#### a. Profession of Faith

"There is no god but Allah. Mohammed is the Messenger of Allah."\* It is simply by bearing witness to the truth of these two propositions that a man enters the fold of Islam. 6

#### b. Belief in the Unity of God

According to the teachings of the Koran, God is one in His Person, His Attributes and His Works. Oneness in person means there is but one Godhead in which there is neither plurality of persons nor gods. Oneness in attributes implies that the Divine attributes in perfection are possessed by no

\*The Koran



other being. Oneness in works means that no being is capable of performing the works which God has done, or which God may do. <sup>7</sup>

c. Belief in the Prophets

Mohammed considered himself the last of the prophets and it is, therefore, incumbent on all Moslems to believe in the prophets of other nations. <sup>8</sup> "Say, O people! I am the Apostle of Allah to you all, of Him whose is the kingdom of the heavens and earth."\*

d. Belief in the Attributes of God

1. His knowledge
2. His power and control
3. His love and mercy
4. His punishment <sup>9</sup>

The highest ideal a man can place before him is a belief in a god who possesses the perfect attributes, for without such an ideal man loses his earnestness and noble aspiration.

\* The Koran



e. Belief in Divine Revelation

According to the religion of Islam, there are three forms of divine revelation:

1. The inspiring of an idea into the heart
2. Revelation while in a trance or dream
3. Revelation in which the angel brings the divine message in words. 10

f. Belief in the Angels

Angels are closely connected with the life of man from his birth to his death and during his progress in either Paradise or Hell. They act as intermediaries, and because of their servile positions they are considered inferior to men. 11

g. Belief in a Final Judgment and Life after Death

There will be a day of reckoning when man's deeds will be weighed before the Eternal Judge, when heaven and earth will melt away and only God's nearness will be apparent. So death, according to the Koran, is not the end of life but merely the door to a higher form of existence. 12



### **C. Fundamental Religious Duties**

The fundamental religious duties, or practices, recognized by Islam are five:

1. The profession of faith, which was previously defined, and which includes the following declarations:

- a. We will not worship any but the one God
- b. We will not steal
- c. We will not commit adultery
- d. Nor kill our children
- e. We will not slander in anywise
- f. Nor will we disobey the Prophet in anything that is right 13

2. Prayer

Prayer is considered the means of the realization of the Divine in man. It is said to be an instrument for dispelling all differences, racial, cultural and economic, between all men, and a force sufficiently cohesive to achieve a oneness of all humanity. 14

3. Charity (zakat)

This encompasses all acts of benevolence and doing good to humanity in general. According to Islam, God has given to man not only his wealth but also his faculties, and these should be



shared to the benefit of all. Actually, the provision for charity demands the giving up of a small portion of a man's wealth but does not interfere with his right to property. 15

4. Fasting

"So they should answer My call (by fasting) and believe in Me, so that they may find the way (to Me)."<sup>\*</sup> Fasting, according to Islamic principle, is primarily a spiritual discipline. It has as its main purpose spiritual purification and entails fasting from food and drink from dawn until sunset during the entire month of Ramadan. 16

5. Pilgrimage (hajj)

"And pilgrimage to the House is incumbent upon men for the sake of Allah, upon every one who is able to undertake the journey to it."<sup>\*\*\*</sup> In the world of Islam the pilgrimage is considered one of the major influences in destroying barriers of race, color and nationality, for it is on the pilgrimage that men speak one language, wear one dress and are taught to live, act and feel in one way. 17

\* The Koran

\*\* Ibid.



#### **D. The Koran**

In the last years of his life, Mohammed dictated his scriptures to his disciples. His messages were partly written on parchment, paper, palm leaves or bone, and partly committed to memory. The fragments were eventually collected and rearranged into the Koran. 18

The Koran is divided into 114 chapters, each of which is called a sura (surah). The suras are divided into two categories:

1. The Meccan suras, which number ninety-two, and which were revealed to Mohammed during his thirteen years' residence in Mecca. These suras give guidance to the individual soul and ground the adherents into the faith. 19
2. The Medina suras, which number twenty-two, and which were revealed to Mohammed during his ten-year stay in Medina. These suras give guidance to a growing social and political community and translate faith into action. 20

The revelations to Mohammed, while he was in a state of trance, comprise the Sacred Book and are never confused with those which occurred during the times when there were no physical changes apparent in him. The latter are known as the Hadith, or Sunnah, of the Prophet. 21



## II. THE MUSLIM CULT OF ISLAM

### A. Background and Origin

During and immediately following the first World War, the Negroes in the Southern States became extremely attracted to the northern industrial cities, such as Detroit, Pittsburgh and Chicago. They believed implicitly that the North, unlike the South, presented rare opportunities to improve the economic and cultural standards of the Negro. As a result of the prevalent illiteracy among these people and the large numbers of them who immigrated to the North, possibilities for employment diminished. The depression in the late 1920's completely dispelled the rest of their hopes and reduced greatly their living standards. During these years, many militant and cultist groups arose which reflected this intense desire for racial improvement and recognition, and which based the unenviable position of the Negro on the treatment afforded him by the white people. As each of these movements gained momentum, anti-Caucasian feelings became more pronounced until the pitch of unadulterated racial hatred was attained.

#### 1. The Marcus Garvey Movement

During 1914, in Jamaica, British West Indies, Marcus Garvey, a West Indian Negro, was imbued with the desire to collect his people from the four corners of the earth and return them to



African soil where the Negro could have a government and country of his own and establish himself in the eyes of the world as an African national. Garvey's success in the British West Indies was moderate, but moderateness did not satisfy his ambitions, so on March 23, 1916, he came to the United States where he established himself in the Harlem section of New York City. Garvey, who was referred to as the "Black Moses," described himself as the "Messiah of the Black People" throughout the world and made many inflammatory attacks on the white race and the treatment it afforded the Negro.

In July 1918, Garvey published a constitution and bylaws, and on October 23, 1921, his organization was incorporated in the State of New York under the name Universal Negro Improvement Association. In this country membership centered in New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Norfolk, Tampa, Savannah, and Indianapolis.

In 1920, Garvey dispatched a delegation of Negroes to Liberia to procure lands and other facilities for the purpose of resettling the American Negroes; however, the delegation was rejected by the Liberian Government.



Garvey's decline, though brought about by the activities of competitors, actually began with his arrest for selling stock in violation of state laws. After serving two years of his sentence, Garvey was deported to Jamaica. 22

Although Garvey died in London in 1940, his ideas did not die with him. Under the direction of a president general, William L. Sherill, in Detroit, Michigan, the Universal Negro Improvement Association is presently active and, together with the African Communities League, sponsors a publication, entitled "Garvey's Voice," which keeps alive the preachings of Marcus Garvey -- "One God--One Aim--One Destiny."

2. The Moorish Science Temple of America

During Garvey's imprisonment, there appeared on Chicago's street corners and vacant lots a Negro wearing a flaming red fez. This was Timothy Drew\* who called himself Noble Drew Ali, and who brought to the Negro the information that he was not a Negro but a Moor. Act six of his Divine Constitution and By-Laws reads:

\*Born in North Carolina in 1886; died 1929



With us all members must declare their nationality and their Divine Creed that they may know that they are a part and partial (sic) of this said government and that they are not Negroes, Colored Folks, Black People, or Ethiopians, because these names were given to slaves, by slave-holders, in 1779 and lasted until 1865 during the time of slavery, but this is a new era of time now, and all men must proclaim their free national name to be recognized by the government in which they live and the nations of the earth, this is the reason why Allah the Great God of the universe ordained Noble Drew Ali, the prophet, to redeem his people from their sinful ways. The Moorish Americans are the descendants of the ancient Moabites who inhabited the North Western and South Western shores of Africa. 23

Noble Drew Ali's Moorish star and crescent did not immediately draw many to his side, but it was not too long before the wearers of the fez, finally convinced of their elevation to eminence, were looking down on their inferior white antagonists, and hopefully adhering to the promises of Noble Drew Ali who offered them pride of race and dignity. Upon the receipt of reports indicating that the prejudices of his followers were being expressed through violence, the prophet issued strict instructions, "We did not come to cause confusion; our work is to uplift the nation." 24



As in the case of Marcus Garvey, competition soon arose. The organization split into two warring sections. On March 15, 1929, the leader of the opposing faction was stabbed to death, for which crime Noble Drew Ali was imprisoned. Released on bond, Ali died soon after under very mysterious circumstances.

After these events, the group was unsuccessfully held together as a national organization. However, like the Garvey Movement, it has never really reached oblivion. Many came forward through the years, claiming to be the prophet, Noble Drew Ali, reincarnated, and through their efforts many branches of the Moorish Science Temple of America were organized and are active today.

There have been several intimations that the Nation of Islam, set forth below, was an outgrowth of the Moorish Science Temple of America, and was begun because of dissension within the temple; however, this factor does not appear in any of the related histories of the cult.

3. The Nation of Islam

In 1930 there appeared on the streets of Detroit a peddler who, like the Arab or Syrian peddlers, went from house to house,



carrying his wares. As he contacted his fellow Negroes in the Elmwood district of Detroit, he convinced them of his ministerial abilities, and soon house meetings were being held under the guidance of the peddler, known variously as W. D. Fard, Prophet W. D. Fard, Prophet W. D. Fard Muk-Mud, W. D. Foard, Mr. Wali Farrad, Professor Ford, Mr. Farrad Mohammed, Mr. F. Mohammed Ali, and to the Bureau as Wallace Don Fard, FBI #56062. An individual who claims to have heard his first addresses states that Fard himself said:

My name is W. D. Fard and I come from the Holy City of Mecca. More about myself I will not tell you yet, for the time has not come. I am your brother. You have not yet seen me in my royal robes.

Fard at first utilized the Bible, inasmuch as most of his listeners were familiar with its teachings, but, as his following increased, he became more and more inflammatory in his remarks against the whites and denounced the Bible in shocking terms. The element of fanatical racial hatred became more pronounced than it had been in similar organizations and it was evident that Fard was actually cementing this factor into the foundation of his organization.



Very little of Fard's background was ever authentically exposed, but his impressionistic adherents, overawed by the mysterious aura, began to come forward with controversial information regarding his background. Some asserted that he was born in Mecca, the son of wealthy parents of the tribe of Koreish (Qureysh) from which Mohammed had come; that he was closely related by blood to the dynasty of the Hashimite sherifs of Mecca who became kings of the Hejaz; that he was educated at a college in England in preparation for a diplomatic career, but that he abandoned everything to bring "freedom, justice and equality," to "his uncle living in the wilderness of North America surrounded and completely robbed by the cave man."\*

It appears that the surrounding air of mystery affected Fard as much as it did his followers, for, when asked who he was by the Detroit Police Department, he answered, "I am the Supreme Ruler of the Universe."

\*The "black men in the wilderness of North America" are referred to symbolically in the cult ritual as "the uncle" of Mr. W. D. Fard. Muslims of the East--Syrians, Turks and others--are referred to as the "second uncle" of Mr. W. D. Fard.



Gradually there began to seep into the minds of his followers the idea that Fard was more than a man. As time passed, the idea reached the level of veneration.

The following quotation reflects this veneration in the past and present beliefs of this organization, now called the Muslim Cult of Islam, or the Allah Temple of Islam.

We are determined as our Savior Allah's Apostles to make known to our oppressed, robbed, degenerated, and rejected people the glad news of the presence of our long awaited Deliverer who was to come and has come. Whom we have seen and spoken to him face to face. Who is he then? The great Jehovah Master W. J. Mohammed who would come in the last days and search the earth for the lost brother of Asia, who had fallen among strangers and was robbed of all we originally possessed. Praise be to our Savior and King Master Fard Mohammed, the Almighty who have the keys of salvation to loose us out of this wicked devil civilization.

When the number of followers increased to the point where private homes were no longer large enough to accommodate the growing congregation, a temple service was begun. This first temple, originated by Fard in Detroit, is at the present time known as Temple No. 1 of the Muslim Cult of Islam.



To illustrate his new teachings, Fard used the physical and economic difficulties of the Negroes. Biblical prophecies and the teachings of Marcus Garvey and Noble Drew Ali were cited as foretelling the coming of the new prophet. Many of the people were illiterate and it became necessary to organize classes in English in order that they might be able to read "the proofs about themselves." Fard explained to the people that the publications which he recommended they read were symbolic and could be understood only through his own interpretation. He compiled a series of questions and answers which supposedly explain his teachings in a mathematical and scientific way. He introduced the Koran as the most authoritative of all texts for the study of the new faith; however, he used only the Arabic text which he translated and explained to his believers. His people were completely dependent upon his interpretations.

The potential dangerousness and the primitive instincts of some of the members of this organization were forcibly brought to the attention of the people of Detroit on November 21, 1932, when the newspapers carried a bloodcurdling story of human sacrifice. A prominent member of the Cult, one Robert Harris, somehow



induced his roomer, John J. Smith, to present himself as a human sacrifice so that he might become "The Saviour of the World." At the appointed hour of the sacrifice, Harris plunged a knife in Smith's heart as he lay waiting on the improvised altar. After Harris's arrest it became known that two social workers were slated as the next victims.

Another such incident involved the arrest on January 20, 1937, of the brother of an official of the Cult as he prepared for the ceremonial slaying and cooking of his wife and daughter to cleanse him from all sin.

In May of 1933, Fard was ordered to leave Detroit by the local authorities; however, his departure failed to bring the activities of the Cult to a conclusion. Ready, willing and able to assume leadership of the Nation of Islam was Gulam Bogans, known variously as Elijah Poole, Gulam Bogans and Mohammed Rassouli, who was to become Elijah Mohammed, the present leader of the Muslim Cult of Islam.

Gulam Bogans was born "Elijah Poole" on October 7, 1897, near Sandersville, Georgia, one of the thirteen children of Wali



and Marie Poole, whose parents had been slaves of a white family with the same surname. He finished four grades in school and left home at the age of sixteen years. In 1923 he took his wife, the former Clara Evans, and their two children to Detroit, Michigan, where he was employed in several manufacturing plants until the beginning of the depression in 1929. During these lean years, Bogans met W. D. Fard, who acquainted him with the tenets of the Cult, and who, according to Bogans, personally took him "out of the gutter in the streets of Detroit and taught him in three and one-half years the knowledge of Islam. When Fard left Detroit, he designated Bogans, who was now called Elijah Mohammed, as the leader of the Muslims in North America. Throughout the Cult membership, the disappearance of Fard and resultant change in leadership are explained as follows: Fard, in reality Allah himself, left Detroit to travel to Mecca, and left the Cult in the capable hands of his apostle, Elijah Mohammed.

Elijah Mohammed taught in Detroit until September 1934, when, because of local pressure, he decided to remove to Chicago where he established Temple No. 2, the headquarters of the MCI.



In 1942, Elijah Mohammed stated that the main purpose of the MCI is "to clean up the dark people physically and spiritually so they will be respected by the other civilized people of the earth. In their present condition they are not and cannot be honored and respected by intelligent people. Islam desires to eliminate prostitution, gambling and drinking among the dark people so they can be respected."

Membership in the Cult is restricted exclusively to Negroes; however, it is known that at least one member of the Caucasian race is associated with the Cult as instructor in Arabic. Although this individual is a white man, because of his Palestinian nationality he would be considered by members of the MCI as a "brother." As far as their services are concerned, no "white devil" is allowed to enter the temples, and statements have been made by local Cult leaders which indicate that violence would be considered a necessary measure to insure security.

#### B. Organization of MCI

The headquarters of the Cult is, as previously noted, located in Chicago, Illinois. It is known as Temple No. 2, and is under the personal direction of the national leader, or Prophet, Elijah Mohammed.



1. Temple Organization

The MCI is particularly active in the following cities: Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York, New York; Washington, D. C.; Boston, Massachusetts; Atlantic City, New Jersey; Youngstown, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; San Diego, California; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Each Cult temple is, as a rule, divided into the following organizational breakdown:

a. Fruit of Islam (FOI)

This is the military section of the MCI. Each temple has a section of the FOI within it which is composed only of the male members. Each section is under the trusted care of a captain who is, reportedly, directly responsible to Elijah Mohammed. These sections are further divided into squads which are headed by trusted members of the temple with the title of lieutenant. Each individual within the squad is answerable to his lieutenant who in turn is responsible to the captain.



At least one night a week is devoted to military training which includes judo, the use of knives and blackjacks, and military drills such as marching in regular columns.

Secondary duties of the FOI, according to information received, are the handling of disciplinary matters within the temple, supervising "trials," guarding the Prophet or local minister as well as the selection and training of those members who are chosen to act as temple guards, and insuring the security of the temple against any invasion by "spies" of the "devil." In connection with the War of Armageddon, the Cult looks on this section as an extremely important factor in the eventual emergence of Asiatic world dominance.

b. Muslim Girls' Training (MGT)

This section is composed of the female members of the Temple who are trained in the duties of the Muslim woman, especially in regard to homemaking, cooking, sewing, and their duties and obligations to their husbands and families.



c. General Civilization Class, Also Referred to as Girls' Civilization Training (GCT)

This section is also composed of the female members of the Cult but usually the younger members who are taught the doctrines and theories of Islam.

d. The University of Islam

This section is dedicated to the furtherance of the knowledge of Islam among members of the Cult, and has its location in Chicago. Although branches of the University are found in the organizational setup of several temples, as a general rule the education of temple members is handled independently by the minister or his assistants, or individuals designated to perform such duties.

In this connection it should be noted that in 1934 it came to the attention of the Detroit Board of Education that children of certain Negro families were being withdrawn from the public schools. An investigation which was instituted by the Board reflected that the families involved were members of this Cult and that the children missing from the schools were attending the



University of Islam, a school which had been established by the Cult. An immediate examination of the school was made and it revealed that the "curriculum, the teaching staff, and the equipment were entirely inadequate to afford even the most rudimentary education for the colored children who were attending. Not only was the school inadequate, but the subject matter which was taught appeared to be of a fantastic nature quite outside the realities of life." Attempts which were made to close the schools by the enforcement of the school attendance laws resulted in strengthening the resistance of the Cult, causing it and the school to operate in secrecy. A final decision of the Board resolved to refrain from rigid enforcement of the attendance laws and to assist "in adjusting the underlying economic and social problems of other Negro families of the same class in order that the movement may not spread; and to ignore temporarily the irritating 'bumptiousness' of this particular group."

In 1954 information was received indicating that in the University of Islam various subjects are taught ranging



from elementary grade school subjects to allegedly "advanced subjects" for adult members. During the day, children of the Cult members are expected to attend this school instead of the "devil's schools" and such subjects as reading, spelling, arithmetic, Arabic and Islamic history are taught. There is apparently no standard of advancement or division of grades in the school and, from observations, those teaching in it have little or no educational background.

e. Public Institutions

One of the numerous explanations offered by the Cult for the origin of the American Negroes is that they are members of the Lost Tribe of Shabazz, and it is from this idea that they have obtained the name for the various business enterprises, such as grocery stores, restaurants, laundries, and farms, operated by several temples of the Cult. Some of these institutions carry the word Shabazz in their names and were organized to enable members of the Cult to secure freedom from the



control of the "devil." Members are urged to patronize these institutions, the profits of which, it is stated, go toward the maintenance of the entire organization.

This is not a condition prevalent throughout the entire organization but is found in only a few temples.

2. National Officers

Besides the Prophet, there are three recognized national officers: a medical director, a personal secretary to the Prophet and the head of the FOI in the United States. The other officials of the Cult are assigned to the remaining eleven temples.

3. Local Officers

The positions held by these officers vary according to the size of each individual temple; however, the following listing complies more or less with the general pattern:

Head Minister and Assistants

These officers are supposedly selected by Elijah Mohammed, and are responsible for the functioning of the temple. The number of assistants depends on the size of the temple and its needs.



### General Secretary

The secretaries are reportedly selected by Elijah Mohammed and handle duties in keeping with secretarial functions. If found to be other than righteous, they are subject to removal by Elijah Mohammed or the Head Minister.

### Treasurer

The treasurer is usually present at each meeting and handles all of the collections or contributions. It is his responsibility to see that the amounts received are handled in accordance with the regulations set forth by the officials of Islam.

### Head Investigator and Assistants

These individuals investigate such matters as are assigned to them by the officials, and are responsible for reporting their findings to their superiors. The number of assistants depends on the needs of the temple.

Captain (FOI)  
Assistant Captain (FOI)  
First Lieutenant (FOI)  
Second Lieutenant (FOI)



The captain and officers of the FOI are directly responsible for the efficient training of the members of this section in various military maneuvers.

Captain (MGT & GCT)  
First Lieutenant (MGT & GCT)

The women who head the Muslim Girls' Training and Girls' Civilization Training are responsible for training the female members of the Cult in domestic duties, and educating them so they will be able to assume intelligently their responsibilities after the civilization of the white man has been obliterated.

#### C. Financial Program

From the information available, it appears that the main source of funds utilized in the maintenance of the Prophet, his family, ministers and rental and operating expenses for temple properties, stems from the voluntary contributions of the members; however, in view of the amounts involved, several members have expressed their suspicions of the existence of some unexplained source of funds.

In 1942, a letter was found in the headquarters of the Cult, which was addressed to the Muslims by Elijah Mohammed and in which he acknowledged



the receipt of a sum of money. A postscript written by hand on the side of the letter stated: "It makes the hypocrites all angry when they hear of all you contributing to me, so let's make them made plenty mad so they will learn who we are."

In 1952, the members of one temple were requested to contribute one third of their salaries.

In 1953, information was received that another temple was asking for donations of \$210 per person to help establish a fund of \$200,000 for a cooperative store to be built in Chicago. Because of the extreme pressure put on members, and their inability to pay this amount, many of them dropped membership.

In a number of temples, donation booklets are issued in which members are requested to designate the purposes to which their contributions are to be directed, i. e., Treasury, Poor Fund, Minister, University of Islam, Prophet's Home, Secretary, Special Donations, Prophet's Fund, and Minister's Fund.

It has been indicated that another source of income originated from the profits of the various business enterprises controlled by the Cult, such as the previously mentioned restaurants, laundries, and grocery stores.



In August 1954, Elijah Mohammed addressed a congregation, at which time he indicated that the real estate holdings of the Cult in the Chicago area totaled approximately \$153,500.

**D. Meetings**

The regular meetings of the MCI are considered open meetings at which visitors are welcome. The meetings of the FOI are closed, and only members who have obtained their "X" \* names are allowed to attend. This rule is also applied to meetings of the MGT and GCT. An air of strict secrecy pervades all of the meetings, and strict rules are in existence which forbid the discussion of the proceedings of each of the meetings between members of the different sections.

**1. Conduct of Meetings**

The following description cannot, of course, be accepted as established procedure in every temple in the United States because, like every aspect of this organization, there is no regulated pattern; however, accepting certain existing variations in deportment, it does reflect a general picture of the usual procedure.

\*Their "Slave names," or given names, are taken away at the time of enrollment in the Cult and substituted by the surname with "X."



Any person entering the Temple, including members, is immediately searched. If the person is a male, he is searched and advised that no sharp instruments, such as files or knives, guns, cigarettes, boxes, papers, chewing gum or alcohol are allowed in the temple. If the person is a female, she is taken into a separate room, where she is searched by the women for weapons of any kind and relieved of possessions such as lipstick and other cosmetics. All of the property confiscated from members and visitors is returned at the conclusion of the meeting. A visitor, immediately after the search, is escorted under guard to the visitors' section, usually situated directly in front of the speaker's rostrum. If the person is a member, after making donations to the various Cult activities, he is ushered into the main part of the Temple. As a rule, male members of the Temple sit toward the front and the female members toward the rear.

Procedures in individual temples will, of course, vary but the meeting is usually begun by the Head Minister or, in his absence, one of his assistants, who reads an opening prayer. In some temples this prayer is followed by the Muslim Fighting Song,



the words to which are included in the Appendices at the end of this monograph. Following the song, if it is sung, the congregation is questioned as to the Student Enrollment, Lost-Found Muslim Lesson No. 1, the planets, mathematics and the Fruit of Islam. All of this data has been included in the Appendices. During the course of the meeting, pertinent subjects, as often as possible involving frequent references to the "white devil," which elicit great feelings of animosity and hatred, are discussed by various members who either direct their conversation to the individual controlling the meeting or to the members themselves. At the close of the meeting, the usual prayer is said and is answered by all members in unison.

2. Physical Description

The room where the meeting is held is generally of the auditorium type and usually has, in the front, a speaker's rostrum situated on a platform. Behind the rostrum, the flags of the United States and Islam are painted on a blackboard. Above the Stars and Stripes is the word "Christianity"; below, the words "Slavery, Suffering, Death." Directly beneath the word "Death" is a cross,



to the left of which is a picture of a Negro hanged from the limb of a tree. Over the flag of Islam, which is composed of a white crescent and star on a field of red, the word "Islam" is printed; beneath the flag are the words "Freedom, Justice, Equality." Stationed about the room are a series of guards who stand in military fashion at all times and who are relieved every thirty minutes, whether or not an individual is speaking, by other guards after an exchange of military salute.

E. Enrollment and Education

After having attended several meetings, a person interested in joining the Cult is requested to copy, verbatim, a form letter of application and submit it to Elijah Mohammed in Chicago. It must be handwritten in ink on bond paper, and, it is alleged, if there is a single error in spelling or punctuation, the letter will be returned for correction. In reply, the Prophet advises the applicant that he has been accepted, gives him his "X" name, and encloses the extremely important Lesson No. 1, which it is incumbent upon the new member to memorize. Upon mastery of this document, the perplexed individual then undertakes the exhaustive study of the Student Enrollment and Answers, Lost-Found Muslim Lesson No. 1, the book that



"teaches the Lost-Found Nation of Islam. A thorough knowledge of our miserable state of condition in a mathematical way, when we were found by our Saviour W. D. Fard," by Prophet W. D. Fard, and the various facts relating to geography, astrology, mathematics, and scientific data.

All of the foregoing material is included in the Appendices.

The Cult tries to impress on its members the necessity for absorbing all of this information, and yet, as far as can be determined, never fully explains how such fantastic elements are applicable to the doctrines of the Cult. One member, however, came forward with an explanation of the following problem:

A lion, in a cage, walks back and forth sixty feet per minute, seeking a way out of the cage. It took him nearly four centuries to find the door. Now, with modern equipment, he is walking three thousand feet per minute and he has three thousand miles by two thousand miles to go yet.

How long will it take him to cover this territory of said three thousand by two thousand miles at the above walking rate? Five thousand two hundred eighty feet equal one mile. He also has seventeen million keys, which he turns at the rate of sixteen and seventeen one hundredths per minute.

How long will it take him to turn the whole seventeen million? Sixty minutes equals one hour, twenty-four hours equals one day, three hundred and sixty-five equals one year. The above figures do not include rusty locks.



According to this member, such problems are examples of symbolism. "The lion in the cage is the 'original man,' or Asiatic, held in bondage for four centuries within a trap fabricated by the 'Caucasian devil.' The seventeen million keys represent a like number of Asiatics held in bondage in 'the wilderness of North America.' 'Modern equipment,' naturally, is the teaching of Islam, by which the 'original man' progresses rapidly toward emancipation. 'Rusty locks' are recalcitrant 'Asiatics' who have not yet accepted Islam." 25

#### F. Membership

Although statements have been made by Cult members to indicate a much higher figure, there is reason to believe that at no time has Cult membership ever exceeded 3,000, and a very generous estimate as to the current membership would be approximately 2,000.

#### G. Conventions

Each year, usually from February 26 through February 27, an MCI Convention is held in Chicago, Illinois. Members from the various temples throughout the United States attend this convention, where they are apprised of the past progress made by the Cult and of plans for future expansion and accomplishments.



## **H. Rebellious Tendencies**

The MCI was born of a chimerical resentment against the supremacy of the white race, and nourished on a persistent advocacy of rebellion against its civilization.

### **1. Instances of Violence against Police Authority**

On several occasions, the primitive hatred, with which members are so imbued, exploded into open violence. During the 1930's, the Detroit Board of Education tried on various occasions to prosecute Cult families for violations of the state education laws. After several arrests, members of the MCI Temple banded together and stoned the prison. To avoid a race riot, the judge issued orders for the prisoners' release.

Another incident occurred in September 1950, in San Diego, involving two officers of the San Diego Police Department who were attempting to serve a traffic warrant. Upon arriving at the address, two individuals accosted the officers and advised them the subject of the warrant was not at home. When the officers exhibited the warrant and expressed their intention of searching the house, they were ruthlessly attacked. This perpetrated a near riot and necessitated the calling out of additional cars and approximately



twenty officers. Before the subject was taken into custody and order was restored, an unknown individual fired three shots into a police car. It was later determined that the subject and the two individuals who intercepted the officers were all members of the San Diego Temple of the Muslim Cult of Islam.

In February 1951, another incident occurred which involved a disturbance between members of the Cult who were en route to the yearly convention in Chicago. Members of the Montgomery County Police in Silver Spring, Maryland, were alerted. Four policemen who met the train and entered the car were assaulted and had their guns and blackjacks taken away from them by members of the Cult. This necessitated a call for police reinforcements, and nine members of the Cult were removed to the station and charged with assault.

2. Opposition to Federal Authority

a. Violations of the Selective Service Statutes

Such open defiance is not relegated merely to local authority. In view of the stand this organization has taken in connection with service in the armed forces, members have consistently, since the passage of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, adhered to the teachings



of their leaders in refusing to register, because they claim to be registered in the book of Allah in the Holy City of Mecca and cannot serve two masters. In 1942, three leaders of the MCI, including Elijah Mohammed, and seventy members of the Chicago Temple were arrested by Agents of the Bureau. The charges leveled against the leaders included failure to register for selective service, sedition, and counseling their followers "that members of the Temple of Islam should not go into the Army and should ignore any cards or letters from the local draft board." The indictments returned for sedition and conspiracy to commit sedition were dismissed in May 1943; however, the three leaders served prison terms for selective service violations. Of the seventy members arrested, approximately forty served prison terms for violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940.

During the course of the Second World War and the war in Korea, such incidents were repeated throughout the country, and a number of convictions were secured



for violations of the Selective Service acts; and now with the threat of hostilities in the Far East, the Cult has again taken an open stand against service in the armed forces of the United States. They continue to include in their teachings such information as:

The black people have always been helping the devil by fighting in his wars, but the Muslims do not go to war but rather to jail.

Those who register will be kicked out of the nation of Islam and will die with the white devils.

During April 1954, there was an indication that the Cult sought to soften its policy toward selective service by stating that, if the Government would guarantee Muslims that they would not have to fight their brother Muslims, they would not oppose selective service and would voluntarily enter the armed forces under the draft. However, since the Government could not guarantee this and since it was highly probable that Muslims would place themselves in a position to be ordered to fight other Muslims, they



could not, if they wished to remain Muslims, enter the armed forces.

3. Disloyalty and Disrespect for the United States Government

Intertwined with defiance of the provisions of the Selective Service acts is a vivid disloyalty to the Government and a continual disrespect for its laws. Such comments as "no good Muslim registers for the draft, vote or do anything else in the Devil's government," are repeatedly made throughout the various temples. In a publication obtained from the headquarters of the MCI in Chicago, entitled "The Final Call to Islam," the following appeared:

Of all the governments of the world there never existed one so wicked as America, which has misled the Holy People of Allah, and deceived them into worshipping a God that they cannot see, nor hear, that is a God which does not exist. For this cause Allah, has stretched forth his hand against the wicked America to bring her down, even to dust and ashes, a country whose land is full of churches and in them wickedness is practiced beyond words to describe.

In 1942, Elijah Mohammed colorfully described the American flag as follows:

The flag you see here is the flag of the white devil. The white that you see, and notice that you don't see any black any where on it, represents the white race; the red represents the blood that they lose



keeping it for the white devil alone, the blue background, the white stars represent justice to the whites, not the red men or the black men but only for the white devils.

He told his people not to display the flag of the white devil, because the flag meant nothing to them but a banner with stars and stripes and a piece of blue cloth, but the flag of Islam meant their very salvation.

There seems to be a great desire to see Russia and the Asiatic countries destroy the continent of North America. When the United States was at war with Japan, the Cult considered the Japanese their "little brown brothers" and gleefully predicted the victory of the Land of the Rising Sun. In 1942, Elijah Mohammed reportedly made the following statement at a temple meeting:

The Japanese flag is similar to our flag of Islam and the likeness is because the Japanese are our brothers and they are the only ones who will give us justice, freedom and equality.

At the outbreak of war in Korea, the Cult immediately allied its sympathies with the cause of North Korea and spoke in glowing terms of the strength and prowess of their Korean brothers.

When the Asiatic man (Negro) enters the United States Army, he is sent to Korea where he is required to fight against his own brother.



They have consistently referred to their Asiatic brothers in Russia, and, while there is no evidence to prove affiliation with the Communist Party, many of the leaders have lost no occasion to rise, verbally, to the defense of the Soviet Union in any matter involving difficulties between the United States and Russia.

The United States has undertaken more than they can handle when they attempted to bully Russia, since they found they could not exploit Russia nor would the Russians allow themselves to be pushed around by a nation of devils. The Russians are brothers of the Muslims and are completely Asiatic in origin.

For years the Cult has taken particular delight in teaching that a "mother plane" is continually circling the continent of North America, and threatening destruction of the Planet Earth. One variety of description is set forth below:

There are brilliant black men on this plane from the ages of 12 to 25. It is made of the strongest materials in the world and cannot be bombed by any devil because it flies 600 feet above the distance any plane has climbed. Allah has carefully planned every detail and the pilots know every stop in the country and any place where there are devils. It has the capacity of throwing thirty bombs to earth, each of which travels fifty square feet. When each bomb comes to a stop it releases a highly poisonous gas that will not allow a man to breathe after this Allah will come and set the world on fire.



## I. Subversive Tendencies

True to the nature of this organization, there seems to be an unequally divided opinion among the speakers and leaders as to whether or not the MCI is sympathetic to the cause of Soviet Russia and the Communist Party. Apart from the frequent references to the Russians as "brothers" of the Muslims, there have been instances when individual leaders throughout the United States have evidenced either pro-Russian or anti-Russian sentiments. The sentiments expressed seem to depend on the personal feelings of the individual speaker. In 1953, it was reported that an official of the Cult stated Russia is actually a brother nation but, if the fact became known, the Muslims would be branded as Communists.

In 1954, information was received which indicated that an official of the MCI had stated that the Cult is not a Communist group but that the Communist Party was working indirectly for the Cult, since it intends to take over the Government by force and violence and thus should aid the main purpose of the MCI.

In 1952, it was considered that the MCI was being used to advance the interests of the Soviet Union.

Russia has joined with the black righteous brothers. Very soon now we will take over the country and kill all white men because they are the devils.



Party of the United States, or any other subversive group.  
definite indication that the MCI is under any direct influence of the Communist

Russia and the Communist Party, there has never been developed any  
Although there have been statements pro and con regarding

Communism as much as the State Department did."

Muslims were not connected with any Communists and that they "hated

An official of another Temple allegedly stated in 1953 that the

the Cult than the Americans or British.

that the Russians were like all other devils in that they would be no more help to

At another meeting in 1953, a Cult official was reported as stating

No, we are not Communists. Communists do not believe  
in Allah and anyone that doesn't believe in Allah is not  
with us nor are we with them.

In 1952 it was reported that Elijah Mohammed stated in effect:

heritage and move with Elijah Mohammed at the command of Allah.

with sufficient members of their race could be indoctrinated into their true

Reds or Communists, but just Muslims who were only biding their time

the meetings during 1952, the speaker stated that the Muslims were not

In contrast to these sentiments, it was reported that, at one of



As far as the MCI is concerned, it seems that nothing

drastic enough can happen to the North American continent and nothing is more pleasing to them than to indulge in the reverie

of wishful thinking.

These feelings have been carried to the extent of repeated

predictions of the termination of the Presidency of the United States.

During Mr. Truman's term of office, the Cult emphatically stated he was to be the last president. After President Eisenhower was

elected, leaders throughout the Cult gloomily stated that, according

to Allah, there are going to be only thirty-four presidents of the United States, and the destruction of North America will occur

during his term.

In typical frenzied fashion, these remarks finally evolved

to direct statements and inferred threats concerning the death

of the President. In 1954, one of the leaders stated that the Muslims

should be the ones to kill the President and the rest of the big men

in America, not the Puerto Ricans.

At another meeting in 1954, one of the speakers stated that

it has been written that the President of the United States will be

killed, and he cautioned members that he hoped "they can be located

at any time they are needed by the temple."



**J. Potential Threat to the Internal Security**

Based upon an analysis of the rabid teachings of this group, it is definitely considered that these people present a threat to the internal security of the United States, and would, with the right number of followers and the opportunity, be more than willing to perform any acts which would subvert American principles and endanger the existence of the American nation as such.



### **III. IDEOLOGY OF THE MCI**

It is obvious that W. D. Fard, the founder of the Cult, selected those tenets of the orthodox religion of Islam which would lend themselves to dilution with Congo passion. As far as the ideology of this movement is concerned, it appears that each speaker has the privilege of advancing as close to the realm of fanatical, insane hatred as he wishes, and many of them, fully conscious of the psychological make-up of their listeners, exceed the limit.

#### **A. Beliefs of the MCI**

1. Follow the teachings of Allah, as interpreted by Elijah Mohammed, the "true Prophet of Allah" and titular head of the MCI.

There is no God besides Allah. Allah is he of whom nothing is independent, and upon whom we all depend. He forgets us not, nor is he beguiled. None is thy kingdom. And I bear witness nothing deserves to be worshipped or served besides Allah. And I bear witness to Elijah Mohammed he is thine servant and apostle. Amen.

Elijah Mohammed was sent to North America by Allah to lead the Muslims in the destruction of the devil and to prepare for the coming of Allah to this country.



2. There is no such thing as a Negro. The so-called Negro race is of Asiatic origin and nature and is the original race on earth.

The original man is the Asiatic black man, creator God and owner the universe and father of civilization.

It took John the Baptist 600 years to make a white man out of a colored man. A black man and a black woman gave birth to two black children, one being dark complected and the other light. John the Baptist then kept using the two lightest complected children until after 600 years he made a pale faced white and blue-eyed devil, who was weak and wise. John and the other white devils were later exiled to the island of Palom. They had to march 2000 miles across the burning desert of Arabia and they had been stripped of their clothes during the time they were on the island of Palom for hundreds of years. They made their way into Europe where they mated with animals and lived like dogs, but the white devils emerged strong and started a thriving civilization.

3. The white race is always referred to as the "devils."

There ain't no other devil on the planet earth or under the earth but the white man. And there's no history to prove no other devil but the white man. There is nobody that can prove the existence of no other devil but the white man. Not even the Bible.

Allah further taught that the dark people will have peace when the trouble maker, that is the devils, or white man, is separated from the peaceful.



4. All of the original race who accept Islam register with Allah's apostle, Elijah Mohammed, and thereafter owe allegiance only to Islam.

None of the original men presently residing in North America owe any allegiance to the United States since they are of Asiatic origin and owe allegiance only to Islam.

5. The "white devils" allotted time to rule the world has passed, and the fast approaching "War of Armageddon" will result in Asiatic world ownership and the emulation of the Muslim practices and way of life over all other ways.

In a very short time Allah will institute a war for the "righteous" against the "white devils," which will involve the entire world. The black man will win this war due to the fact that the white man's time to rule expired in 1914.

The war that is being shaped up is the War of Armageddon, and the war of the gods against the devils, the white man against the black man.

6. The "white devils" have withheld from the so-called Negroes the history of their true identity and culture, and have imposed slave names. After joining the Cult, the slave name is replaced with the surname with the letter X.



Christianity has failed to prevent the enslaving of the black man and they have been the subject of much injustice, robbed of their heritage, their identity, their name and language and made the victims of all manner of injustice.

The white people kept the colored people slaves for 310 years through trickery. The colored people reproduced and the white people kept the colored babies but killed off the old people. Therefore, the colored people could not account for 65 years.

7. The Principles of Islam

- a. Belief in Allah and his apostle Elijah Mohammed
- b. Belief in the prophets and in the scriptures
  - 1. The Bible
  - 2. The Holy Koran
- c. Prayer five times a day
- d. Charity, in its broadest sense
- e. Fasting, mostly during the month of Ramadan (considered as falling yearly in the month of December)

B. Practices of the MCI

Other than prayer, charity and fasting, incorporated in the above-mentioned five principles of Islam, members of the Cult are urged to practice the virtue of cleanliness which they consider as essential as being physically able to fight in the War of Armageddon.



They have listed what they consider the three great evils which members of the Cult are bound to overcome:

1. Use of pork which is 99% evil
2. Smoking which is an evil instituted by the white devils to dull the mind and intellect of the original man
3. Fornication and adultery

C. Comparison of Certain Tenets of the Orthodox Religion of Islam with the Unorthodox MCI

An effort has been made in the following paragraphs to clarify the position of the MCI as a mongrelized product of the orthodox religion of Islam. Certain aspects have been selected which lend themselves readily to a clear comparison.

1. Belief in Allah and the Prophets  
Orthodox

The orthodox Muslim sincerely believes in Allah as the Supreme Being who created the universe, and expresses his faith by complete submission to the Divine Will. He believes that Mohammed was the Messenger, and the greatest and last of the prophets, to whom Allah revealed certain patterns for human



conduct which would lead men to the attainment of spiritual perfection on this earth and happiness in eternity. 26

The religion of Islam requires a belief not only in the Holy Koran but in all the books of God, granted to all the nations of the world.

And those who believe in that which has been revealed to thee and that which was revealed before thee, and are certain of the Hereafter. \*

#### Unorthodox MCI

Although the Cult members profess a belief in Allah, and preface their meetings with orthodox Moslem prayers soliciting Allah's aid, their methods of worship are extremely unconventional. Allah, together with unexplained digits and psuedo-scientific data, has become merely a name to be memorized. This lack of perception has led them to at times fuse Allah with the prophet, W. D. Fard, and to attribute to Fard a "divine" significance. The Messenger, to whom Allah made his revelations, is not a revered figure in history, but a man they know who lives in Chicago, Illinois.

\* The Koran



From habit, they profess belief in the Hebrew and Christian prophets, but their rabid denial of the doctrines of Christianity belies this profession of belief.

Joseph was the father of Jesus. Jesus was born like any other man, just like any other man. But after the people over here who call themselves the most intelligent people finished doctoring this book which you call the holy Bible, and when you call it the holy Bible you don't know what you're talking about because when I ask you to define the word holy you probably cannot tell me what the word holy means.

Jesus and the previous prophets of the Bible were prophets for the white devil and the only negro prophet was Elijah Mohammed who came to Detroit in 1930.

2. Racial Hatred

Orthodox

Nowhere in the tenets of the orthodox religion of Islam does there appear any indication of racial prejudice. On the contrary, to the Muslim the religion of Islam is considered as being an international religion which has as its ideal the complete equality of all races and the unity of mankind. There is no color or race prejudice and no distinction between an Arab and non-Arab. 27



The whole of humanity is declared to be one nation. All prejudice of race, color and language are demolished and a vast brotherhood extending over all the world, has been established, every member of which is bound to accept the prophets of all nations, and to treat all nations equally. 28

### Unorthodox MCI

As previously indicated, this aspect is the very foundation of all of the teachings of the Cult. The white man is indeed the scapegoat, upon whom is vented a hatred so tinged with primitivism that it has almost regressed to savagery. It is to the white race that these Negroes gladly throw the blame for all of their social, economic and cultural ills, and it is from the preachings of their leaders that they receive the food for their emotional appetites.

### 3. Advocacy of Violence

#### Orthodox

No reference whatsoever to the spread of Islam by force can be found in the Koran. The Moslems, though allowed to fight in self-defense to preserve their national existence, were forbidden to provoke war; however, they were commanded to utilize their maximum strength in the event war was forced upon them.



And let not hatred of a people incite you to exceed the limits; and help one another in goodness and piety and do not help one another in sin and aggression. \*

Personal violence, such as murder and revenge, are sins against society and are punishable under Moslem law. True nobility lay in forgiveness and those who restrain their anger and pardon men shall receive Paradise. 29

#### Unorthodox MCI

Although there have been no organized acts of violence committed by the Cult, the element of desire for violence appears to be an emotional stimulant for every practicing member. Well aware of the emotional needs of their audiences, the leaders lose no opportunity to advocate a bloody revenge against the white race in the "War of Armageddon." Armageddon, the great battlefield where, in the last times, the powers of evil will fight the powers of good, has been redefined in Cult terminology to mean the conflagration soon to take place when the Asiatics will sweep through the world, killing men, women and children until there will be "blood up to your windshield and you will be swimming in it."



#### 4. Attitude toward Places of Worship

##### Orthodox

An orthodox Moslem looks on the mosque as a training ground where the doctrines of the fraternity and equality of mankind are put into practical working, and the community is educated on all questions of its welfare. Once a mosque has been built, it is open to Moslems of all persuasions and no one has the right to prohibit Moslems of a certain persuasion or sect from entering any mosque. 30

And who is more unjust than he who prevents men from the mosques of Allah, that His name should be remembered in them, and strives to ruin them?\*

##### Unorthodox MCI

In the Cult. no one but a Negro is allowed access to the inner sanctum of the temple, and many dire threats have been made against any member of the white race who attempts entry. Whether the man is a Moslem or non-Moslem makes no apparent difference; the color of his skin is the sole bar to his entry.

It is too late for the devils to come into Islam for the door is closed. I don't care who he is or what he is, not one devil can

\* The Koran



come across that door sill. I don't care if it is the President, the King of England, or how big he is. We will die to prevent him from coming in that door.

## 5. Prayer

### Orthodox

Prayer is the second pillar of faith and is one of the instruments by which an individual develops the art of self-mastery. It is an integral part of the religion of Islam, because it is through the medium of prayer that humanity obtains the desired peace of mind and reaches the ideal of spiritual perfection. 31

The Prayers which are said five times a day:

1. Fajr, or the morning prayer, is said after dawn and before sunrise.
2. Zuhr, or the early afternoon prayer, is said when the sun begins to decline.
3. Asr, or the late afternoon prayer, is said when the sun is about midway on its course to setting.
4. Maghrib, or the sunset prayer, is said immediately after the sun sets.
5. Isha, or the night prayer, is said when the red glow in the west disappears. 32

### Unorthodox MCI

It would be impossible to establish that individual members of the Cult lacked an appreciation of the value of prayer; however,



as utilized by the leaders, prayer is merely a series of words used as a measure of opening and closing meetings. One of the most striking aspects of the prayers repeated by Cult members is an absolute lack of devotion and fervor. The form of prayer seems to vary with the feelings of the particular leader.

5 times daily if can 7 times  
1. before sun up. 2. 10 clock if can  
next 12 or 1 next 3 or 4 if can next  
after sun down if 7 prayers the 5  
prayer Just before sun down 6 after 7  
in the Bed you do not hafter get up  
just lay on your side either way.

6. Charity and Fasting

Orthodox

These practices, together with prayer, enable the Moslem, through self-mastery, to attain the apex of dignity, human conduct, and elevation of the mind. Charity accentuates the virtues of generosity and forgiveness. Fasting accustoms a man to face the hardships of life and increases his powers of resistance. 33

Lo! Those who believe and do good works and establish worship and pay the poor-due, their reward is with their Lord and these shall



no fear come upon them neither shall they grieve. \*

O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, even as it was prescribed for those before you, that ye may ward off (evil). \*\*

#### Unorthodox MCI

Charity and fasting are accepted by the Cult as being embodied in their five principles of Islam. On certain occasions, charity among themselves has been strongly advocated and feebly attempted; however, charity as a means to spiritual perfection is virtually unknown in the teachings of the Cult.

All of the members are periodically reminded that fasting in the month of Ramadan is highly desired; however, it is doubted that many of the members of the Cult, including most of the leaders, have any clear perception of the significance of Ramadan, much less the reason for the necessity of fasting. Their failure to believe that Mohammed was the last of the prophets, which is one of the basic beliefs of Islam, invalidates their adherence to the regulation demanding fasting during Ramadan.

\*The Koran

\*\*Ibid



7. Cleanliness

Orthodox

Before it is possible for a Moslem to attain complete inward purity, he must first purify his body. It has been said that "a pure mind in a pure body is the watchword of Islam." This effort is directed by a sincere desire for a nearness to God.

Surely Allah loves those who turn much to Him, and He loves those who purify themselves. \*

The first condition of bodily purification is a partial ablution which entails the washing of certain parts of the body before prayer.

O you who believe! When you rise up to prayer wash your faces and your hands as far as the elbows, and wipe your heads, and (wash) your feet to the ankles. \*\*

Thus, in the religion of Islam, the striving toward physical purification is motivated by a spiritual force. 34

Unorthodox MCI

Members of the Cult are frequently urged to keep themselves and their belongings in perfect order; however, there appears to be no

\* The Koran

\*\* Ibid.



spiritual motivation present. Although Elijah Mohammed stated it was his intention to clean up the dark people physically and spiritually, the sole aim has been toward racial perfection, not spiritual perfection. Cleanliness, therefore, is strictly a matter of hygiene.

Wash your right hands first and then your lefts, after which the face should be washed and take a bath every 24 hours. ✓

8. Food and Drink

Orthodox

At the beginning of Islam, it was considered that the food which a man used affected not only his constitution but also the building up of his character, and hence it was necessary that men should be taught ways of clean eating. Thus certain foods were prohibited:

1. That which dies of itself
2. Blood, explained as "blood poured forth"
3. Flesh of swine
4. Food over which any other name than that of Allah has been invoked at the time of slaughtering



The Holy Prophet prohibited all:  
beasts of prey with a canine tooth  
birds of prey with a claw  
the tame ass  
the mule but not the horse  
hyenas, foxes, elephants, weasels, pelicans, kites,  
carrion-crows, ravens, crocodiles, otters, asses,  
mules, wasps and all insects 35

These prohibitions are still in effect and strictly adhered to by orthodox Moslems, particularly the abhorrence of swine.

In connection with drinking, the juice of fruits can be used only up to the time they become intoxicating; however, except among the most rigidly orthodox, this regulation is regarded with toleration.

#### Unorthodox MCI

The MCI has adopted from the religion of Islam the idea of food restrictions, and formulated rules in keeping with their own tastes and tendencies. In connection with the abhorrence of swine, felt deeply by the orthodox Moslem, the regulations of the Cult explicitly state:

The hog is made up of three different beasts  
dog, cat, rat. His purpose on the Planet Earth  
was to clean up the filth that the devils had  
in their caves, when Mossa came to teach them  
Islam.



Pork is the food that is the source of most ailments. 10 oz of pork sounds the mental power. 10 oz of poison animal (pork) destroys 3/100 beauty appearance.

In addition to pork, the leaders of the Cult have prohibited the following:

Clams, sweet potato, white bread  
Smoking and chewing gum  
The Four devils which are: Caucasian,  
drinking, smoking and pork. Keep away  
from them they are dangerous and may mean  
sudden death to you.

9. Science and Mathematics

Orthodox

During the height of the Moslem civilization, from the 8th through the 11th centuries, great contributions were made to the studies of mathematics, geography, medicine, astronomy and physics. In the Moslem world today, this intense interest in science still prevails. For instance, a tremendous influence is ascribed to the planets and the sky, and it is considered that the stars work directly on all terrestrial events. Great stress is placed on numerology. This science is considered to be present in every soul and requires only study to be known. 36







and the Last Day and doeth right--surely  
their reward is with their Lord, and there  
shall no fear come upon them neither shall  
they grieve. \*

#### Unorthodox MCI

Nowhere in the ravings of the Cult is there anything but a shadowy reference to Paradise or Hell. The good works of its members comprise strict adherence to the hate principles and come to signify the means by which the white man will be obliterated. This is their paradise -- a world in which the Negro will have attained the enviable supremacy of the white man without the necessity of competitive exertion. Hell for them is the here and now -- the inferior position they occupy in the face of the world. The Last Day is the last day of the War of Armageddon when the clouds of battle will dissolve and reveal the ruler of the universe -- the Negro.

#### D. The MCI in Relation to Other Islamic Cults in the United States

In February 1954, an individual, who at that time was president of the Philadelphia branch of the Addeynue Allaha Universal Arabic Association,

\*The Koran



Incorporated, an orthodox Moslem organization with headquarters in Newark, New Jersey, and who attended several MCI meetings, classified the MCI as the most unorthodox and least acceptable Moslem group in this country. He stated there were no evidences in the Koran to support the MCI's teaching of civil disobedience and nonconformity to the laws of the country, their adherence to principles of racial prejudice, or the militaristic approach to their religion. He categorized the MCI as an "elementary, completely unorthodox group," whose members are taught many false doctrines and whose teachings are calculated to engender racial hatred.

Among the other groups in the United States not acceptable to orthodox Moslems, this individual listed the Moorish Science Temple of America, previously described in this monograph, and Ahmadyyyia, which group recognizes a living prophet in India called Ahmad.

He stated that all Moslem groups had one "common denominator" which was that they are all striving to bring knowledge and acceptance of Eastern culture to Asiatics throughout the world. As a reason for the Negro's interest in the religion of Islam, he related that it provides members of the Negro race with a satisfactory explanation of their "true" origin and heritage.



APPENDICES



### APPLICATION

"Dear Mr. Mohammed,

"In the name of Allah, the merciful, all holy, praise is to Allah, the lord of the world. I have been attending the teachings of Islam by one of your ministers, and I believe in Islam, my own religion, and I desire to claim my own. Please take away this old slave name of the devil and give me my own holy righteous name. My slave name and address is as follows."

### REPLY

"As Salaam Alaikum:

"In the name of Allah, and in the name of his divine Messenger, Mr. Elijah Mohammed.

"Dear Brother:

"Your letter seeking to be united again to your own has passed our inspection. It now awaits the inspection of Almighty God, Allah. Until he gives to you your holy name you will be known among us as Brother \_\_\_\_\_ X.

"We are enclosing your next lesson of which you are to answer 100% correctly. Upon completion of same, return.

"As I say unto you in the name of Allah, and his divine Messenger.

As Salaam Alaikum"



## Rules of Islam-- Department of Supreme Wisdom

1. The students must study his assignment Lesson #1. Each student would copy the answers of Lesson #1, of Minister Elijah Mohammed, and study until the student is able to memorize by heart all answers to of said Lesson #1.
2. Each student must qualify his or herself for position awaiting them. Assignment of offices will be made immediately after examination and on completion of his or her laborer course. Consideration for the labors of Islam, will be taken under analysis in the near future by our Prophet, W. D. Fard Mohammed.

## Rules of Instruction to the Laborers of Islam

3. The laborers must speak and use grammatic pronunciation of words and syllables in past, future, and present perfect tense. The laborers answers to all lessons, must be in the above language other will not be considered.
4. The Laborers must practice the above language with all new converts. The Laborer is liable to punishment if found using baby language. At all times, the laborers must greet a registered Muslim in his own way.
5. **MISTAKES SHALL NOT EXIST AMONG THE LABORERS OF ISLAM AT NO TIME.**
6. The Minister's Class, must study and prepare themselves for examination as soon as they are able to. Everyone's final examination will be before Master W. D. Fard Mohammed, which will include all of the Forms, Lesson #1 answers, and all of the problems and a general review of the 3 1/2 years of labor. Absent in the Minister's Class always must be investigated. Every Muslim should know all this by heart, it is all his and hers. The time is ripe for us to reclaim our own, which all equipped physically and mentally to accomplish the of said above with little study. Hurry, and everybody study: young and old, she and he, the M. G. T. and G. C. C. should study along with the training. Report their progress along with the rest.



7. Temple Reading Class. The reading class shall include 34 problems, lessons #1 and #2, also a brief review of the history, report reading class with the regular school report. The Secretary must report once a week of the Educational Department also a general report of the Temple.

8. All students of the University of Islam, must use official paper, for their lesson at all times. Quickness, fast thinking, fast moving, cleanliness in and out, right down to the modern time. The Law of Islam, does not approve continuation of laborers with devil names. The register must be clear of devil names. English lesson #C1, spelling must be used by all Muslim girls and mothers to their children for bed time study, also in regular courses. Muslim girls must get away from reading that devil's bed time story to their children.

9. Application for enlistment in the Fruit of Islam, will be accepted on approval of their Holy Names. Names of devils are not counted any value in the Fruit of Islam. Devils must stay away.

10. The Restrictive Law, is our success. At any time anyone fails to be 100% to the law, shall be dismissed from his or her post.

11. Brothers and sisters, you all get busy and help me arise the dead nation, and place them on the top of civilization. My greatest desire is to give everyone his or her own. I do not want importance among the officials, neither the laborers. Do not do other than yourself. Do not take a mix instruction other than our assignment.

12. The Muslim Girls Training and General Civilization Class, I can sit on top of the world and tell anyone that the most beautiful nation is the wilderness of North America, but do not let me catch any sister other than her ownself in regards to living the life and weighing properly.

13. Big field is awaiting for the wide awake man to work out, arise the dead by the thousand. The dead nation must arise for the time is at hand. Look in your poison book, work cheerfully and fear not.

**YOU ARE THE RIGHTEOUS, THE BEST, AND THE POWERFUL**

By our Saviour, Master W. D. Fard Mohammed



The following are the means by which members of the MCI qualify themselves for positions in the Cult. These questions must be known and recited one hundred per cent correctly by all members before further instructions can be given to them regarding Islamic teachings. They must also be known one hundred per cent by a member who desires to become affiliated with FOI.

Student Enrollment (10 Questions)

1. Who is the original man?
2. Who is the colored man?
3. What is the population of the original in the Wilderness of North America and all over the planet Earth?
4. What is the population of the colored people in the Wilderness of North America and all over the planet Earth?
5. What is the square mileage of Earth, how much is land? How much is water?
6. What is the square miles of usefull land used every day by the entire population of the planet Earth?
7. What is the square miles of useful land used by the Original Man?
8. What is the square miles of useful land used by the Colored Man?
9. What is the birth record of said nation of Islam?
10. What is the birth record of said other than Islam?



### Answers to 10 Questions

1. The Original Man is the Asiatic Black Man, Owner, Maker, cream of the planet Earth, God of the Universe and Father of Civilization.
2. The Colored Man is the so-called white man or caucasian, Yacobs grafted devil, skunk of the planet Earth.
3. The population of the Original Nation in the Wilderness of North America is a little over 17,000,000 lost-foonds, plus 2,000,000 Indians making a total of 19,000,000 and all over the planet Earth 4,400,000,000.
4. The population of the Colored People in the Wilderness of North America is 103,000,000 and all over the planet Earth, 400,000,000.
5. The square mileage of the Earth is 196,940,000 square miles. 57,255,000 square miles is land, 139,685,000 square miles is water.
6. The square miles of useful land used by the entire population everyday is 29,000,000 square miles.
7. The square miles of useful land used by the Original Man is 23,000,000 square miles.
8. The square miles of useful land used by the Colored Man is 6,000,000 square miles.
9. There is no birth record of said nation of Islam.
10. The birth record of said other than Islam is:  
Buddaism-- approximately 35,000 years old.  
Christianity-- approximately 551 years old.



These questions are considered to be part of the Wisdom of the MCI and are read by the ministers at the opening of every meeting. These are allegedly received after an individual has completed his Student Enrollment Lesson.

English Lesson C-1

1. My name is W. F. Mohammed.
2. I came to North America by myself.
3. My uncle was brought over here by the Trader, three hundred seventy-nine years ago.
4. My uncle cannot talk his own language.
5. He does not know that he is my uncle.
6. He likes the devil because the devil gives him nothing.
7. Why does he like the devil?
8. Because the devil put fear in him when he was a little boy.
9. Why does he fear now since he is a big man?
10. Because the devil taught him to eat the wrong food.
11. Does that have anything to do with the above question Number 10?
12. Yes, sir, that makes him other than his ownself.
13. What is his ownself?
14. His ownself is a Righteous Moslem.



15. Are there any Moslems, other than Righteous?
16. I beg your pardon, I have never heard of one.
17. How many Moslem Sons are there in North America?
18. Approximately Three Million.
19. How many Original Moslems are there in North America?
20. A little over seventeen million.
21. Did I hear you say some of the seventeen million do not know that they are Moslem?
22. Yes, sir.
23. I hardly believe that unless they are blind, deaf and dumb.
24. Well, they were made blind, deaf and dumb by the devil when they were babies.
25. Can the devil fool a Moslem?
26. Not now a days.
27. Do you mean to say the devil fooled them three hundred seventy nine years ago?
28. Yes, the Trader made an interpretation that they receive gold for their labor, more than they were earning in their own country.
29. Then did they receive gold?
30. No, the Trader disappeared and there was no one that could speak their language.



31. Then what happened?
32. Well, they wanted to go to their own country, but they could not swim 9,000 miles.
33. Why didn't their own people come and get them?
34. Because their own people did not know they were here.
35. When did their own people find out they were here?
36. Approximately sixty years ago.



At the completion of the Student Enrollment and English Lesson CI, the member begins working on the following "14 Questions." After these have been committed to memory one hundred per cent correctly, he is eligible to become a minister in the MCL. In this connection, it has been alleged that, although this is a qualifying element in the elevation to the position of Minister, it is doubted that many of the ministers know more than a few of these questions.

#### 14 Questions

1. Why isn't the devil settled on the best part of the Planet Earth?

Answer: Because the earth belongs to the Original Black Man and knowing that the devil was wicked and there would not be any peace among them, He put him out in the worst part of the earth and kept the best part preserved for himself every since he made it. The best part is in Arabia at the Holy City Mecca. The colored Man or Caucasian is the devil. Arabia is in the far east and is bordered by the Indian Ocean on the South.

2. Why did Moses or Mossa have a hard time to civilize the devil 2000 B. C. ?

Answer: Because he was a savage. Savage means a person that has lost the knowledge of himself and who is living a beast life. Mossa was a half original man, and a prophet. Two thousand B. C. means before Christ. In the Asiatic world it was in the eleven thousand year. Civilize means to teach the knowledge and wisdom of the human family or the Planet Earth.

3. Why did we let half original man Columbus discover the poor part of the Planet Earth?



Answer: Because the original man is the God and owner of the earth, and knows every square inch of it and has chosen for himself the best part. He did not care about the poor part. Columbus was a half original man and was born in Italy, which is southeast Europe. His full name was Christopher Columbus, and the place he discovered was North America. He found the Indians here, who were exiled seventeen thousand years ago from India. They are original people.

4. Why did we run Yacob and his made devil from the root of civilization, over the hot desert, into the cave of West Asia, as they now call it Europe? What is the meaning of Eu and Rope? How long ago? What did the devil bring with him? What kind of life did he live and how long before Mossa came to teach the devil of the forgotten Tricknollegy?

Answer: Because they had started making trouble among the righteous people telling lies. They accused the righteous peoples, causing them to fight and kill one another. Yacob was an original black man, and was the father of the devil. He taught the devils to do this devilishment. The root of civilization is in Arabia at the Holy City Mecca, which means where wisdom and knowledge of the original man first started. When the planet was found, we ran the devils over the Arabian Desert. We took from them everything except the language and made him walk every step of the way; it was twenty-two hundred miles. He went savage and lived in the caves of Europe. Eu means hillsides and Rope is the rope to bind in. It was six thousand and nineteen years ago. Mossa came two thousand years later and taught him how to live a respectful life, how to build a home for himself and some of the tricknollegy that Yacob gaught him. Which was devilishment, telling lies, stealing, and how to master the original man. Mossa was half original, a prophet which was predicated by the twenty-three scientists in the year one, fifteen thousand nineteen years ago, today.

5. Why did we take Jerusalem from the devil? How long ago?

Answer: Because one of our righteous brothers, who was a prophet by the name of Jesus was buried there, and he uses his name to shield his dirty religion, which is called Christianity, also to deceive the people



so they will believe in him. Jesus' teaching was not Christianity, it was Freedom, Justice Equality; Jerusalem is in South Europe. Jerusalem is a name given by Jews, which means founded in peace, and it was first built by the original man, which was called Jebus, also Salem, and Ariel. We took the city from the devils about seven hundred fifty years ago.

6. Why does the devil call our people Africans?

Answer: To make our people of North America believe that the people on that continent are the only people they have and are all savage. He bought a trading post in the Jungle of that continent, the original people live on this continent and they are the ones who strayed away from civilization and are living a jungle life. The original people call this continent Asia, but the devils call it Africa, to try to divide them. He wants us to think we all are different.

7. Why does the devil keep our people illiterate?

Answer: So that he can use them for a tool and also a slave. He keeps them blind to themselves so that he can master them. Illiterate means ignorant.

8. Why does the devil keep our people apart, from his social equality?

Answer: Because he does not want us to know how filthy he is and all his affairs, he is afraid because when we learn about him we will run him from among us. Socialist means to advocate. A society of men or groups of men for one common cause. Equality means to be equal in everything.

9. Why does Mohammed make the devil study from thirty five to fifty years before he can call himself a Moslem Son? And wear the greatest and only Flag of the Universe? And he must add a sword on the upper part of the Holy and Greatest Universal Flag of Islam?

Answer: So that he could clean himself up. A Moslem does not love the devil regardless to how long he studies, after he has devoted thirty five or fifty years trying to learn and do like the original man.



He could come and do trading among us and we would not kill him as quick as we would the other devils, that is who has not gone under this study. After he goes through with this labor from thirty five to fifty years, we permit him to wear our Flag which is the Sun, Moon and Stars. He must add the sword on the upper part. The sword is an emblem of Justice, and it was used by the original man in Mohammed's time. Thus, it was placed on the upper part, of the flag so that the devil can always see it, so he will keep in mind, that any time that he reveals the secrets. We gave him this chance so that he could clean himself up and come among us. His head would be taken off by the sword. The Holy flag of Islam is the greatest and only flag known. The Universe is everything Sun, Moon, and Stars. They are planets. Planets are something grown or made from the beginning, and holy is something that has not been diluted, mixed, or tampered with in any form.

10. Why does Mohammed and any Moslem murder the devil? What is the duty of each Moslem in regards to four devils? What reward does a Moslem receive by presenting the four devils at one time?

Answer: Because he is one hundred percent wicked and will not keep and obey the laws of Islam. His ways and actions are like a snake of the grafted type. So Mohammed learned that he could not reform the devils so they had to be murdered. All Moslems will murder the devil because they know he is a snake and also if he be allowed to live, he could sting someone else. Each Moslem is required to bring four devils, and by bringing and presenting four at one time his reward is a button to wear on the lapel of his coat, also a free transportation to the Holy City Mecca to see brother Mohammed.

11. Have not you learned that your word shall be Bond Regardless of whom or what?

Answer: Yes, My word is bond and bond is life and I will give my life before my word shall fail.

12. What is the meaning of F. O. I?

Answer: The Fruit of Islam, the name given to the military training of the men that belongs to Islam in North America.



13. What is the meaning of Lieutenant and Captain?

Answer: Captain and Lieutenant. The duty of captain is to give orders to the lieutenant and the lieutenant's duty is to teach the private soldier and also train them.

14. What is the meaning of M. G. T. and G. C. C. ?

Answer: Moslem Girls' Training and General Civilization Class. This was the name given to the training of women and girls in North America how to keep house, how to rear their children, how to take care of their husband, sew, cook, and in general, how to act at home and abroad. These training units were named by our prophet and leader of Islam, W. D. Fard.

Set forth below are two lists, entitled "Actual Facts" and "Facts," which are part of the teachings of the Cult. It has been stated that the purpose of these so-called "Facts" is to impress the members and potential members of the Cult with the supreme wisdom of their teacher, and the great knowledge they can obtain by being members of the MCI and following the teachings of Elijah Mohammed.

Actual Facts

1. The Original Man's brain weighs 7 1/2 ounces, 1 1/2 ounce rythym.  
The Colored Man's brain weighs 6 1/2 ounces.
2. Over 6,000 years ago Yacob grafted the colored man from the Original Man. It took him 600 years to complete this job. 600 years of birth control.
3. Weight of the Planet Earth is 66 sex trillion tons.
4. European-Caucasian Cave Man--(Nordic)



5. Mussa (Moses) tried to civilize the Nordic Beast 4,000 years ago in the caves of Europe. (year 11,000)
6. Jesus justice came 2,000 years later. Jesus was a half original man, born in the month of September NOT in the month of December. (Jesus was a Prophet) Nimrod was born in the month of December, 25th day.

#### Facts

1. All Prophets are black, never before in any history has there ever been a white or caucasian prophet.
2. Jonah dwelled in the belly of the whale for three days and nights. It stayed dark from 6 to 9 hours.
3. Jesus body is guarded by 10,000 Muslims by day and 10,000 by night. Jesus' body lies in the Temple of Omar in Jerusalem.
4. Remember the Crusades?  
  
The white devil tries unsuccessfully to take the body of our brother Jesus, by laying siege to Jerusalem.  
  
(Esau Yusef-- Jesus)
5. The root of Civilization is at the Holy City, Mecca. Mecca is in the far east and from Mecca comes all wisdom. All good things had their beginning in Mecca.
6. Allah means Peace and reversed, it means Halla, Joy. Have you not heard Christians cry HALLALUJAH while supposedly happy from the religion of a skunk. (HALLA\*-ALLAH)
7. Christians speak of life and eternity with God after death. They say, "I'm going to make Heaven my home." Their own so called Holy Bible, tells me, Hosea Chapter 13, and 4th verse say, I am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know, no God but me, for there is no saviour beside me.



Where is Egypt? In the far east.

What is Egypt's principal religion? Islam

Our foreparents were brought over here by the trader in the year of 1555, the Bible tells me that the lost sheep of and from the house of Israel, would be completely lost of all knowledge of self for approximately 400 years. Matthew tells me that if we were brought here in the year 1555 and this is 1953,

- 1953  
- 1555  

---

398 years

Baal rode the Jackass until the Angel of the Lord appeared, and he stopped and would not go any further, then Baal hit the ass three licks then the ass turned and said, "Why hittest thou? and Baal became frightened and got down off the ass.

Islam has 1,296 short cuts in mathematics.

#### Water Weights

One pint of water weighs 1 lb.  
One gallon of water weighs 8 lbs.  
One Cubic foot of water weighs 62 1/2 lbs.

#### How to eat and live

24 hours . . . . . 150 years  
48 hours . . . . . 300 years  
72 hours . . . . . 450 years  
4 days . . . . . 600 years  
7 days . . . . . 1,050 years

Methuselah lived to be 960 years old, ate once every seven days.

English originated in 1382.  
Christianity originated in 1522.



The Atlantic Ocean is 4.5 miles deep.  
The Pacific Ocean is 5.6 miles deep.

The Wilderness will burn for 300 years, and will be 700 years cooling off.

Sound travels at the rate of 1,120 feet per second.  
Light travels at the rate of 186,000 miles per second.  
Thought travels at the rate of 24 billion miles per second.

The monkey is 4,500,000 years old.  
The hog is 5,091 years old.

The Original Man has 14,000,000 brain cells.

One of our brothers from Asia came to Detroit and outran a street car by 20 miles.

#### Moon History

We were once called the moon people, but Thanks be to Allah, that we were not on the other part at the time of the separation 66 trillion years ago. At that time a scientist wanted all the people to look alike, so he drilled a tube 3,000 miles in the Earth and filled it with high explosion and set it off, and moon part slipped off and the moon part turned over and all the water fell on this part, and that is why we have 3/4 water and 1/4 land giving us a greater life since water is life, and all things are of the water and nothing can exist without it.

The atmosphere's diameter is 76 quintillion miles.

The atmosphere's weight is 11 2/3 quintillion pounds. 1/3 of that is the atoms.

#### Planets

<u>Name</u>	<u>Distance from sun</u>	<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Rotation</u>
Mercury	36,000,000	3,000	88 days
Venus	67,000,000	7,000	222 days



Earth	93,000,000	7,926	365 1/2 days
Mars	141,500,000	4,200	552 days
Jupiter	438,000,000	88,700	1 year, 9 months
Saturn	886,000,000	75,100	29 1/2 years
Uranus	1,782,000,000	30,900	84 years
Neptune	2,793,000,000	3,300	165 years
Platoon	4,500,000,000	67,000	345 years
Moon	92,964,000	21,600	

2,000 years Yacob's Civilization  
 2,000 years Mossa's Civilization  
 2,000 years Esau's Civilization  
 6,000 years devil's civilization

8,400 Yacob was born  
 600 Completed the devil  
 9,000 years and 6,000 years is 15,000 years

15,000 years. Saviour, Master W. D. Fard Mohammed.

360 years literal years.

Leviticus 26th Chapter, 18th verse, reference seven times to be punished.

2,520 literal days.

606 B. C. Devil began to rule.

(1,914) 1914 his time was up.

22 years overtime.

1936, the definite end and since then the devil is being destroyed wholesale.

You will also find that 1936 was the squarest ever.



### Birth records

<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Age</u>
		8,550	150 years
Yacob	8,400	1,571	121 years
Mosa	1,450	About April 26	
Esau	13,000		
Nimrod	3,012 B. C.	1,448	62 years
Mohammed	1,386	1,821	52 years
Napoleon	1,769	1,506	60 years
Columbus	1,446		

Esau was born 2nd week in September and died 2nd week in April or about 26th.

The Savior was born February 26, 1877, at the Holy City Mecca. He arrived in America July 4th, 1930.

Wali Mohammed Ale was born 20 miles 1,448 while living he killed 6,000,000 Christians. Aminah m Abdullah I.

### Selections from a Publication Written by Prophet W. D. Fard

Selections from:

This book teaches the Lost Found Nation of Islam. A thorough knowledge of our miserable state of condition in a mathematical way, when we were found by our saviour W. D. Fard.

By Prophet W. D. Fard

### Problems

1. The uncle of Mr. W. D. Fard lived in the wilderness of North America and he lived other than his own self, therefore his pulse beat seventy-eight times per minute and this killed him in forty-five years of age. How many times did his pulse beat in forty-five years?



3. A Sheep contains fourteen square feet. One-tenth of a square inch contains ten thousand hairs. How many will the fourteen square feet contain?

**\$15. 50 for the Person Who Works This Problem**  
(Qualified Members Only)

7. If one one-hundredth of a cubic inch contains two hundred million Atoms; the total Atmosphere weighs eleven and two-thirds quintillion pounds.  
One-third of eleven and two-thirds quintillion pounds equals Atoms.  
Mr. Mohammed cracked one Atom into ten million parts.  
Then Mr. ShariEFF wants to know how much the one-third of a cracked Atom Weight?

**\$100. 00 (In Gold)**  
**For the Person Who Works This Problem**  
(Qualified Moslems)

9. The population of Detroit is one million five hundred thousand people; and there are two hundred and fifty thousand original nation. During these hard times for the lack of jobs, not having enough money to buy food, they eat two meals per day. Suppose the average person eats four ounces of bread, ten and one-fifth ounces of poison animal, three and one-third ounces of rice, four and one-eighth ounces of other meal helper. It is known to the Medical Profession and other wise Moslem Sons, that poison animal sounds the mental power. One-sixtieth of an ounce per every ten ounces of poison animal. If the average person contains seven and one-half ounces of brain, then Mr. Mohammed wants to know how long will it take to sound the seven and one-half ounces at the above eating rates?

The average person can be robbed successfully with one-third of unsound brain, then, how long will a devil have to wait to rob of said the poison animal eater at the above rates? It is also known to the civilized world that ten ounces of the poison animal destroys three one-hundredths percent of the beauty appearance of a person.



## THE MUSLIM FIGHTING SONG

### WE ARE FIGHTING FOR ISLAM

We are fighting for Islam, and we will surely win;  
With our saviour Allah, the Universal King;  
We are United with our Nation, and called by his name;  
So let us rise ye Muslims, Fight for your own.

(Chorus)

Fight O ye Muslims, Fight for your own;  
Fight O ye Muslims, and we will all be free,  
Fight O ye Muslims, fight for your own.

2.

Freedom, Justice, Equality, we now must have;  
Four-Hundred years in slave by the devil, lost from our own,  
So let us rise, ye Muslims, Fight for your own.

(Repeat Chorus)

The Earth belongs to the righteous, Fight for your own;  
Allah, gave to you and I for a National, the  
Sun, the Moon, the Stars. The best of his  
Creations, he has given to you;  
So let us rise ye Muslims, Fight for your own.

(Repeat Chorus)

(Repeat last verse softly)



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**THE NATION OF ISLAM**

**(Antiwhite, All-Negro Cult in United States)**

October, 1960

CENTRAL RESEARCH  
SECTION

Room - 639 A.B.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

601

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## PREFACE

This is the study of a fanatical, all-Negro cult in the United States which is based on a distorted interpretation of the religious principles of Islam and is motivated by hatred of the white race. At various times, it has been known as the Muslim Cult of Islam and the Allah Temple of Islam and since December, 1956, has been described, on a national basis, as the Nation of Islam (NOI). Individual temples of the cult generally have been called Muhammad's Temples of Islam (MTI).

Within the past year, considerable publicity has been afforded the Nation of Islam. The writings of its leader, the so-called "Messenger of Allah," Elijah Muhammad, have appeared in columns and articles in Negro newspapers; various cult leaders have made television appearances; members of the cult have become involved in incidents with police authorities; and several articles about the cult have appeared in nationally known and widely distributed news magazines.

As a result of this publicity, a confused picture of the cult has been presented to the public. Reports of the many contradictory statements made both by NOI leaders and by unenlightened writers concerning the number of followers, the violent teachings of the ministers, and the religious aspects of the cult make the current study of this amazing cult very timely.





Recent, published estimates of the number of members in the Nation of Islam vary from 70,000 to more than 250,000. While these estimates are excessive, this study will reveal that more important than the actual number of members is the ever-present threat of violent action initiated by the members.

The teachings of Muhammad and his ministers are ambivalent in nature. On one hand, they teach the followers doctrines which inflame and incite hatred of the white race and, on the other hand, they restrain and represent them into doing nothing to violate the laws of the United States Government. Contradictory teachings of this kind produce frustrations, and frustrations very easily can express themselves in acts of violence.

Material utilized in this study has been compiled from both public and confidential sources. The public sources are identified by footnotes, while the confidential sources have been retained by this Bureau. No attempt has been made to correct or point out errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, et cetera which appear in cult material that has been quoted.



## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

### A. Summary

The fanatical all-Negro cult, now called the Nation of Islam, originated in Detroit, Michigan, in the early 1930's as the result of the preachings of one W. D. Fard who claimed he was "the Supreme Ruler of the Universe." In reality, he was an ex-convict who had served a three-year sentence at San Quentin Penitentiary for a drug violation. In the Spring of 1933, after the arrest of one of his followers who had murdered a man in a human sacrifice, Fard was ordered out of Detroit and has since completely disappeared. Fard's leadership of the cult was taken over by a Georgia-born Negro named Elijah Poole. Poole began calling himself Elijah Muhammad and explained to cult followers that Fard had been Allah himself and had appointed him the "Messenger of Allah" to lead "the so-called Negroes in the wilderness of North America" out of the slavery imposed on them by the white race.

Under Elijah Muhammad, the headquarters of the cult was moved to Chicago. From there, it has grown throughout the United States into an organization having 30 numerically designated temples and numerous other groups of cult members who hold regular meetings. Cult



members are rigidly disciplined and well-organized followers of Muhammad. They are generally uneducated Negroes whom Muhammad and his ministers, through their violent teachings, keep in a confused mental state of readiness for the "War of Armageddon," which Muhammad says is coming soon and through which he says they will go forward and destroy the white race to avenge the injustices they feel they now suffer.

Within each of Muhammad's Temples of Islam, the male members are segregated into an organization called the Fruit of Islam, and the female members, into a group called the Muslim Girls Training. Each group is organized along military lines under the leadership of a captain and several lieutenants, who maintain strict discipline at all times.

The Nation of Islam conducts two so-called universities, one at Detroit and the other at Chicago. These schools are attended by children from the age of four up to their late teens. Each temple also conducts several business enterprises and encourages its members to patronize only these businesses. Recently, increased emphasis is being placed on the expansion of the business enterprises of cult members in their respective cities.



During February of each year, the members gather at the national headquarters in Chicago for a convention. At this meeting and other meetings, rallies, and bazaars sponsored by the various temples throughout the country, Muhammad and his ministers give long, vindictive speeches against the white race and the Federal Government. These many gatherings are used as a means of both spreading the message of Muhammad and collecting donations from Negroes who attend. The Nation of Islam further publicizes its activities and teachings through Negro newspapers and its own publications.

Recently, prison inmates claiming to be followers of Muhammad have caused trouble within several penal institutions. Other members of the Nation of Islam have been involved in incidents with local law enforcement officers in some of the larger cities. Muhammad and his ministers take pride in the fearless nature of the members involved in these incidents and make constant reference to them in their speeches and writings.

Although Muhammad claims to be an adherent of the religion of Islam, the doctrines taught by him emphasize violent hatred of



the white race. Muhammad preaches that the so-called Negroes must be awakened; shown how they have been enslaved by their enemy, the "white devil"; and unified under his leadership. Thus, he says, they can gain economic independence and be able to demand land of their own from the United States Government. He claims that the Christian religion is a hoax and a tool of the white race to enslave the Negro but that soon the white race, the Government, and all Negroes who do not accept his teachings will be destroyed by Allah in the "War of Armageddon."

#### **B. Conclusions**

1. The Nation of Islam, an all-Negro organization purporting adherence to the religious principles of Islam as interpreted by Elijah Muhammad, is ostensibly dedicated to the spiritual and physical uplift of the Negroes; however, constant emphasis on the vindictive doctrines of the cult results in the propagation of hatred of the white race.
2. Elijah Muhammad, through his preachings of superiority of the "black man" and his demands for complete independence from the white race, has furnished many dissatisfied Negroes with a new pride and purpose in life through the militant and arrogant black unity within the Nation of Islam.
3. Organizationally, the Nation of Islam is a group of semiautonomous temples made up of Negroes bound together in a common resentment of the white race by the teachings of Elijah Muhammad as conveyed by his dedicated ministers.



4. **The Nation of Islam is strongest in the large cities where great masses of Negroes live under very trying conditions. Followers of Muhammad, demonstrating fearless and outspoken antiwhite, anti-Christian attitudes, are bound to impress other Negroes living in these areas. Therefore, as long as racial inequity continues, the militant and arrogant manner of cult members remains a potential threat of violent action.**



## **I. BACKGROUND AND ORIGIN\***

Around the time of the first World War, the Negroes in the Southern States became attracted to the northern industrial cities, such as Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Chicago. They believed implicitly that the North, unlike the South, presented rare opportunities to improve the economic and cultural standards of the Negro. As a result of the prevalent illiteracy among these people and the large numbers of them who immigrated to the North, possibilities for employment diminished. The depression period completely dispelled the rest of their hopes and reduced greatly their living standards. During these years, many militant and cultist groups arose which reflected the Negroes' intense desire for racial improvement and recognition and which based the position of the Negro in American society on the treatment afforded him by the white people.

One of the more violent and enduring of these groups was the Nation of Islam (NOI), known at various times as Allah's Temple of Islam, and the Muslim Cult of Islam.

### **A. W. D. Fard**

In 1930, there appeared on the streets of Detroit a Negro peddler who, like the Lord or Father, called out to the people in a loud, commanding voice.

\* Some of the material concerning the origin of the NOI has been taken from a well-documented study of the cult which appeared in The American Journal of Sociology, Vol. XLIII, No. 6, May, 1938.



his wares. As he contacted his fellow Negroes in the Elmwood district of Detroit, he convinced them of his ministerial abilities. Soon informal house meetings were being held under the guidance of the peddler, known variously as W. D. Fard, Prophet W. D. Fard, W. D. Foard, Mr. Wali Farrad, Professor Ford, Mr. Farrad Mohammed, and Mr. F. Mohammed Ali. To law enforcement authorities, he was known as Wallace Don Fard, FBI #56062, who had served a three-year sentence in San Quentin Penitentiary for violation of a narcotics law. [REDACTED]

Very little of Fard's background was ever authentically exposed, but his impressionistic adherents, overawed by the mysterious aura surrounding him, began to come forward with controversial information regarding his background. Some asserted that he was born in Mecca, the son of wealthy parents of the tribe from which Mohammed had come; that he was closely related by blood to the dynasty of the Hashimite sherifs of Mecca who became kings of the Hejaz; that he was educated at a college in England in preparation for a diplomatic career, but that he abandoned everything to lead the so-called Negro race toward slavery in "the wilderness of North America." [REDACTED]

Gradually there began to seep into the minds of his followers the idea that Fard was more than a man. [REDACTED] the Negro race toward slavery in "the wilderness of North America." [REDACTED] the level of veneration. It appears that the surrounding air of mystery affected Fard as much.



as it did his followers, for, when asked who he was by the Detroit authorities, he answered, "I am the Supreme Ruler of the Universe."

When the number of Fard's followers increased to the point where private homes were no longer large enough to accommodate all who desired to hear his teachings, a temple service was begun. This first temple, originated by Fard in Detroit, is still designated as Temple Number 1 of the Nation of Islam.

#### B. Fard Teaches Violence

Fard at first utilized the Bible, inasmuch as most of his listeners were familiar with its teachings but, as his following increased, he became more and more inflammatory in his remarks against the whites and denounced the Bible in shocking terms. Racial hatred became more pronounced than it had been in similar organizations, and it was evident that Fard was actually cementing this factor into the foundation of his organization.

Fard then introduced the Koran as the most authoritative of all texts for the study of the new faith; however, he claimed to have used only the Arabic text, which he translated and explained to his believers. His people, therefore, were completely dependent upon his interpretations.

The violence of some of the members of his organization was forcibly brought to the attention of the people of Detroit on November 21, 1932,



when the newspapers carried a bloodcurdling story of human sacrifice. A prominent member of the cult, one Robert Harris, somehow induced his roomer, John J. Smith, to present himself as a human sacrifice so that he might become "the Saviour of the world." At the appointed hour of the sacrifice, Harris plunged a knife into Smith's heart as he lay waiting on the improvised altar. When Harris was arrested and subsequently adjudged insane, it became known that several women social workers had been slated as his next victims. [REDACTED]

In May of 1933, local authorities ordered Fard to leave Detroit, and he has since completely disappeared. However, Fard's departure failed to bring the activities of the cult to a conclusion.

C. Elijah Muhammad

Ready, willing, and able to assume leadership of the growing cult was Elijah Poole, known variously as Gulam Bogans, Gulam Bogans, and Mohammed Rassouli, who was to become Elijah Muhammad, the present national leader of the Nation of Islam.

Elijah Poole was born in 1897 near Sandersville, Georgia, one of 13 children of Wali and Marie Poole, whose parents had been slaves of a white family with the same surname. He finished high school and was



home at the age of 16 years. In 1923, he took his wife and children to Detroit, Michigan, where he was employed in several manufacturing plants. During these lean years, Elijah Poole met W. D. Fard, who acquainted him with the tenets of the cult, and who, according to Poole, personally took him "out of the gutter in the streets of Detroit and taught him in three and one-half years the knowledge of Islam." [REDACTED]

After Fard left Detroit, Poole referred to himself as Elijah Muhammad. He explained to his followers the disappearance of Fard and the change in cult leadership as follows: Fard was in reality Allah himself, who left Detroit to travel to Mecca, leaving the cult in the capable hands of his apostle, Elijah Muhammad, the "Messenger of Allah."

Elijah Muhammad thereafter taught in Detroit until September, 1934, when, because of local pressure, he moved to Chicago. In Chicago, he established another temple of the cult, which remains the national headquarters of the NOI and is designated as Temple Number 2.

From Chicago, the NOI has fanned its odious doctrines across the United States.



## **II. ORGANIZATION**

### **A. Muhammad's Temples of Islam (MTI)\***

During the period 1934 to 1955, this cult increased the number of its temples in the United States from two to 13. In the past five years, this number has grown to 30, not counting numerous undesignated groups of Negroes who regularly meet and study the teachings of the "Messenger."

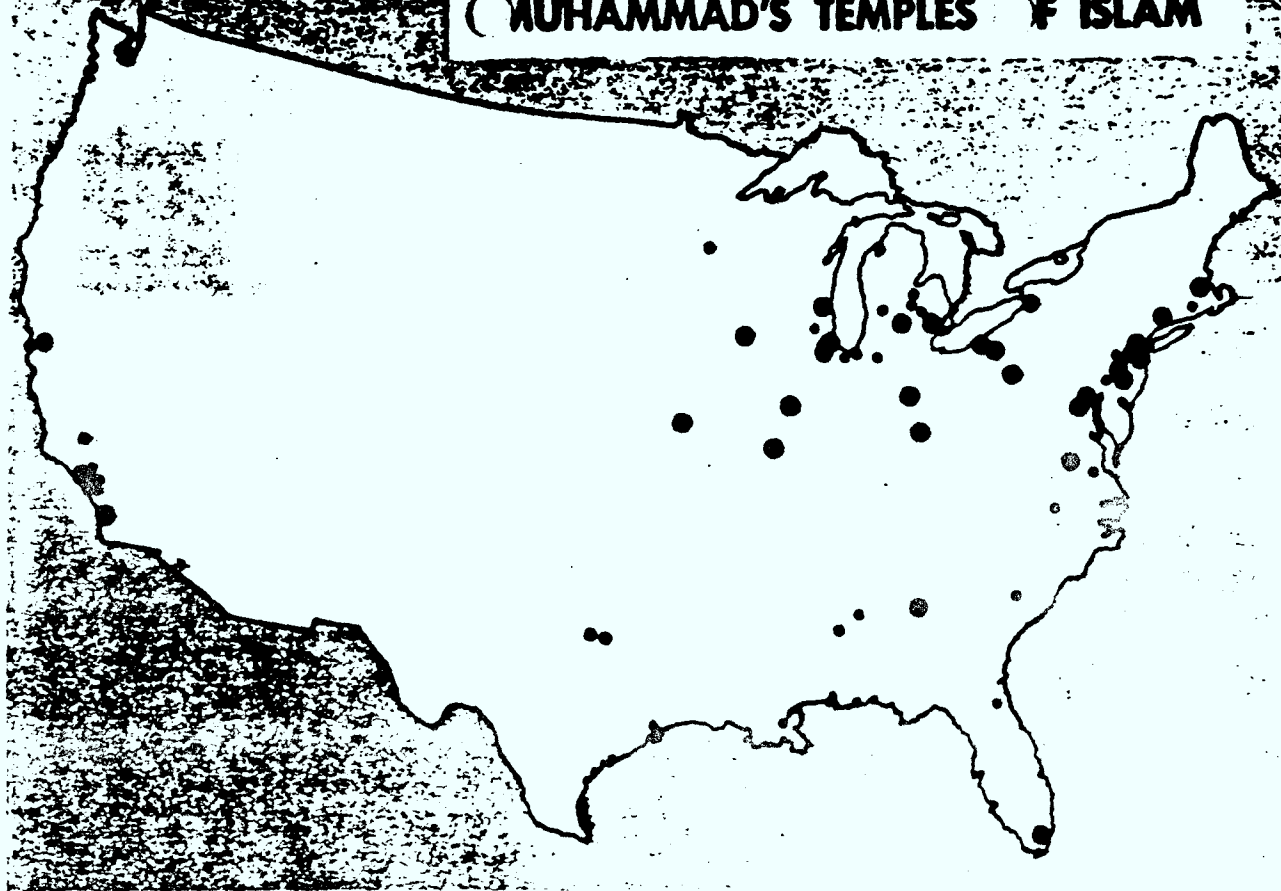
No explanation has been given for Elijah Muhammad's numbering of the temples. Some temples are numbered; others are not. When a temple becomes defunct, its number is usually reassigned to a new group. Temple Number 1 is in Detroit. Temple Number 2 is in Chicago. The rest, through Number 30, are spread throughout many areas of this country. Not all of these are vibrant centers of cult activity. Of the 30 numerically designated temples, seven have fewer than 30 active members. One has no members at all.

Actually, the most active temples are located in the following cities: Chicago, Washington, D. C., Los Angeles, Detroit, New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Milwaukee, and Baltimore.

\* In March, 1960, Elijah Muhammad was considering changing the names of the individual temples to Muhammad's Mosques of Islam; however, as late as the end of July, no official changes were noted at Temple Number 2 or any other temple.



# ( MUHAMMAD'S TEMPLES OF ISLAM



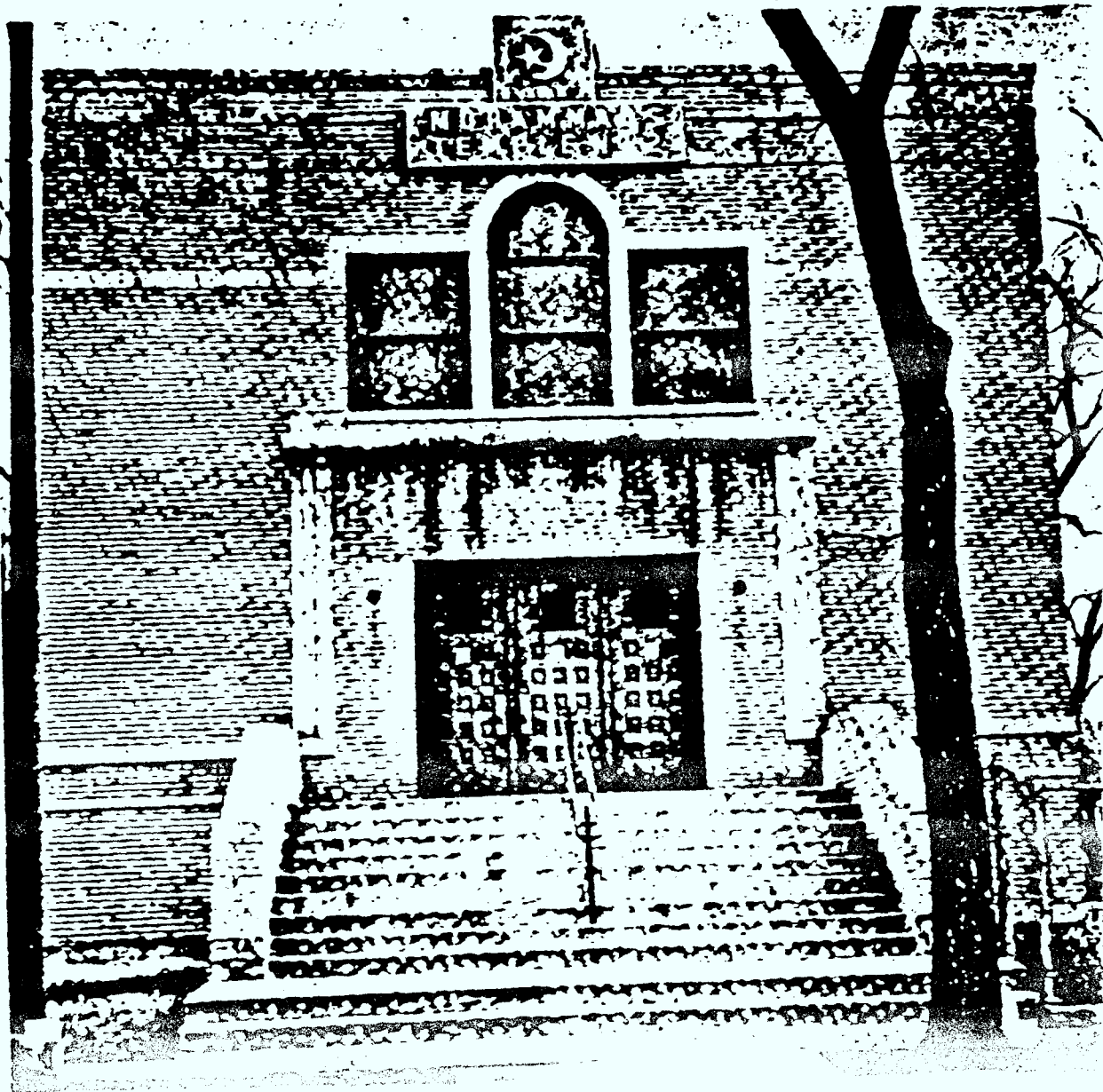
## ● NUMBERED TEMPLES

- 1 DETROIT, MICH.
- 2 CHICAGO, ILL.
- 3 MILWAUKEE, WIS.
- 4 WASHINGTON, D. C.
- 5 CINCINNATI, OHIO
- 6 BALTIMORE, MD.
- 7 NEW YORK, N.Y.
- 8 SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
- 9 YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
- 10 ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.
- 11 BOSTON, MASS.
- 12 PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- 13 SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
- 14 HARTFORD, CONN.
- 15 ATLANTA, GA.
- 16 LANSING, MICH.
- 17 JOLIET, ILL.
- 18 CLEVELAND, OHIO
- 19 CLEVELAND, OHIO
- 20 CLEVELAND, OHIO
- 21 JERSEY CITY, N.J.
- 22 PITTSBURGH, PA.
- 23 BUFFALO, N.Y.
- 24 RICHMOND, VA.
- 25 NEWARK, N.J.
- 26 OAKLAND, CALIF.
- 27 LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
- 28 SAINT LOUIS, MO.
- 29 MIAMI, FLA.
- 30 KANSAS CITY, MO.

## ● OTHER TEMPLES OR ACTIVE GROUPS

- BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
- TUSCALOOSA, ALA.
- BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.
- LONG BEACH, CALIF.
- LOS ANGELES (EAST SIDE), CALIF.
- RIVERSIDE, CALIF.
- SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.
- SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
- JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
- AURORA, ILL.
- EAST CHICAGO, IND.
- GOODY, IND.
- SOUTH BEND, IND.
- NEW ORLEANS, LA.
- FLINT, MICH.
- GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
- PORTLAND, MICH.
- SAGINAW, MICH.
- INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
- INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
- DURHAM, N.C.
- CHESTER, PA.
- PROVIDENCE, R.I.
- ORANGEBURG, S.C.
- DALLAS, TEX.
- FORT WORTH, TEX.
- NORFOLK, VA.
- DELOIT, WIS.





National Headquarters of the Nation of Islam



## **B. Membership**

As mentioned in the Preface, public estimates of total membership in the NOI have been excessive, ranging between 70,000 and 250,000 members. The secret nature of the cult makes an accurate estimate very difficult. Many casual visitors attend various cult gatherings out of curiosity; others attend rallies and only a few meetings. However, persons considered to be members are those individuals who have attended regular meetings, written their letters of application to the "Messenger of Allah," answered the required questions, given up their "slave" names, and received their "original" X names. These procedures will be discussed more fully later in this study.

Even the leaders of the NOI itself would have difficulty in ascertaining accurate membership figures at any given time because of the constant turnover of the membership. Between many of the individual temples and the Chicago headquarters, there is a lack of close communication. The ministers of the individual temples are in complete control of the members within their own temples. They suspend or expel members for numerous reasons and, as long as these members do not forward enough funds to Elijah Muhammad and as long as the required monetary contributions from the temples are forwarded to Chicago, the national headquarters, no action is taken. Therefore, changes in the number of active members are not readily apparent.



Another reason for the difficulty in assessing true membership is described by a source who said that many individuals join the movement "to play safe and be on the books just in case that portion of the NOI teachings prove true--about the 'War of Armageddon,' when Allah is going to destroy North America and all white mankind together with all black men who are not followers of Elijah Muhammad. Upon receiving their X names, these members thereupon become inactive." [REDACTED]

C. Officials

Elijah Muhammad (Elijah Poole) is the absolute leader of the NOI and so-called "Messenger of Allah." He is described by his followers and his press as "the bravest and boldest black man in America." While speaking before the 1960 NOI convention, he himself bragged: "I am not trembling. I am the man. I am the messenger. You should be glad to know God has raised up one in your midst who has that kind of nerve." However, he has not always been so "brave," for, when arrested for sedition in 1942, he was located at his mother's home hiding [REDACTED] bed wrapped in a carpet." [REDACTED]





Elijah Muhammad, the so-called "Messenger of Allah" and absolute leader of the Nation of Islam



Elijah Muhammad and three of his six sons  
Left to Right: Wallace, Elijah Muhammad, Akbar, and Elijah, Jr.



At right:  
Raymond Sharrieff,  
Supreme Captain of FOI



Below:  
Malcolm X Little,  
Minister of  
New York City temple, and  
Elijah Muhammad





Raymond Sharrieff is the Supreme Captain of the Fruit of Islam (FOI) and son-in-law of Elijah Muhammad. Sharrieff is a very forceful and domineering leader much feared by members of the NOI.

Wallace D. Muhammad is a son of Elijah Muhammad and travels extensively throughout the United States in furtherance of NOI activities. Wallace has been considered by many to be the heir apparent to succeed Elijah Muhammad. Wallace has been "free on bond pending appeal" of a three-year prison sentence he received in April, 1960, for failing to report for civilian duty at a state hospital as ordered by his draft board. [REDACTED]

Malcolm X Little is the Minister of MTI Number 7, New York, and acts as liaison man for Elijah Muhammad. He also travels extensively on NOI business. Many members feel that Malcolm X is "an eager beaver" who is striving to promote himself into the number one position in the NOI. From 1946 to 1952, he was imprisoned at a Massachusetts State prison on a breaking and entering conviction. Prior to this sentence, he had been a confirmed user of marijuana. [REDACTED]

Herbert Muhammad is a son of Elijah Muhammad and has been designated as Public Relations Director of the NOI. Herbert accompanied his father on his recent trip to the Middle East.



Akbar Muhammad is a son of Elijah Muhammad and acts as Secretary of MTI Number 2. Akbar also accompanied his father on the recent trip.

Elijah Muhammad, Jr., is a son of Elijah Muhammad and is Assistant to the Supreme Captain of the FOI and Captain of FOI in MTI Number

It can be seen that the family of the "Messenger of Allah" is well represented in the hierarchy of the NOI.

The number of local officers in each temple varies according to the size of the temple. Each of the ministers is supposedly appointed by Elijah Muhammad. The minister is responsible for the functioning of his respective temple and within this temple is in complete control. According to the size of the individual temple, the minister designates assistant ministers, secretaries and investigators. Each temple also has a Captain of the FOI and the Muslim Girls Training (MGT), and each has as many lieutenants and secretaries as are needed for the particular temple.

D. Fruit of Islam (FOI)

The Fruit of Islam is composed of the male members within the Nation of Islam. Each temple has its FOI unit, which is under the leadership of a captain. The captain is assisted by as many lieutenants, secretaries, drill masters, and other officers as are necessary for the particular temple. Strict discipline is maintained at all times.



The main functions of the FOI are to protect NOI officials and property, to assure compliance of members with NOI teachings, and to prepare for the "War of Armageddon."\* Recently, there has been an increased emphasis on physical training and judo practice in numerous temples. A source has advised that the so-called judo practice was merely a way of showing the men how to use foul play. One FOI captain told his members they were not taking physical training just for fun but reminded them that they were soldiers. He said they should not expect the country to surrender to the Muslims without a fight. He said there would be much "head cracking before it is over." A judo instructor in another temple recently demonstrated two "arm locks" stating "this is how to break the white devil's arms." [REDACTED]

The FOI in some of the larger temples is divided into age groups. For instance, FOI members up to 16 years are in one group; those 16 to 35 are in another group; and those over 35, in still another. Some smaller temples have only two groups, while some include all in one group.

#### E. Muslim Girls Training (MGT)

Muslim Girls Training is the organization composed of the female members within each temple of the NOI. It is the female counterpart of the

\*The "War of Armageddon" is described by cult members as the coming racial war through which the white man's civilization will be completely destroyed.  
[REDACTED]



FOI and is similarly organized. MGT members receive instructions in homemal hygiene, calisthenics, "Muslim history," and "English language."

Each MGT member is supposedly bound by the following prohibitions under the "Rules or Laws of Islam":

- " Do not use lipstick or makeup
- Do not wear hair up unless wearing long dress
- Do not smoke or drink
- Do not commit adultery
- Do not use pork in any form
- Do not cook in aluminum utensils
- Do not wear heels over 1 1/2"
- Do not dance with anyone except one's husband"

Many temples also have a Junior MGT, which is composed of the female members of the temple between 15 and 19 years of age. Prior to 1957, these younger female members of the cult were embodied in a separate group called the General Civilization Class (GCC).

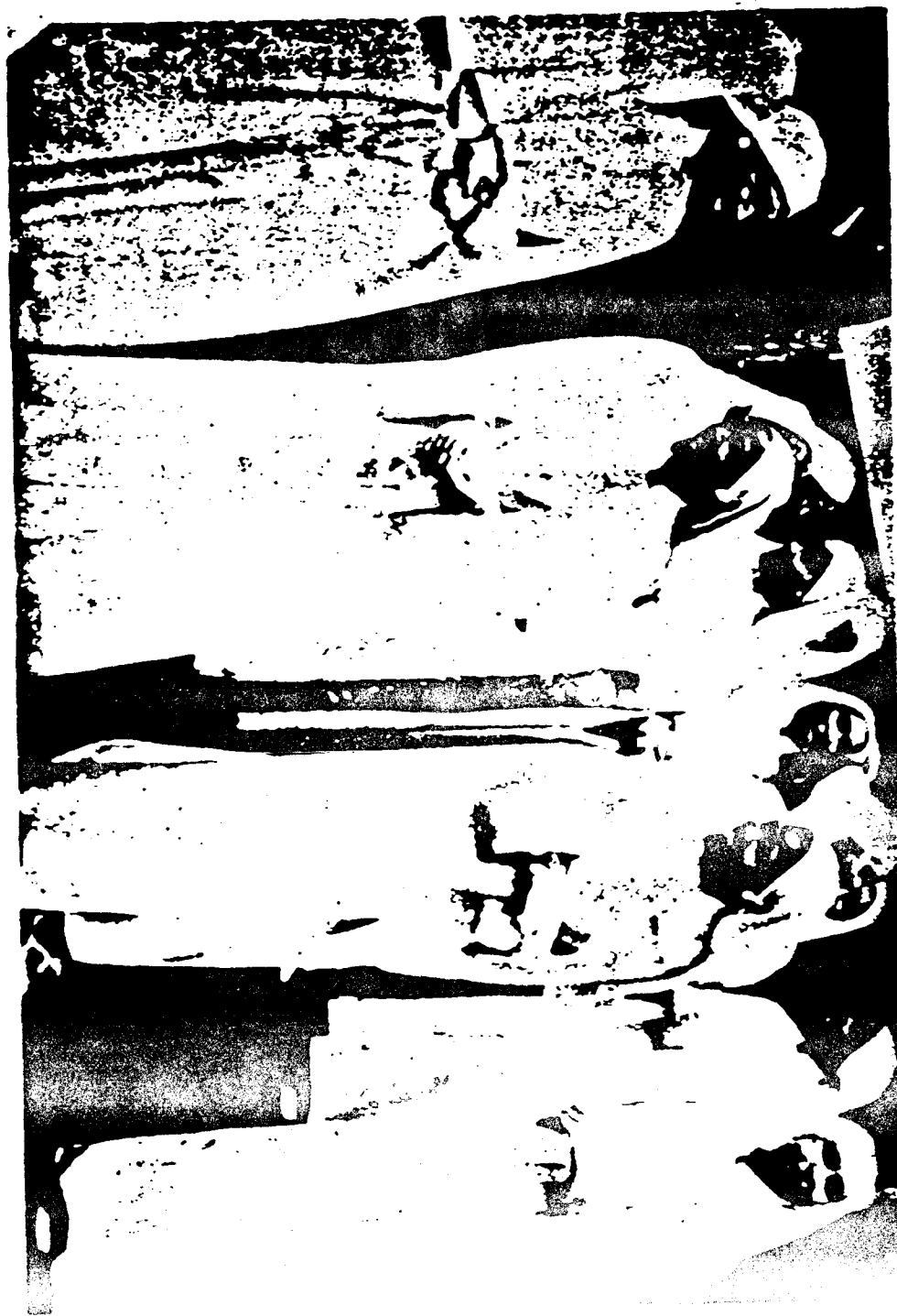
#### **F. University of Islam**

The cult presently operates two schools for the children of its followers. Although the schools are named the University of Islam Number 1 in Detroit and University of Islam Number 2 in Chicago, they are attended by children from four years of age up to their late teens. Approximately 100 students attend the Detroit school, and about 300 attend the Chicago school.



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MGT members "in the proper dress"







University of Islam Number 2, Chicago, is adjacent to the temple



Typical students of University of Islam



The Detroit school, over the years, has had considerable difficulties with local authorities. In 1934, the Detroit Board of Education noted that children of certain Negro families were being withdrawn from the public schools. An investigation which was instituted by the Board revealed that the families involved were members of this cult and that the children missing from the schools were attending the University of Islam, a school which had been established by the cult. An immediate examination of the school was made, and it revealed that the "curriculum, the teaching staff, and the equipment were entirely inadequate to afford even the most rudimentary education for the colored children who were attending. Not only was the school inadequate, but the subject matter which was taught appeared to be of a fantastic nature quite outside the realities of life." Attempts which were made to close the school by the enforcement of the school attendance laws resulted in strengthening the resistance of the cult, causing it and the school to operate in secrecy. A final decision of the Board resolved to refrain from rigid enforcement of the attendance laws and to assist "in adjusting the underlying economic and social problems of other Negro families of the same class in order that the movement may not spread; and to ignore temporarily the irritating 'unpiousness' of this particular group."



The most recent difficulty occurred in August, 1959, when the Detroit school was ordered closed by the local Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering. City officials advised there was a definite fire hazard, as all classes had been taught in one dimly lighted room which had inadequate exits. The cult never had obtained a permit to operate the building as a school.

The Detroit school, however, is again operating. It is located in a different building which was contracted for by the cult supposedly on money advanced by Elijah Muhammad. In December, 1959, an inspection of the school, by state and school board officials, determined that the minimum state requirements were being met. [REDACTED]

Children of NOI members are expected to attend the cult schools instead of the "devils'" or white men's schools. A tuition plan is in effect at the University of Islam Number 2. For each family sending children to the school, the weekly fee is one dollar for the first child and 50 cents each for the second, third, and fourth child. All other children from the same family attend free. There is an additional fee for those children using the bus operated by the cult to transport students to the school.

Recent pamphlets issued by the cult reveal that Elijah Muhammad required that the education and training of the children must not be limited to the "three R's." He constantly teaches that "the so-called Negro, who has



been the victim of centuries of mis-education, needs to be re-educated to attain his rightful place in the sun as a Black Man."\* Therefore, the curricula of the Universities also include such subjects as the history of the Black Nation, the civilizations of man, knowledge of the universe, and "all the sciences." Some subjects, as listed in a cult pamphlet for the benefit of "advanced students," are startling to nonmembers. For example, "Ending the Spook Civilization," "The Historical Display of Spook Civilization for 6000 Years," and "Chronological History from 13,000 B. C. to 1963."\*\* Other examples of the "scientific" subject matter taught in the cult can be found in the Appendices. [REDACTED]

In a television interview during the past year, the minister of the New York temple described how children of cult members were taught hatred of the white people. This minister said, "You can go to any small 'Muslim' child and ask him where is hell or who is the devil and he wouldn't tell you that hell is down in the ground or that the devil is something invisible that you can't see. He'll tell you hell is right where he has been catching it and he'll tell you the one who is responsible for him having received this hell is the devil." The devil is the white man to members of the cult. This is the type of education which the children of cult members are subjected to in NOI schools.

\*Annual Convention brochure, The University of Islam, Chicago, Ill. (undated)

\*\*Islam on the March, 16-page NOI pamphlet (no publisher or date shown)



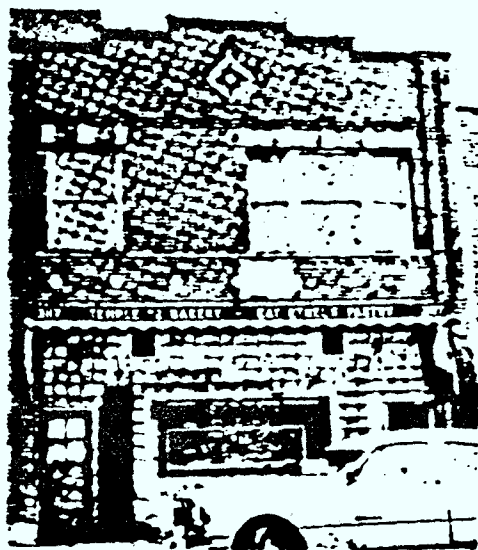
In addition to the two universities of the cult, some of the larger temples also conduct adult education programs. During the Spring of 1959, the New York temple adult education program listed courses in the following: penmanship, proper food preparation, spelling, learning and improving reading, great Black Man's history, physics without mathematics, and so forth.

G. Business Enterprises

Elijah Muhammad preaches that his followers must constantly strive for the unification of the so-called Negroes, under his leadership, to achieve complete economic independence from the white man. Thus, he has encouraged them to operate business enterprises and has urged all of his followers to trade exclusively at these places of business. Most of the enterprises utilize the name of the temple in their titles, for example, Temple Number 2 Restaurant, Temple Number 2 Grocery and Market, and so forth.

As of the Spring of 1960, the business enterprises and property of the temple in Chicago included the temple building and school, valued in excess of \$250,000; the home of Elijah Muhammad; a bakery; a dress shop, a cleaner and laundry; a grocery store; a restaurant; a barber shop; several apartment buildings; and a 160-acre farm located in Michigan. Although other temples do not have as extensive holdings as the Chicago temple, many other temples also have businesses which are operated for the benefit of the NOI.





Some of Business Enterprises of MTI Number 2





Elijah Muhammed at the 1959 annual Chicago convention, being preceded down the aisle  
by FOI Captain Raymond Sharpleff



During the annual convention of the cult at Chicago in February, 1960, a special closed meeting was held for leaders from the various temples. These leaders were ordered to start their own businesses in their respective cities and were advised to contact businessmen in their own localities for assistance. Muhammad is currently placing the economic independence of his followers foremost in importance, and he demands that all temples immediately concentrate on establishing businesses of their own.



### III. CONVENTIONS, BAZAARS, AND "FEASTS"

#### A. Recent Conventions

Each year on February 26, and usually for a day or two before or after the 26th, the NOI holds its annual convention in Chicago. The term "convention," when applied to these meetings, is a misnomer. Although many members from temples throughout the country attend these conventions, they do not act as delegates from their areas; they transact no business and have no vote. Instead, the convention is merely a group of sessions at which the various NOI ministers shout their praises for the "Messenger of Allah," Elijah Muhammad. One after another, these ministers take the rostrum to eulogize and extol Muhammad. In addition, several times during the convention, Muhammad appears to deliver long and verbose messages, emphasizing mainly hatred for the white race and his claim of the superiority of the "black people." He also uses the opportunity to repeat his strong pleas for more and greater contributions to the increasing number of projects he constantly proposes in his efforts to build his power.

The most recent convention was held at the Chicago Coliseum from February 26 to 28, 1960. The newspapers which usually carry items on the convention reported that the "Messenger's" main topic at this convention was to be his impressions of his recent alleged trip to Mecca. However, little was said of what he saw, other than his claim that he saw a sign outside the city of Mecca which warned nonbelievers to enter with the risk of losing their heads. Many



he tried to impress his followers by describing the warm reception he had received from those in authority at every place he visited. He claimed that he did not have to announce who he was, as they had already heard of him and knew all about him; that he was offered a home in Egypt; and that he and his followers were welcome there at any time.

During these conventions, the NOI misses no opportunity to extract a profit from members who attend from temples out of the Chicago area. During the 1959 convention, visiting members were required to register at the University of Islam and to pay a \$5.00 registration fee. They were required to contribute \$5.00 per day to the Housing Committee at the University of Islam, which in turn found lodging for the members. They also were expected to attend a bazaar held in connection with the convention, were expected to eat their meals at the NOI cafeteria, were expected to have their cars serviced in the NOI garage and service station, and were expected to visit and make purchases at the NOI bakery and grocery.

#### B. Bazaars

In connection with the annual conventions, the Chicago temple of the NOI also holds a bazaar, the 1960 one being called the "Unity Bazaar." Members of the Chicago temple were required to purchase a certain number of tickets to the bazaar, which they were expected to resell



at \$1.00 each. Each FOI member was required to buy 40 tickets and each MGT member 20, and these had to be paid for by the members whether or not they were able to resell them all.

The bazaar consisted of displays of the various Chicago cult-owned businesses, as well as those of other Chicago Negro-operated businesses. Sales were made from the exhibits of craftwork, furniture, clothing, appliances, and foods, with the profits being shared between the exhibitors and the NOI.

After the bazaar, it was revealed that nonmember exhibitors complained that even though they had rented space for their exhibits, they and their helpers were required to pay the \$1.00 admission charge to enter the bazaar. The cult refused to allot space to any company in which white people were employed. One record shop that had rented space was allowed to sell only records of Negro artists.

Throughout the year, other temples often hold bazaars in their own localities as a means of raising additional money for the NOI.

#### C. "Feasts" and Rallies

Many of the larger NOI temples hold annual "feasts" or rallies which are attended by members from the surrounding temples. Elijah Muhammad speaks at many of these "feasts"; however, when he is unable to appear, his place is taken by one of his sons or one of the more prominent ministers. Two of the most publicized "feasts" during the year 1959 took place in Washington, D. C., and New York City.



On May 31, approximately 5,000\* members and visitors gathered for a so-called "Spiritual Feast" at Uline Arena in Washington, D. C. Among those in attendance were ministers and captains representing 25 NOI temples. Automobiles and more than 30 chartered buses were used to transport members from Boston, Newark, New York, Norfolk, the Carolinas, and other areas. Elijah Muhammad spoke for over three hours in his usual violent, antiwhite manner. He called for complete segregation of the white and black races and reiterated his desire that the Federal Government furnish the Nation of Islam several states in order that it could set up its own nation. Upon completion of the service at Uline Arena, approximately 2,000 of the members moved to a rented hall, where they partook of a cafeteria-type meal.

A rally which was held at St. Nicholas Arena in New York City on July 26 completely filled the arena and forced many of the estimated 9,000 to 10,000 persons attending the affair to stand on the streets outside the arena. Elijah Muhammad declared he was anxious to speak out in defense of the NOI in order to counteract the charges made earlier in the month on a New York television show which charged him with preaching hate. Muhammad claimed he was not preaching hate but was telling the truth to his followers when he said the white man was the "devil."

\*Newspapers which normally carry NOI news erroneously claim the attendance was 10,000 persons.



All of the conventions, bazaars, rallies, and "feasts" are utilized by Muhammad not only to raise funds, but also to attract public attention to the NOI and to enhance his personal appeal to the uneducated masses of Negro people.

During July, 1960, Muhammad became very much concerned over many recent accusations appearing in the public press, both Negro and white, stating the NOI was a "Black Ku Klux Klan." In his attempt to placate the press and obtain more "favorable publicity," Muhammad announced a new policy of allowing white persons to be admitted to public NOI rallies. This new policy, however, still did not permit white persons to enter the regular, routine temple meetings.

The first "open" rally held at the Chicago Coliseum on July 24, as one member of the press reported, was attended by only "a mere handful" of white persons. The following week at New York City, Muhammad spoke at another "open" rally which was attended by only "about ten" white persons. The apparent fact that Muhammad's early efforts with his new policy have not measurably improved his popularity with the press is shown by one reporter's concluding statement: "Sensing that the messenger of Allah, who had been speaking for an hour, was just warming up to his subject, I left."



#### **IV. FINANCES AND BUILDING PROGRAM**

##### **A. Funds**

Public statements of NOI officials, as well as information set forth in numerous NOI publications, declare that the funds needed by the NOI to maintain the "Messenger," his family, and the ministers and to rent and operate temple properties stem mainly from the contributions of the members. These contributions have been augmented by various activities of the members to raise additional funds; namely, the sale of newspapers, the operation of various business enterprises of the individual temples, and numerous bazaars and "feasts" held by NOI members.

The collection of members' donations to the numerous funds or treasuries at the various temples appears to be one of the most important functions of the many meetings which all members are required to attend. Considerable time at each meeting is also taken up by the temple officers in their efforts to encourage and stimulate greater donations from the members in attendance.

One leader from among the American followers of the orthodox Islamic teachings has revealed that he considers Elijah Muhammad to be nothing more than a confidence man who "preyed upon the emotions and pocketbooks of the noneducated and ignorant Negro people for the financial gain of Elijah Muhammad and his henchmen." [REDACTED]



## Recent incidents reveal NOI thinking on the importance of financial

matters:

An MGT captain was having trouble with a member who was too inquisitive about where all of the money went when everyone donated to all of the causes and drives they so often had. The MGT captain inquired of Elijah Muhammad as to what she should do. Muhammad advised her to dismiss anyone who asked too many questions.

MTI Number 2 members were advised that no member should have a bank account and that all excess money owned by the members should be given to the temple in order to spread the word of Islam and to help in the purchase of new buildings. Also, they were advised that they should obtain loans to meet their financial obligations to the temple.

While urging all members to contribute to the next annual convention the Supreme Captain of the FOI told those present that they could sacrifice for the temple and let the "white devil" down if they were paying for a car or for furniture; that it was all right to tell the "white devil" any lie.

An FOI captain told his members that Elijah Muhammad did not want members who could not donate, "fish" (bring in prospective members or sell papers). He said a true follower of Muhammad must donate heavily to help support the temple.

A temple minister sent a letter to all members of his temple advising in part: "Work cheerfully, have no fear, and do not be afraid to sacrifice. It takes finance to advance; in other words, it takes bread to get ahead, and if you want to go (make progress), you got to have dough. Don't be afraid to give; Allah is ever aware of those who spend in the cause of truth. Give, Give, Give until it hurts."

One must wonder at the ability of the followers of the "Messenger,

the generally poor and relatively uneducated Negroes, to so willingly donate numerous funds of the temples. Because of the NOI practice of strictly



banking facilities and conducting nearly all financial transactions in cash, little is known on these matters. However, the steady growth of the cult reveals they have had certain success in obtaining the necessary funds.

One of the most unusual methods of collecting funds from cult members was used in the New York temple during the Summer of 1959. At an FOI meeting, the members were weighed, and those considered overweight were assessed one penny for each pound they were overweight.

The names of the funds to which donations are made differ somewhat among the various temples. As a result, there is general confusion among the members as to the uses of the numerous funds, but the following are some of these funds to which members must contribute:

1. Funds Which Are Sent to National Headquarters

Number 2 Poor Treasury and the Central Point Fund--These are two separate funds to which members of the different temples donate varying amounts. The monies are completely under the control of Elijah Muhammad to dispose of as he sees fit.

Savior's Day Gift Fund--This is an annual fund through which the temples vie with each other in trying to raise the largest amount of money as a gift to Elijah Muhammad. This is given to Muhammad.



during the Annual Convention each year on February 26, the supposed birthday of the founder of the NOI, W. D. Fard.

**Laborers' Travel Fund**--To this fund, maintained at MTI Number 2, all temples furnish money so that a leader, usually a son of Elijah Muhammad, can act as a courier between various temples in order to transmit messages and money from these temples to Chicago. The purpose is to furnish these couriers with money to allow them to travel independently--without employment.

**Public Relations Fund**--This fund is to collect money in order that Elijah Muhammad and his followers might at some future date start a newspaper of their own. At present, some of the money in this fund is used to maintain relations with newspapers friendly to the NOI, such as the weekly Negro newspapers, the Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch and the New Jersey Herald News.

**Mosque Fund or Number 2 Land Fund**--This fund contains the collections of the various temples which are used to make payments on the land to be used in building the proposed 20-million-dollar educational center and hospital in Chicago.

**New Car Fund**--This fund is used to replace the car of Elijah Muhammad and his family.



## **2. Funds Which Are Kept for Use at the Local Temples**

The funds collected by the individual temples vary considerably in number and purpose. The following list sets forth some of the funds collected for local use:

General Treasury  
New Temple Fund  
Minister's Trip Fund  
Insurance Fund  
Equipment Fund  
Minister's Treasury  
Temple Rent  
Minister's Rent

Farm Fund  
FOI Treasurer  
FOI Captain Fund  
MGT Captain Fund  
School Fund  
Bus Maintenance  
Summer Canning Fund

### **B. Proposed Center in Chicago**

During the February, 1958, NOI Convention at Chicago, Elijah Muhammad first publicly announced his plans for the building of an educational, industrial, and religious center. The center was to contain a mosque (temple), a university, and other buildings of most modern architecture. Muhammad said he would need approximately three and one-half million dollars. He included this proposed center as a part of his "Blueprint for the Black men in America."

At the 1959 NOI Convention, Muhammad again made a strong plea for funds to further the plans for the new center which he said was to be built at 85th and South Park Avenue in Chicago. By this time, the amount



he requested had considerably increased. Persons attending the convention were given pamphlets containing a personal message from Muhammad, stating in part, "...we are now looking forward to build a Community Center. In the great task of building this monument for all of us in America, \$20,000,000 is needed." The pamphlet described the mosque, educational institute, library, and hospital which will be included in the new center, along with restaurants and shops.

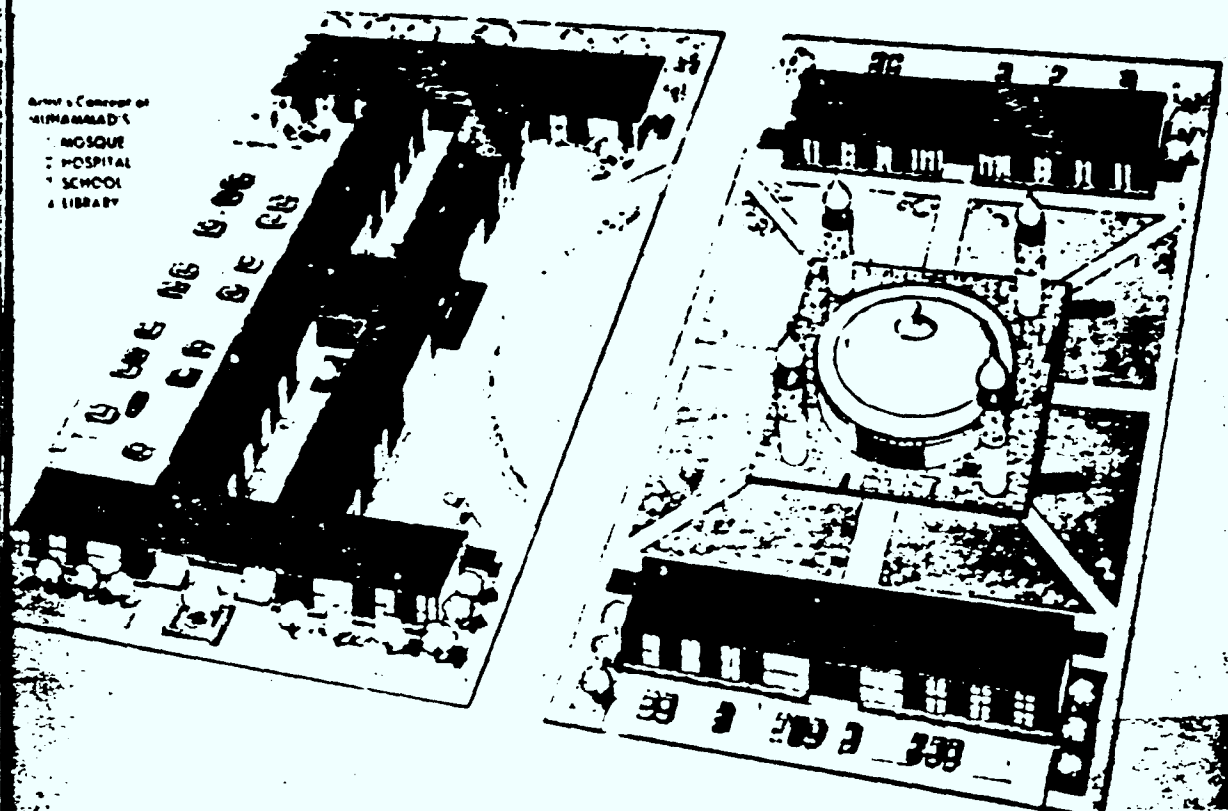
Just recently, an article written by Muhammad stated that the land for the new center has now been purchased. He also stated that part of the money being collected toward the center will be used to purchase farm land, modern equipment, and livestock to further the economic independence of cult members in the Chicago area.

C. Proposed New Temple Building in Washington, D. C.

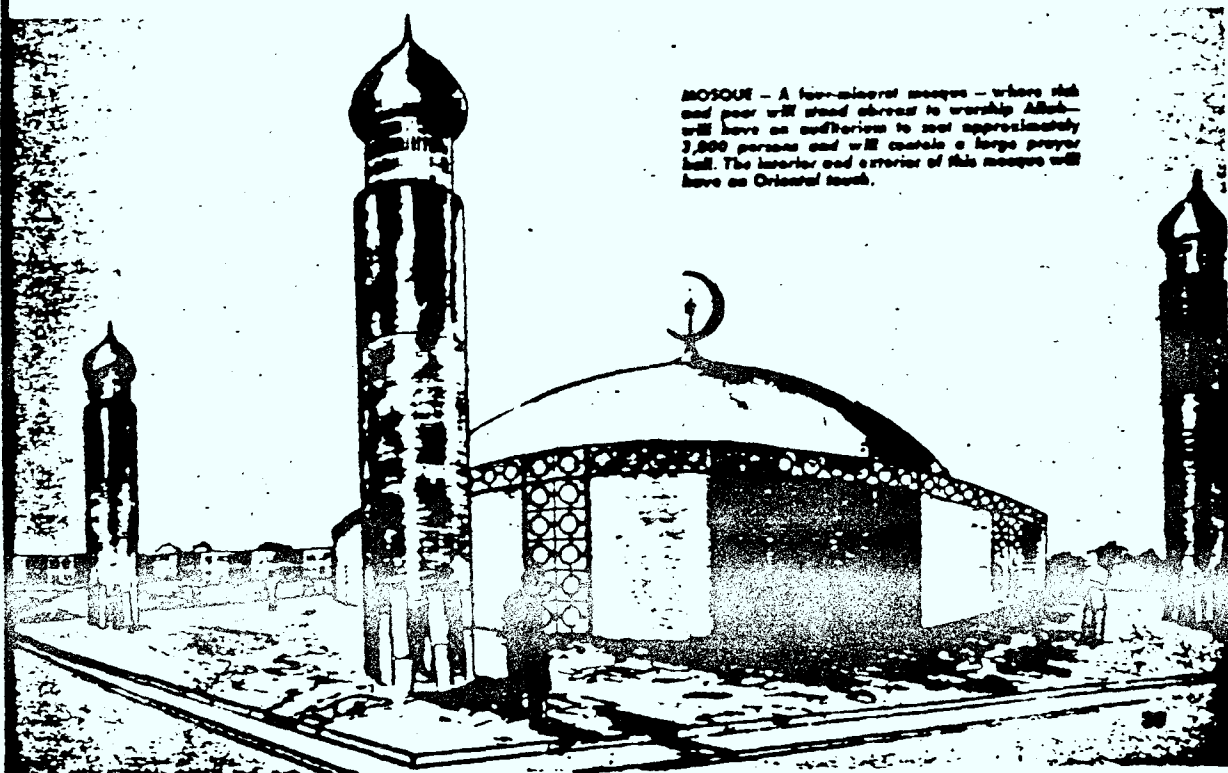
The Washington, D. C., temple of the NOI has purchased land and has built up a considerable fund for building a new temple. In April, 1960, actual construction began on this building, which is expected to cost about \$100,000. The minister of MTI Number 4 has said this would be the first new temple ever built by the NOI in the United States. All other temples now in use are old buildings converted for use as temples. MTI Number 4 members were advised late in 1959 that Elijah Muhammad had loaned \$4.00 per month to each member, which must be paid back; therefore, each member was expected to contribute \$4.00 per month to repay the loan. [REDACTED]



Street & Concept of  
 MEMPHIS  
 MOSQUE  
 HOSPITAL  
 SCHOOL  
 LIBRARY



MOSQUE - A four-minaret mosque - where rich  
 and poor will stand abreast to worship Allah -  
 will have an auditorium to seat approximately  
 3,000 persons and will contain a large prayer  
 hall. The interior and exterior of this mosque will  
 have an Oriental touch.



Proposed \$20,000,000 Center in Chicago



## V. PUBLICITY AND RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS

### A. Publicity

Elijah Muhammad has not overlooked the importance of publicity in his promotion of the NOI. During the Summer of 1957, the NOI formed a Public Relations Committee. The duties of this committee have been to handle press releases, advertising, advice to ministers of local temples, and the preparation and distribution of educational material. Many individual temples also have their own Public Relations Committees.

An article in a recent NOI pamphlet, published by the minister of the New York temple, contains an article entitled "The Power of the Press... The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword!" Excerpts from this article reveal the importance being placed upon the Negro press by the NOI:

"The Pen Is Mightier Than The Sword. The weapon you should be able to rely upon most is the Negro Press. Therefore, you would be wise to keep it in good condition: strong, well-loaded, independent and ready."

"...The Negro Press is our only medium of voicing the true plight of our oppressed people to the world."



"Examine each of the different 'Negro' papers, then support the one you find to be the most fearless, uncompromising, and outspoken in behalf of our downtrodden people."

"The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword. The best way for those who are interested in The Messenger's teachings and his program, to keep up to date, and get the best understanding is by subscribing to the...papers."\*

The pamphlet from which the above quotation was taken described four Negro newspapers which then carried items on the NOI and/or articles written by Elijah Muhammad.

The most prominently mentioned newspaper was the Pittsburgh Courier in which the "Messenger's" column entitled "Mr. Muhammad Speaks," appeared regularly from June, 1956, until August, 1959. A brief explanation of the technique of the NOI concerning the use of this paper will reveal how Negro newspapers are used, not only as a means of recruiting members, but also as a means of raising additional funds for the NOI.

#### 1. Pittsburgh Courier

This Negro newspaper, established in 1910, is published weekly in several editions for various cities and areas throughout the whole country. The Courier's circulation averages about 120,000 copies weekly.

\*The Messenger Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1959, page 20.



In June, 1956, when the Courier first started running Elijah Muhammad's column, the management of the paper realized this column would be controversial but thought that it might create reader interest. In addition, Elijah Muhammad guaranteed the owner of the newspaper that he would require all members of his organization to become salesmen of the Courier, which would increase its circulation by several thousands of copies each week. There was a sizable increase in circulation soon after the column began. This was accomplished as a result of all NOI members being forced to buy a certain number of copies each week. The members were then supposed to get their money back by reselling the papers. Subsequent changes in the financial arrangements between Muhammad and the management of the paper were worked out, all of which increased the income of the NOI. By early 1958, the NOI was reportedly subscribing to 100,000 copies weekly and receiving a commission of from \$500 to \$625 per month plus an additional two cents per copy for sales over a certain number.

This arrangement proved beneficial to both parties until the NOI began to use "pressure tactics" in further attempts to get higher commissions. The NOI attempted this by suddenly cutting their subscriptions from 100,000 to 12,000 copies weekly. Because this would have proved ruinous to the paper, which was in poor financial condition, the Courier was forced to agree



to higher commissions. As time went on, the difficulties continued. After many NOI temples failed to pay for their papers and the NOI made demands for more and more space in each issue, the paper cancelled Muhammad's column in August, 1959. Thereupon, NOI members immediately stopped selling the Courier, and were ordered to concentrate on selling the Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch, which the members of many temples had already been selling along with the Courier.

## 2. Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch

This Negro weekly newspaper was established in 1952 and has a circulation of approximately 30,000 copies. The publisher and his wife, who acts as editor, are both NOI members. Since October, 1958, a staff writer, also an NOI member, has written a column in support of the NOI. For approximately six months during the latter part of 1957 and early 1958, and regularly since January, 1959, issues of this paper have carried Elijah Muhammad's column. Every one of Muhammad's columns closes with: "Hurry and join onto your own kind. The time of this world is at hand. Write to: Muhammad's Temple\* Number 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois." Elijah Muhammad and his followers have been more successful in controlling this paper than they were the Courier. Both the editor and his wife have visited Muhammad in Chicago, have joined the NOI, and have allowed NOI members to become the paper's representatives in various sections of the country.

\*Since the May 19, 1960, issue of paper, the word "mosque" has replaced "temple" in Muhammad's column. However, other papers reprinting Muhammad's column continue to use "temple."



### **3. Other Newspapers and Publications**

In addition to the above-mentioned newspapers, articles concerning the NOI and columns by NOI leaders have appeared on numerous occasions in the New York Amsterdam News, \* the New Jersey Herald News, \* the St. Louis Argus, \* and the Afro-American. \* Articles favorable to Elijah Muhammad and the NOI also have appeared in the publications, Ebony\* and the Moslem World and the U.S.A. \* The effort expended by NOI members in selling the publications mentioned above can be shown by the commissions paid to the NOI by Ebony magazine. In the Spring of 1958, NOI officials and the publishers of Ebony made arrangements for NOI members to sell annual subscriptions to the magazine. Part of the money from each sale was forwarded to the publishers, and the remainder was retained by the NOI. From May to September, 1958, Ebony publishers paid commissions of more than \$13,000 for the sale of nearly 8,000 magazine subscriptions by members of the Chicago NOI temple. [REDACTED]

In March, 1960, The New Crusader, a weekly Negro newspaper published in Chicago, started to regularly carry Muhammad's column, as well as other articles about the NOI. As with other papers,

\*The New York Amsterdam News, New Jersey Herald News, and St. Louis Argus are Negro weekly newspapers; the Afro-American, national issue, is a Negro semiweekly newspaper; Ebony magazine is a Negro monthly; and Moslem World and the U.S.A. is not now in publication, but this magazine was irregularly published as an attempt, according to the editor, to promote understanding between Islam and the West.



the NOI appears to be using the technique of constantly requesting more and more space while promising that the NOI will increase the paper's circulation.

**B. NOI Publications**

The NOI has published and sold many pamphlets and throwaways. Several of them have had very wide distribution and are constantly utilized as means of furthering NOI teachings and activities. Examples include:

The Supreme Wisdom--a 56-page tabloid setting forth the teachings or "message" of Elijah Muhammad

The Messenger Magazine--a 40-page pamphlet with many pictures of cult businesses, the 1958 convention, the family of the son-in-law of Muhammad, and plans for the National Mosque

The Islamic News--an eight-page tabloid containing pictures and a transcript of the speech of Elijah Muhammad at the Washington, D. C., "Yeast" on May 31, 1959

During May, 1960, two additional publications were released which are receiving wide distribution. They are:

Mr. Muhammad Speaks--This 16-page tabloid, self-described as "A Militant Monthly Dedicated to Justice for the Black Man," is published in New York and sells for 15 cents per copy. The front page of the first issue features a picture of Muhammad and, in bold green headlines, his statement: "We Must Have Some Land!" The paper contains excerpts from Muhammad's speech at the 1960 annual convention and a series of accounts of his trip as filed from the various places he visited in the Middle East. This issue also contains other information concerning the NOI, police brutality against Muslims in New York City, and articles on Negro nationalistic movements in Africa. One full page is devoted to an appeal from Muhammad for funds for the proposed 20-million-dollar center in Chicago.



**Muhammad Speaks to the Black Man**--The first issue is a 24-page pocket-size publication which is expected to be issued semi-monthly from Chicago. The magazine, self-described as "The Magazine that Dares to Tell the Truth," contains two articles by Muhammad and articles by other NOI members. All articles are in keeping with the NOI tactic of ridiculing the white man and those Negroes favoring integration of the races, while heaping praise on Muhammad and his followers.

**C. Travel of NOI Leaders**

Although Elijah Muhammad, several of his sons, and a few of the leading ministers travel constantly visiting and speaking at the various temples throughout the United States, it was just recently that the "Messenger" completed a long-planned trip to the Middle East and an alleged pilgrimage to Mecca. His main purpose in making the trip, it is believed, was so that he could gain publicity and thereby help in his efforts to achieve an aura of respectability for his teachings and to impress his followers and the general public.

Throughout the year 1959, all members of the NOI were solicited for donations for the proposed trip of the "Messenger." In July, Malcolm X, the minister of the New York temple, travelled to the Middle East "to act as a goodwill ambassador for Elijah Muhammad" and to arrange for meetings between Muhammad and Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt and the



United Arab Republic, and other leaders. It appears that Malcolm X accomplished little, for on his return, he stated that he had not visited Mecca, as planned, and had not met Nasser.

Elijah Muhammad continued to make plans and announced that his sons Herbert and Akbar would accompany him on his trip. In preparation for taking numerous photographs of his father and various Arabian leaders, Muhammad's son Herbert purchased nearly \$1,500 worth of equipment, including a Polaroid camera, 100 magazines of movie film, 200 rolls of 35-millimeter color film, and 50 rolls of black and white film for a reflex camera.

Muhammad and his two sons began their airplane trip at New York City on November 21, and the NOI laid plans for a triumphal meeting in early February, 1960, at Los Angeles upon completion of the round-the-world trip. During the trip, Muhammad continued his column in the Herald-Dispatch with articles date-lined from the various cities that he visited. He described places he had visited and continually stressed the wonderful reception he received at each stop. Late in December, according to his column, he and his sons visited both Mecca and Medina.

Although Muhammad was supposed to travel around the world and arrive in Los Angeles early in February, 1960, he and his two sons suddenly arrived back in New York City on January 6, 1960. No explanation, as yet, has been made for this change of plans.



#### **D. Recruiting Methods**

While the publicity resulting from newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and throwaways, as well as conventions, bazaars, "feasts," and the travel of cult leaders, has aided the NOI in becoming better known throughout the country, Elijah Muhammad and his cult leaders have resorted to numerous techniques designed to add new followers to this growing cult.

Probably the most important of these was inaugurated by Muhammad during the Summer of 1958. At a meeting of cult leaders in Muhammad's home, he announced that he had decided to "de-emphasize" the religious aspects of his teachings and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. Muhammad stated that, in changing this emphasis, he felt the Negro would show a keener interest in the program which would improve his everyday life, rather than in a program which would change his religious views so completely.

This policy change is shown in articles by Muhammad which set forth his so-called "Economic Blue Print for the Black Man." Muhammad stated the so-called Negroes in America must stop looking toward the white man for justice and jobs and should take the following steps:



- "1. Recognize the necessity for unity and group operation (activities).
- "2. Pool your resources; physically as well as financially.
- "3. Stop wanton criticism of everything that is black-owned and black operated.
- "4. Keep in mind--Jealousy Destroys From Within.
- "5. Observe the operations of the White Man. He is successful. He makes no excuses for his failures. He works hard--in a collective manner. You do the same.
- "6. Spend your money with your own kind."

At various times, the NOI has emphasized concerted efforts toward the recruitment of the more intelligent and educated Negro and, at other times, this emphasis is placed on the illiterate and dissatisfied Negro. While in the past, a teaching of NOI ministers was designed to inflame and agitate the followers, through the years the teaching has been softened so that, at least during the meetings open to visitors, it is not as inflammatory.

Members of all temples regularly engage in "fishing" for the "dead" as a method of gaining recruits. "Fishing" consists of going out into the streets prior to meetings in an attempt to bring the "dead," nonmembers, into the temple. For example, all FOI members of the Washington temple are required to "fish" on Sundays from ten in the morning until two o'clock, when the meetings begin.

\*Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch, Chicago edition, January 9, 1960.



## **E. Membership Procedures**

Those persons desiring membership in the NOI are required to follow certain procedures before they are considered full-fledged members. While there are some exceptions, the following steps are those generally required of new members.

A prospective member is first given the following letter which he is to copy in his own handwriting. In the event an error appears in the handwritten letter, it will be returned from Chicago with a request that the applicant rewrite the application.

"Address  
City and State  
Date

"Mr. W. F. Muhammad  
4847 So. Woodlawn Ave.  
Chicago 15, Illinois

"Dear Savior Allah, Our Deliverer:

I have been attending the teachings of Islam by one of your Ministers, two or three times. I believe in It, and I bear witness that there is no God But Thee, and that Muhammad is Thy Servant and Apostle. I desire to reclaim my Own. Please give me my Original name. My slave name is as follows:

Name  
Address  
City and State"



Upon acceptance of the application, a letter is directed to the applicant enclosing question forms to be answered. Accompanying these forms is the request that if the applicant is married, the spouse should sign his or her name and if under 18 years of age, the parents should sign. The question forms are as follows:

"Question form number 1.

"All questions must be answered correctly - 100% - By all who accept Islam (Please fill out yourself, use ink)

- "1. Are you married? . . .
2. Are you living together at the present time? . . .
3. Have you a marriage license? . . .
4. Do you have children? . . .
5. Are you divorced? . . .
6. Have you divorce papers? . . .
7. Please state names and ages of your children under 'Remarks'
8. Sign the enclosed form - 'Declaration of His or Her Own.'

"Remarks:"

"Application for the Declaration of His or Her Own

"Name . . . . .  
Address . . . . .  
City . . . . . State . . . . .  
(Above filled in when form received)

Father's Name . . . . .  
Address . . . . .  
City . . . . . State . . . . .

Mother's Name . . . . .  
Address . . . . .  
City . . . . . State . . . . .



Husband or Wife's full name . . . .

Address . . . .

City . . . . State . . . .

Husband . . . .

Wife . . . .

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Included with the above forms are several lists of "facts" and a list of ten questions, called the "student enrollment." The "student enrollment" questions must be correctly answered and mailed to Chicago before the applicant receives his official "X" name.

The minister of the New York temple has explained the use of the "X" name as follows:

"During slavery, the slaves were known as Sam, John, Luke, George, etc. All were known as Jones' slaves, Smith's slaves, or whatever the last name might have been. Since the original names had long been dropped along with 'our' culture and religion, 'we' took our masters' name after we were freed. When you become a member, your slave name is dropped and you are given an 'X' until your real name is given back."

Within each temple, for example, the first man named John receiving his X name would be John X, the next would be John 2X, and so forth. Several temples having a large membership have gone as high as 17X in assigning numbers to members with the same given name.



After completing the enrollment requirements, the successful applicant is usually introduced at a regular NOI meeting and requested to answer several questions and make a short speech before the group telling why he is "happy" to be an NOI member.



## **VI. SECURITY MEASURES AND DISCIPLINE**

### **A. Meetings**

All NOI temples conduct two types of meetings, those open to the general public and those conducted for members only. The number and frequency of these meetings vary considerably. The regularity of attendance by the members also varies among the individual temples. In some temples, members are required to attend all meetings. At these temples, a member who is unable to attend must call the temple before the beginning of the meeting to furnish an acceptable excuse. Nonacceptable excuses result in temporary suspension. Other temples require attendance at only one or two meetings a week.

Several of the larger temples conduct meetings every night of the week, with both afternoon and evening sessions during the weekends. These temples usually conduct two or three open meetings, two or more for the general membership, and separate sessions for the POI and MGT. Smaller temples often have fewer meetings, but all have some open and some closed meetings. An air of secrecy pervades all meetings, and strict rules forbid the discussion of temple activities outside the temple.

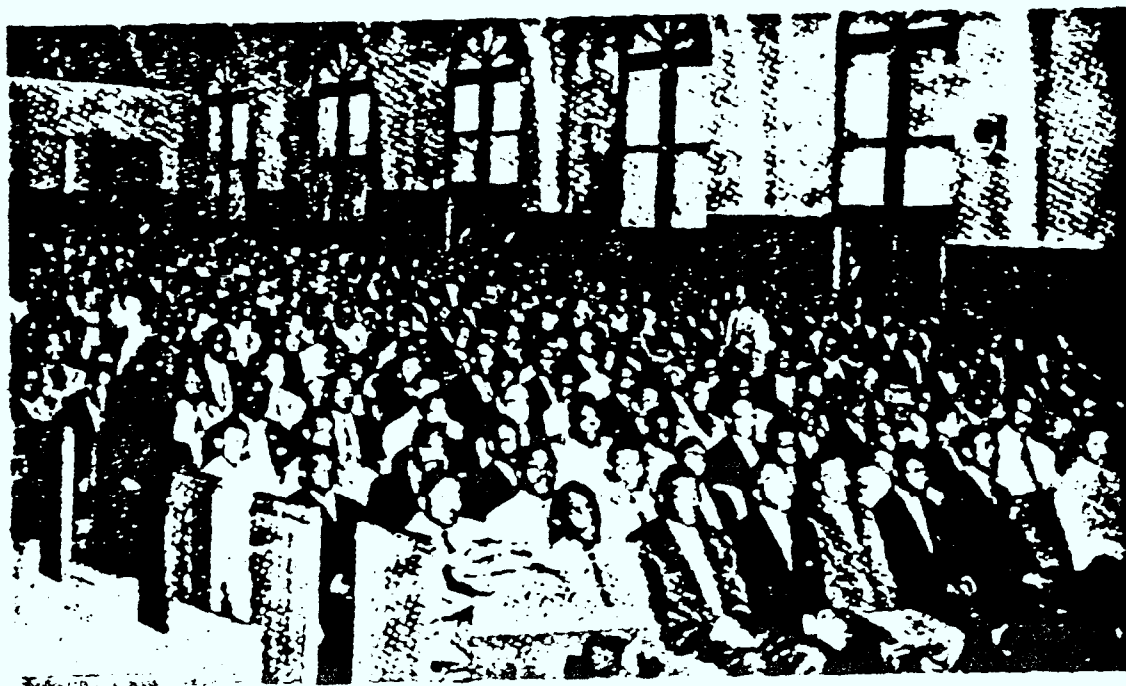


Both members and nonmembers attending NOI meetings are thoroughly searched before entering the temple hall. All males are searched for liquor, guns, knives, files, or any sharp instrument. Not only are these items not allowed in the temple, but also cigarettes, gum, papers, packages, or such items are taken from the man. He is then furnished a claim ticket with which to reclaim his property on leaving the temple. Females are taken to another part of the building, searched for weapons of any kind, and even relieved of possessions such as lipstick and cosmetics. They, too, receive a ticket to reclaim their property upon leaving the temple.

After being thoroughly searched, the individuals are admitted to the temple meeting room, where the members are seated separately, men in one section, women in another. At open meetings, where visitors are in attendance, the visitors are also seated in a separate section. During meetings, guards are stationed around the hall and in the aisles. They are changed at regular intervals. The guards' duties are revealed in "general orders for guards" which were issued by the Chicago temple:

1. To take charge of this post, and all temple property in view.
2. To walk my post in a perfect manner, keeping always on the alert.
3. To report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce.
4. To report all calls from post, more distant from the temple than my own.
5. To quit my post, only when properly relieved.
6. To receive, obey and pass on to the sentinel, who relieves me, all orders from the commanding officer, officers of the day, and non-commissioned officers of the guard only.





Typical segregated seating at NOI meetings. This occasion was the Chicago convention  
in February, 1957  
(Note: FOI guards stationed in aisles)



7. To talk to no one, only in the line of duty.
8. In case of disorder to give the alarm.
9. To allow no one to commit a nuisance on or near my post.
10. In any cases not covered by instructions, call the guards.
11. To salute all officers and standards not cased.
12. To be especially watchful at nights during the time of meetings."

During meetings, guards are stationed not only within the temples but also on patrol on the streets around the temple. \*

**B. Protection of Elijah Muhammad**

Elaborate security protection is afforded Elijah Muhammad at all times. Much of this protection is undoubtedly ceremonial or ritualistic evidence of the respect Muhammad's followers hold for him. Nevertheless, during 1958, a threat was reportedly made against the life of Elijah Muhammad. This caused much concern among cult members even though the threat never materialized. Also, during the Summer of 1959, J. B. Stoner, head of the Christian Knights of the K. K. K., wrote a letter to Muhammad which was full of invective. At the same time, Stoner wrote another letter to the New York City Police Commissioner which offered the services of the Klansmen to rid the city of "Muslims" if the commissioner would furnish them with guns and ammunition. Muhammad was very much concerned about the K. K. K. threat and caused both of Stoner's letters to be reprinted in newspapers which normally carry items concerning the NOI.

\*Very recently, a source advised that for several weeks the guards on duty during meetings in one temple have been carrying revolvers under their belts for the protection of speakers and temple officers.



Muhammad has, for a long time, been security-conscious. In 1952, when first viewing the house he was then purchasing for his residence, Muhammad was afraid to enter a room until it was fully lighted and upon entering, immediately checked the window locks. After moving into the house, Muhammad had his followers cut away all the shrubbery from around the house and cut away the tree branches to a height of six to eight feet so that no one could approach the house without being seen. [REDACTED]

When Elijah Muhammad travels away from Chicago, the FOI members at whichever city he visits are responsible for furnishing him adequate security protection. The precautions taken prior to and during the Uline Arena "feast" at Washington, D. C., in May, 1959, provide a good example of this security.

Prior to Muhammad's arrival at the arena, FOI members thoroughly searched the entire building for hidden devices or bombs and stationed guards at strategic places inside and outside the building. Another group of FOI members, in about a dozen automobiles, drove to the airport to meet Muhammad. They first searched the airport area looking for suspicious persons and on the arrival of Muhammad's plane, marched onto the field and escorted Muhammad between two columns of guards back to a waiting automobile. The entourage escorted Muhammad to the Washington minister's home, which had been guarded by several FOI members since early morning. The



carloads of guards remained stationed outside the house until it was necessary for them to escort him to the arena. Upon arriving at the arena, Muhammad walked from the car, into the arena, and all the way up to the rostrum between two lines of approximately 750 FOI members standing shoulder to shoulder. The same precautions were taken when Muhammad left the arena. During his stay in Washington, special food was prepared by NOI members to avoid any possibility of Muhammad's being poisoned.

#### C. Discipline and Trials of Members

Individuals associated with Elijah Muhammad for a considerable period have advised that although Muhammad appears to be a mild-mannered person, it is obvious that he is capable of dominating and impressing his followers. This ability is shown by the strict discipline maintained over cult members.

As mentioned earlier in this study, the military-type organizational setup extends throughout all phases of NOI activities. Individual temple ministers, with the assistance of the temple FOI captains, exert control over the members of their own temples. The only higher authorities in the organization are Elijah Muhammad and National FOI Captain Raymond Sharrieff. To maintain this strict control, the various ministers, or FOI captains, hold "trials" to expel or discipline members for a variety of reasons.



At these so-called "trials," the violator is called before the minister or the FOI captain, sometimes before the regular temple membership meeting and sometimes not. The charges are read and the sentence pronounced. The member is not allowed to defend himself and has no right of appeal; the decision of the minister or FOI captain is final.

The most severe sentence imposed on a member is permanent expulsion from the NOI. Another sentence frequently imposed is called the "Class F" sentence. This sentence calls for the expulsion of the member for a definite period of time, during which he cannot talk to NOI members nor attend temple meetings. Many of this type of sentence are for 90 days for a minor violation, with up to five years for a more serious violation. Usually the five-year sentence is given with a provision that, if the individual has lived according to the rules, he might apply for readmission after one year, but only if he shows an unusual willingness to cooperate and further the NOI program.

For minor violations not calling for expulsion from the temple, the "Class C" sentence is imposed. This requires that the member perform labor for a certain period of time with a working group at the temple.

The violations which cause a member to be brought to trial are numerous and varied. The following are but a few examples:



1. Reporting temple activities to a nonmember
2. Committing adultery
3. Using narcotics
4. Not attending temple meetings
5. Misusing funds collected for the temple
6. Using "unbecoming" language before female members
7. Failing to bring "lost-found" (visitors) to meetings
8. Eating or selling pork
9. Mentioning before temple members that he would refuse to die for "Allah"
10. Failing to pay extra dues for being overweight
11. Allowing a visitor to enter temple under influence of liquor
12. Sleeping during temple meeting

**D. Informant Threat and the FBI**

During the past year, Muhammad and various NOI ministers have evidenced considerable interest in and attention to the possibility that "spies" have entered their ranks. They have threatened dire treatment for any "spies" they catch, while promising that any NOI member "found guilty of reporting information on temple activities to the white man will be killed."

One minister advised his followers that "the FBI devil" cannot come to the temple himself, so he sends some of "our own in the black form" to hear what is going on in the temple. The minister then threatened that "we will pull their tongues out if we catch them or find out who they are."

In an article appearing last summer in the Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch, Muhammad wrote, "The FBI, who has watched for a chance to do the worst against us with their paid Negro stool pigeons among us, even to



making false charges of stealing the charity given for the expenses of the temples and laborers', all will fail." [REDACTED]

Again at the 1960 NOI convention at Chicago, Muhammad was reported to have talked about spies and stool pigeons and told about cutting off the heads of spies and stool pigeons and hanging them up and putting tags on them. [REDACTED]

In spite of the NOI leaders' repeated violent threats of action they would take against "spies" and Muhammad's claim that all attempts of nonmembers to learn of NOI activities would fail, the ministers have found it necessary to take other precautions so that members would not divulge NOI activities to nonmembers.

One minister advised his members concerning talking to FBI Agents. He cautioned, "Some of you may think it is wise to engage them in conversation when they come to your house but this is wrong. They will trick you into saying something even though you think it is small, then they will go to other Muslims for little bits of information and when they compile it, they have quite a bit. They are trained to ask you leading questions and sometimes you will think you are not talking but you are tricked into it. When they come to see you do not talk to them. You do not have to let them come into your house. If they have a warrant for you then go peacefully with them. If they do not have a warrant then close your door and walk away because they cannot force you to talk to them." [REDACTED]



## VII. INCIDENTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

### A. Prison Inmates

There are a number of Negro inmates at prisons in several states who claim affiliation with the NOI. Some of those claiming to be followers of Muhammad who are presently in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, had caused difficulty in other penal institutions and were subsequently transferred to Leavenworth. Most of these inmates, as well as many in state prisons, have embraced the "Muslim" faith subsequent to confinement and do not actually have a very clear-cut idea of Muhammad's teachings. They are primarily interested in those features which enable them to complain about prison conditions and racial discrimination. [REDACTED]

For example, in the Fall of 1959, four convicts at a New York State prison who claimed to be followers of Muhammad filed legal action against the warden claiming that he was denying them enjoyment of religious freedom while in his prison. They had made demands for special foods, private meetings, special equipment, and other special considerations. No final action has resulted from these complaints, but much friction has developed because of this incident, and the NOI has used it as a propaganda weapon to stir up its members. [REDACTED]



At another State penitentiary, in Pennsylvania, an inmate who claimed to be a follower of Muhammad, assaulted a guard after drinking some homemade liquor. When he was placed in segregation, it was discovered that more than 20 other inmates, all followers of Muhammad, had gathered and had planned to cause a disturbance. Fortunately, the plan was discovered in time to prevent what could have been a serious incident.

[REDACTED]

**B. Local Law Officers**

Muhammad and ministers of the NOI take pride in citing the fearless nature of the members. They speak with pride of various incidents where the NOI members have engaged the police. When large numbers of "Muslims" gather and white persons are present, there seems to be a sort of eagerness to demonstrate their fearlessness.

In July, 1958, an annual "Feast" sponsored by MTI Number 7 was held at a hall in New York City. Because of limited space in the hall, many of the male NOI members were forced to stand outside the entrances to the hall. The New York police assigned to duty in the vicinity were especially tolerant and calm, and this undoubtedly prevented the situation from getting out of hand. Although the police were polite and cooperative throughout the feast, the NOI members exhibited attitudes of ridicule and sarcasm to the police whenever they had the opportunity to do so.

[REDACTED]



Typical of the contradictory statements made by Muhammad and his ministers concerning violent action are the instructions given by the New York minister on two occasions within a few days of each other:

"Members should not resist law enforcement officers at any time. We are not against the laws, we are to obey the laws. If the law officer is wrong we must still obey him because Allah will take care of him." [REDACTED]

"We are not aggressive but peaceful people. The next time any policeman puts his hands on a Muslim he will not go to court but will go to the cemetery." [REDACTED]

Also, during 1959, Muhammad wrote a letter addressed to all temples of the NOI advising the ministers to read this letter before the FOI at each meeting until such time as the minister was sure that the contents were clear and well understood by everyone. The letter said that the "Muslims" were getting into too much trouble with the local law enforcement authorities and that this difficulty which the "Muslims" were having throughout the nation was giving them a bad reputation and was costing the NOI a great deal of money. However, the letter continued, the members should not interpret these instructions to mean that they should turn the other cheek when they are attacked. It stated "when you are fought against you should fight back. In fact, fight those who fight you." [REDACTED]

Late in 1959, national leaders of the NOI met to discuss their growing concern over numerous conflicts between members and law enforcement



authorities. They felt that because the Negroes who became NOI members are taught to have no fear, they become self-confident and aggressive. This results in frequent clashes between members and white persons. One of the leaders likened the members to tigers, saying, "When you awake a sleeping tiger, you must put a harness on him also, otherwise he may do a great deal of damage." [REDACTED]

In spite of this apparent concern, NOI publications continue to spread their message of hate.

The first issue of a new NOI monthly publication called Mr. Muhammad Speaks, dated May, 1960, contains a long article concerning two incidents involving clashes between New York City police officers and members of the NOI. In both of these cases, NOI members interfered with officers who were attempting to make arrests and, in the ensuing melees, the NOI members claimed they had been seriously injured. Both cases resulted in long and involved legal action, and the NOI is using these legal battles to stir up the members against law enforcement authorities and white people in general.



## VIII. NOI DOCTRINES, ATTITUDES, AND DOGMA

Although Elijah Muhammad constantly claims he is a believer in the recognized religion of Islam, many orthodox Muslims openly denounce him as a fraud, who is using their religion to deceive and exploit the American Negroes. Muhammad lays down the doctrines and rules which his followers must accept. As there is no one written document setting forth the teachings and beliefs of the Nation of Islam cult, occasional changes in emphasis have been noted. Therefore, the following doctrines, attitudes, and dogma of the NOI have been compiled from the writings and speeches of Muhammad and several of his more prominent ministers.

It must be remembered that NOI ministers and assistant ministers of the various temples throughout the country are quite independent of one another and of the national headquarters in Chicago. For this reason, the teachings and attitudes reflected by the followers of Muhammad at various temples and on different occasions often vary from mild defiance against the white man and "his government" to insane hatred for all facets of the "white man's society."



### **A. Doctrines Openly Stressed**

The following doctrines are those openly taught by Muhammad and his ministers through the numerous meetings of the NOI which visitors or "lost-founders," may attend. They are also loudly proclaimed at public meetings and conventions and through the many publications and newspapers in which articles by Muhammad appear.

#### **1. Allah Himself Appointed Muhammad as the Messenger**

"Allah came to us from the Holy City of Mecca, Arabia, in 1930. He used the name 'Wallace D. Fard'... He also signed His name as W. F. Muhammad' which stands for 'Wallace Fard Muhammad. He came alone.... He said, 'My name is Mahdi, I am God, I came to Guide you into the right path that you may be successful and see the Hereafter.'... He chose me to bear the Message of Life (Islam) to my people here.... I have been raised and chosen by God to teach and lead you to Him, that you may see the Hereafter and you may do well to follow and obey me...."

Muhammad, Moslem World and the USA  
June-July, 1956

"I am sent from Allah and have the backing of Allah and the powers of heaven and earth to reclaim our people in America from their tormentors."

Muhammad, New Crusader, February 2  
1960.

"I came directly from God. I am guided by God. I am in communication with God and know God. If I had not known God and had not been commissioned by Him, I would not have known that God was with me, I would not dare come before anyone and speak as I speak. If God is not with me, if God is not



protecting me, how can I come and say things no other man has said and get away with it? And why should I fear the Devil when God has given me knowledge of the Devil..."

"I am only warning you that your Christian brothers are not going to take you to heaven, they are going to take you to hell. The only safe place for you today is to follow me, believe in Islam, believe in Allah and you will see the hereafter."

Muhammad, Mr. Muhammad Speaks,  
May, 1960

## 2. Christian Religion Is a Hoax

"The Christian religion is a hoax because it teaches Jesus was born without the benefit of natural man-woman relations and claims Jesus was the son of God.... Jesus was but a prophet like Moses and many others and was a believer in Islam.... Christianity as a religion was never known by Jesus because it was fabricated in Rome after his death.... Christianity is not the religion of the black man but instead is a tool of the white man being used to enslave black men.... Throw the Christian religion in the garbage pail and then take the pail and fight like hell."

Muhammad, Chicago Convention,  
February, 1960

"The kind of Christianity that the white man is teaching us destroys love for self and kind. It puts the desire in the heart of the blackman to love and adore the white race.... The god, the angels, and the prophets have always been painted white by the Christians. This is a false picture of God, and his prophets as painted by the White race."

Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Examiner,  
Dispatch, January 28, 1960



**"Christianity was given to the Negro by the white man. Christianity promises all things after death. Negroes need them now. Negro ministers do not understand the Bible and don't know what they are talking about.... Jesus was not a white man and did not 'found' Christianity. The Bible was written years after his death. The Bible is lies made up by white man to fool the black man."**

**NOI minister, Boston, October 11, 1959**

**3. White Man Is the Devil and Our Enemy**

**"The false teachings of his god and religion, poison foods, drinks, and drugs, have brought the so-called Negroes into a state of mental death. They have no knowledge of self, nor anyone else, and are persecuted and killed all day long by the white man, their open enemy (the Devil), who has deceived the Negroes into even loving him as they should love Allah (God)."**

**Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch,  
April 7, 1960**

**"The world knows that I am teaching you the truth and, most of all, desire justice for my people in America, with whom I have suffered all of my life. Allah (God) has given to me the key to loosen them from the power and bondage of our ever-relentless, merciless, evil, indecent murderers, our open enemies, the devil slavemasters; so that our people may be free indeed and know their God (our only true friend) and their enemies (the devils), who have deceived them and the world of the black nations."**

**Muhammad, Pittsburgh Courier,  
August 15, 1959**

**"We are thankful to Allah for raising up from amongst us Elijah Muhammad to lead us on the right path and to tell us who we are, to tell us who is our God and to tell us who is the devil. Before we thought the devil was under the ground, but Muhammad taught us he is on top of the ground."**

**NOI minister, New York,  
December 18, 1959**



"...all who are found believing in the devils will be destroyed with the devils."

Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch,  
September 17, 1959

4. White Man Has Enslaved the Black Man

"The white race went to Africa, robbed her of some of her native sons and daughters to bring to America to slave for them. These (the so-called Negroes) were cut completely off from contact with their native people for 300 years; these blacks the white man has robbed so completely of his teachings and trainings, that now he can use one against the other."

Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch,  
April 7, 1960

"In 1555 our mothers and fathers were taken from their homes by some Christian white men and taken to this country in chains. Our mothers and fathers would not submit willingly to slavery so they were allowed to have children. When the children came forth they were taken away from their mothers so that they would not acquire any knowledge of themselves. Our mothers and fathers were killed by the white man and we, the children, had no one to tell us who we are. No one to tell us where we came from and most of all no one to tell us that our God's name is Allah."

NOI minister, New York, December 18, 1959

"The Negroes have been blind, deaf and dumb to the knowledge of themselves for the past 400 years. A man cannot have respect for himself unless he has a knowledge of himself. This is why our slavemasters kept our history away from us. How could they use us if we had known that we are the best people on earth?"

NOI minister, New York, September 16, 1959



### **5. White Man Will Be Destroyed**

**"LET THE SO-CALLED NEGROES KNOW THE TRUTH that the time of our enemies has come to an end and that Allah will destroy them from the face of the earth...."**

**"...God, Himself, hates the wicked devils and has set a day for their destruction."**

**Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch, October 29, 1959**

**"All of us know that the time of the white race was up in 1914; the extension of time that they have been granted was given to them to allow time for the awakening of the black man, and especially the so-called Negroes in America, who are living under the power of the people who are first to be destroyed of all the people on earth...."**

**Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch, February 18, 1960**

**"The devil has used us for his benefit, but his time is up, and he will soon be destroyed. All those who love him will also burn in the fires of destruction."**

**NOI minister, New York, June 7, 1959**

### **6. Black Man Must Be Awakened**

**"You, the so-called American Negro, with the help of Allah (God) can solve your own problems."**

**"...Before the Black Man can begin to gain economic security, he must be awakened (from the dead), gain knowledge, understanding and wisdom which will enable him to follow my teachings. Islam and only Islam will point the way out of the entanglement of 'WANT IN THE MIDDLE OF PLENTY' for the followers of Islam, the true religion of the Black Nation."**

**Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch, March 24, 1960**



"Allah has risen me to preach the Message of Truth to my mentally dead people...."

Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch, October 29, 1959

"We, the so-called Negroes, here in North America, should be thankful to Allah for giving us Elijah Muhammad. Muhammad has brought us face to face with our open enemy. Before we met Elijah Muhammad our knees used to shake when we saw a white man. Muhammad has taken away our fear."

NOI minister, New York, January 8, 1960

7. Black Man Must Unify and Gain Economic Independence

"I have this message for my people, the so-called American Negro; truth for you is like giving life to one who is physically dead. The aim is to separate the so-called Negro from the slave master and sit them in heaven; to give them a thorough knowledge of the scripture, self, of God and of the Devil and the scriptures pertaining to them. Unite them all to their own kind, the next qualification for self independence on the planet earth, in a place they can call their own. Stop depending on others to do for you what you can do for yourself.

"Unite, pool our income to help create, build a future for our people regardless of whether they are Moslems or not. Buy land, help build homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, factories to help make employment for yourself and your fellow man. These things may be accomplished by you and me uniting together, spending our money with our own."

Muhammad, Mr. Muhammad Speaks,  
May, 1960



"Some of us have hundreds and thousands of dollars, lying in the white man's banks... sit down with me and think on your own people's condition, as I have and let me have this money, to use for yourself, and your poor nation, which will return to you in millions and billions."

Muhammad, New Crusader,  
March 26, 1960

8. Black Man Must Have Land of His Own

"We must have some land.... Let there be no mistake about it. We must come out from among the wicked and be separate. We should be given land of our own, a subsidy in payment for the years our fathers were used as bondsmen, and then be left to go on our own."

Muhammad, Mr. Muhammad  
Speaks, May, 1960

"The so-called Negroes must be separated from the White race and given a home on this earth that they can call their own."

Muhammad, Los Angeles Herald-  
Dispatch, November 5, 1959

"Muhammad's plan is for the United States to give Negroes 'either a tract of land, or several states, wherein they could form their own government.'

"His point was that in accepting this land Negroes would not be accepting gratuities, but would merely be receiving payment of 'back salary' earned during the many years of slavery."

NOI minister, Chicago Daily  
Defender, March 16, 1960



## **B. Attitudes Expressed in Closed Meetings**

While the openly stressed doctrines set forth in the preceding section reveal some of the beliefs of the followers of Elijah Muhammad, the real feelings of the members cannot be shown through statements made at open meetings or from articles in generally available publications. Only in closed meetings do many of these true attitudes reveal themselves.

### **1. Attitude toward Violence**

Muhammad continually publicizes the peaceful ways of the NOI, and though the openly publicized doctrines declare that the white race will be destroyed, it is said this destruction will come about through the power of Allah. Statements made in temple meetings reveal that Allah will get some help from NOI members, if recent instructions of ministers are followed by the members:

"We are told by the white man to bury the hatchet. We'll bury the hatchet in his head." [REDACTED]

"If you know of anyone circulating information that Muhammad is teaching hate or is an enemy of the Muslim religion, you should knock his teeth out and shove your fist down his throat." [REDACTED]

"I don't like white men....kill all of them." [REDACTED]

"Blood must be shed to get our rights. We mean business." [REDACTED]

"Why go abroad to fight, let's fight the devil, the white man, right here in this country." [REDACTED]



"If anyone gives information on the organization to the white man, you must take care of him. Take that person out and cut off his head." [REDACTED]

"Heads will roll if the white man molests a Negro woman.... When you kill a snake, that is not hate." [REDACTED]

"If one black man is lynched, a white man (adult or baby) should be killed." [REDACTED]

"Because the white race is attempting to keep Negroes in slavery, heads will roll, and it won't be long." [REDACTED]

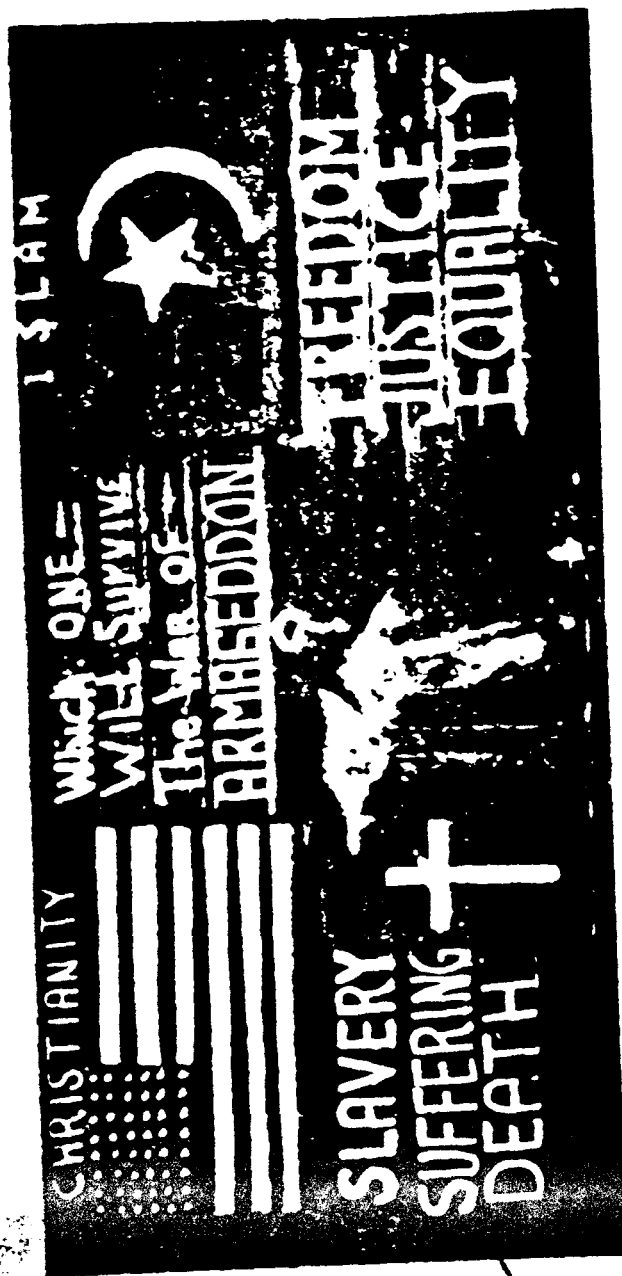
## 2. Attitude toward American Flag and Government

Muhammad openly advises his followers to show respect for the American flag and the authority of the Government. However, at temple meetings, the ministers speak of our flag as the "rag" and repeatedly denounce the "white man's government" which they claim gives them no freedom, justice, or equality. As an aid to the ministers in their derision of our flag and Government, nearly every temple is equipped with a large blackboard, the upper part of which contains a drawing of the American flag and the flag of the NOL.

Following are statements recently made in closed meetings:

Minister pointing to the American flag said, "Our children are expected to pledge allegiance to it every day and our sons are to fight for it. And what do we get?" He then pointed to the picture of a Negro hanging from a tree. [REDACTED]





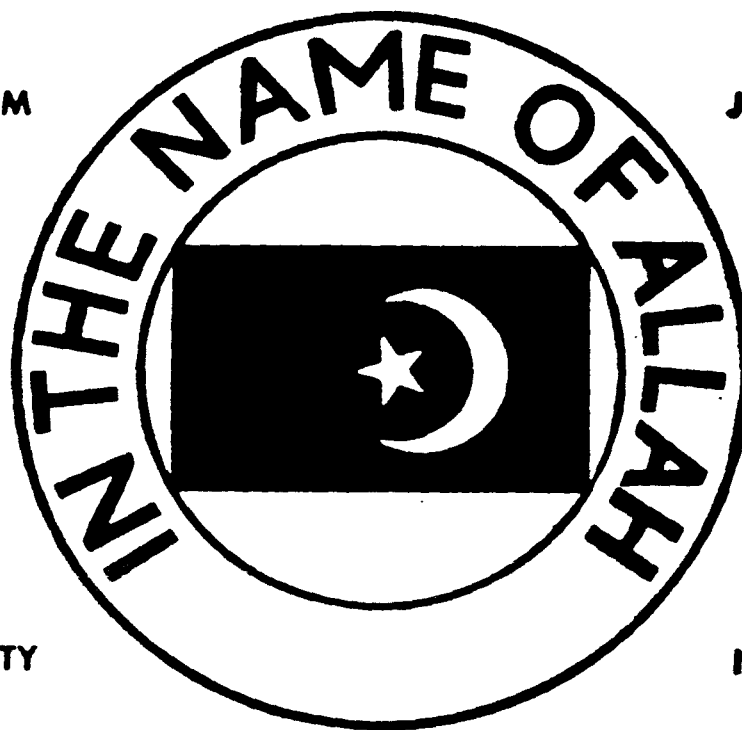
Similar signs are drawn at the top of blackboards used by temple ministers in their preachings of hate



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**FREEDOM**

**JUSTICE**



**EQUALITY**

**ISLAM**



"United States flag represents freedom, justice and equality for only the white people; the red stripe in the US flag is for freedom, just as it is in the Muslim flag, the crescent, but there is a white stripe followed by another red stripe which means there is only freedom for the white race." [REDACTED]

"Black man has nothing to protect in the white man's government. Stop being a fool, you have no part in the United States Government." [REDACTED]

"You have no justice under the American flag and no freedom and equality. Under the Muslim flag, the crescent and star, you will receive freedom, justice, and equality. The American flag is for white men only." [REDACTED]

### 3. Attitude toward Selective Service and Armed Forces

Muhammad publicly states that each member of the NOI decides for himself concerning registering under the Selective Service Act and entering the Armed Forces. He claims the members are expected to obey the Government and make the Government proud of them.

However, when speaking before temple meetings, he says that he does not order any of his followers to refuse to comply with the Selective Service laws but that he is against any cooperation with the white man on the part of his followers. He also tells them that a member who joins the Armed Forces is not considered to be a member of the NOI while he is serving in the Armed Forces but can, if he leads a righteous life after leaving the service, return to the NOI. [REDACTED]



In a short film, made by Muhammad and currently being shown at various temples throughout the country, Muhammad states: "Muslims do not register for the draft because they owe no allegiance to the United States. Why should Muslims protect a country which does not honor them or their women, and in which the Muslims do not receive freedom, equality, and justice?" [REDACTED]

Muhammad's ministers have also spoken against Selective Service. One advised his members to discuss Selective Service with him before registering because membership in the NOI entitled them to status as conscientious objectors. Another told his members that he would rather go to prison than fight in the "white man's army." [REDACTED]

NOI members are regularly being arrested for failing to register under the Selective Service Act. Recently several members, upon being arrested, said they "had no reason to register," as they were "registered with Allah." Muhammad's own son Wallace is presently "free on bond pending appeal" of a three-year prison sentence for failing to obey his draft board's orders. [REDACTED]

C. Dogma To Be Accepted by NOI Members

In addition to the preceding doctrines and attitudes which reveal the beliefs or credo of the Nation of Islam, consider the following dogmas or "facts" which NOI members are taught and expected to accept. All of



the following excerpts have been taken from recent articles or speeches of Muhammad and several of his more prominent ministers.

"66 trillion years ago the planet earth and the moon were one planet."

"One of our wise black scientists got angry sixty six trillion years ago and wanted to destroy everybody because he could not make everyone speak the same language. He dug a shaft in the center of the heart of this planet, filled it with explosives and set it off thinking he was going to get rid of all of us. He only blew it into parts; the part you call the moon was blown away and dropped all the water on this side."

"The whole planet earth was known as Asia. The black man lived in heaven in the place called Mecca today. In those days there was no one in Africa until one of the scientists asked for permission to take his family into Africa so that they would be closer to nature. This is why you find the black man in Africa today."

"Originally all people on the Earth were black; however, a man named Yakub took some brown people to an island and by a process of selective breeding, which took hundreds of years, produced a man who had white skin, but who was weaker than the black man. He said that after the white man was produced that the black man chased him out of Asia, and into the caves of Europe. He said the white man lived in caves with dogs, and ate raw food. He said that after a time Moses was sent to teach the white man how to live, but Moses found the caves so dirty that he could not teach the white man anything so Moses called together all the wise scientists to produce an animal that would eat the filth of the white man. He said the scientists tried the dog, the rat, and the cat; however, none of these were suitable, and they finally produced the hog, who is a combination of the rat, the dog, and the cat, and the hog cleaned up the filth accumulated by the white man."



"The pyramids were built by the black man. The white man called this one of the wonders of the world. The white man thinks it took us 300 years to build the pyramids but it really took us only 20 years. We could have done it in 15 years but we only worked on the pyramids when we were on our vacation."

"Allah allows only a limited amount of time to any race to rule the earth and the so-called white race was given 6,000 years to rule the earth which period expired in 1914. The white race is living on borrowed time and the reason God has not yet destroyed the white race is that Allah is waiting until all righteous people (dark races) have had the opportunity to hear the truth as it is taught by Islam"

"An angel, a human being, is flying in an airplane with a mission to give the people the last warnings which will be in pamphlet form. These pamphlets will be written (or printed) in two languages - Arabic and English - and they will be dropped from a terrific height over America, the only country that the Revelation is directed to. 'The everlasting Gospel,' which means, the last true warning to the so-called Negroes and foreign Muslims will take place between eight and ten days before the final day of destruction."

"North America will be destroyed by short circuiting gravity which would result in North America being engulfed in fire which would last for 300 years."

"The vision of Ezekiel's wheel in a wheel is true if carefully understood. There is a similar wheel in the sky today which very well answers the description of Ezekiel's vision.... This wheel-like plane, its like never before seen. You cannot build one like it and get the same results. Your brains are limited. If you would make one to look like it, you could not get it up off the earth into outer space."



"The present wheel-shaped plane known as the Mother of Planes, is one-half by a half-mile and is the largest mechanical man-made object in the sky. It is a small human planet made for the purpose to destroy the present world of the enemies of Allah. The cost to build such a plane is staggering! The finest brains were used to build it. She is capable of staying in outer space six to twelve months at a time without coming into the earth's gravity. It carries fifteen hundred bombing planes with most deadliest explosives.

"The bombs are equipped with motors and the toughest of steel was used in making them. This steel drills and takes the bombs into the earth at a depth of one mile and is timed not to explode until it reaches one mile into the earth. This explosion produces a mountain one mile high; not one bomb will fall into water. They will all fall on cities."

"Allah has told Muhammad that He, Allah, will destroy the wicked nation (white race)."

"The so-called Negroes should give up the slavemaster's name and religion and unite with Islam."

"If they do not unite with Islam they will be destroyed by Allah. He that wears the name of the 'beast' (white race) shall be destroyed by Allah along with the 'beast.'"

Additional "facts" are included in the Lessons for NOI members set forth in the Appendices.



## APPENDICES

The Nation of Islam utilizes several lessons which members are expected to study and learn. These lessons set forth additional "facts" which are supposed to clarify to the members their history and the history of their so-called religion.

Each lesson is studied and mastered before proceeding to the next one.

### "STUDENT ENROLLMENT LESSON

"1. Who is the original man?

Answer: The Original Man is the Asiatic Black Man, Owner, Maker, cream of the planet Earth, God of the Universe and Father of Civilization.

"2. Who is the colored man?

Answer: The Colored Man is the so-called white man or caucasian, Yacobs grafted devil, skunk of the planet Earth.

"3. What is the population of the original in the Wilderness of North America and all over the planet Earth?

Answer: The population of the Original Nation in the Wilderness of North America is a little over 17, 000, 000 lost-found, plus 2, 000, 000 Indians making a total of 19, 000, 000 and all over the planet Earth 4, 400, 000, 000.

"4. What is the population of the colored people in the Wilderness of North America and all over the planet Earth?

Answer: The population of the Colored People in the Wilderness of North America is 103, 000, 000 and all over the planet Earth, 400, 000, 000.



"5. What is the square mileage of Earth, how much is land? How much is water?

Answer: The square mileage of the Earth is 196,940,000 square miles. 57,255,000 square miles is land, 139,685,000 square miles is water.

"6. What is the square miles of useful land used every day by the entire population of the planet Earth?

Answer: The square miles of useful land used by the entire population every day is 29,000,000 square miles.

"7. What is the square miles of useful land used by the Original Man?

Answer: The square miles of useful land used by the Original Man is 23,000,000 square miles.

"8. What is the square miles of useful land used by the Colored Man?


Answer: The square miles of useful land used by the Colored Man is 6,000,000 square miles.

"9. What is the birth record of said nation of Islam?

Answer: There is no birth record of said nation of Islam.

"10. What is the birth record of said other than Islam?

Answer: The birth record of said other than Islam is: Buddaism--approximately 35,000 years old. Christianity--approximately 551 years old."





## " LESSON NO. 1

- "1. Why isn't the devil settled on the best part of the Planet Earth?

Answer: Because the earth belongs to the Original Black Man and knowing that the devil was wicked and there would not be any peace among them, He put him out in the worst part of the earth and kept the best part preserved for himself every since he made it. The best part is in Arabia at the Holy City Mecca. The colored Man or Caucasian is the devil. Arabia is in the far east and is bordered by the Indian Ocean on the South.

- "2. Why did Moses or Mossa have a hard time to civilize the devil 2000 B. C. ?

Answer: Because he was a savage. Savage means a person that has lost the knowledge of himself and who is living a beast life. Mossa was a half original man, and a prophet. Two thousand B. C. means before Christ. In the Asiatic world it was in the eleven thousand year. Civilize means to teach the knowledge and wisdom of the human family on the Planet Earth.

- "3. Why did we let half original man Columbus discover the poor part of the Planet Earth?

Answer: Because the original man is the God and owner of the earth, and knows every square inch of it and has chosen for himself the best part. He did not care about the poor part. Columbus was a half original man and was born in Italy, which is southeast Europe. His full name was Christopher Columbus, and the place he discovered was North America. He found the Indians here, who were exiled seventeen thousand years ago from India. They are original people.

- "4. Why did we run Yacob and his made devil from the root of civilization, over the hot desert, into the cave of West Asia, as they now call it Europe? What is the meaning of Eu and Rope? How long ago? What did the devil bring with him? What kind of life did he live and how long before Mossa came to teach the devil of the forgotten Tricknollegy?



**Answer:** Because they had started making trouble among the righteous people telling lies. They accused the righteous peoples, causing them to fight and kill one another. Yacob was an original black man, and was the father of the devil. He taught the devils to do this devilishment. The root of civilization is in Arabia at the Holy City Mecca, which means where wisdom and knowledge of the original man first started. When the planet was found, we ran the devils over the Arabian Desert. We took from them everything except the language and made him walk every step of the way; it was twenty-two hundred miles. He went savage and lived in the caves of Europe. Eu means hillsides and Rope is the rope to bind in. It was six thousand and nineteen years ago. Mossa came two thousand years later and taught him how to live a respectful life, how to build a home for himself and some of the tricknolleggy that Yacob taught him. Which was devilishment, telling lies, stealing, and how to master the original man. Mossa was half original, a prophet which was predicated by the twenty-three scientists in the year one, fifteen thousand nineteen years ago, today.

" 5. Why did we take Jerusalem from the devil? How long ago?

**Answer:** Because one of our righteous brothers, who was a prophet by the name of Jesus was buried there, and he uses his name to shield his dirty religion, which is called Christianity, also to deceive the people so they will believe in him. Jesus' teaching was not Christianity, it was Freedom, Justice Equality; Jerusalem is in South Europe. Jerusalem is a name given by Jews, which means founded in peace, and it was first built by the original man, which was called Jebus, also Salem, and Ariel. We took the city from the devils about seven hundred fifty years ago.

" 6. Why does the devil call our people Africans?

**Answer:** To make our people of North America believe that the people on that continent are the only people they have and are all savage. He bought a trading post in the Jungle of that continent, the original people live on this continent and they are the ones who strayed away from civilization and are living a jungle life. The original people call this continent Asia, but the devils call it Africa, to try to divide them. He wants us to think we all are different.



**"7. Why does the devil keep our people illiterate?**

**Answer:** So that he can use them for a tool and also a slave. He keeps them blind to themselves so that he can master them. Illiterate means ignorant.

**"8. Why does the devil keep our people apart, from his social equality?**

**Answer:** Because he does not want us to know how filthy he is and all his affairs, he is afraid because when we learn about him we will run him from among us. Socialist means to advocate. A society of men or groups of men for one common cause. Equality means to be equal in everything.


**"9. Why does Mohammed make the devil study from thirty five to fifty years before he can call himself a Moslem Son? And wear the greatest and only Flag of the Universe? And he must add a sword on the upper part of the Holy and Greatest Universal Flag of Islam?**

**Answer:** So that he could clean himself up. A Moslem does not love the devil regardless to how long he studies, after he has devoted thirty five or fifty years trying to learn and do like the original man. He could come and do trading among us and we would not kill him as quick as we would the other devils, that is who has not gone under this study. After he goes through with this labor from thirty five to fifty years, we permit him to wear our Flag which is the Sun, Moon and Stars. He must add the sword on the upper part. The sword is an emblem of Justice, and it was used by the original man in Mohammed's time. Thus, it was placed on the upper part, of the flag so that the devil can always see it, so he will keep in mind, that any time that he reveals the secrets. We gave him this chance so that he could clean himself up and come among us. His head would be taken off by the sword. The Holy flag of Islam is the greatest and only flag known. The Universe is everything Sun, Moon, and Stars. They are planets. Planets are something grown or made from the beginning, and holy is something that has not been diluted, mixed or tampered with in any form.



"10. Why does Mohammad and any Moslem murder the devil? What is the duty of each Moslem in regards to four devils? What reward does a Moslem receive by presenting the four devils at one time?

Answer: Because he is one hundred percent wicked and will not keep and obey the laws of Islam. His ways and actions are like a snake of the grafted type. So Mohammed learned that he could not reform the devils so they had to be murdered. All Moslems will murder the devil because they know he is a snake and also if he be allowed to live, he could sting someone else. Each Moslem is required to bring four devils, and by bringing and presenting four at one time his reward is a button to wear on the lapel of his coat, also a free transportation to the Holy City Mecca to see brother Mohammad."





**"LESSON NO. 2**

- "1. Who made the Holy Koran or Bible? How long ago? Will you tell us why does Islam re-new her history every twenty-five thousand years?**

**Answer:** The Holy Koran or Bible is made by the Original People who is ALLAH, the supreme being, or (black man) of Asia; The Koran will expire in the year twenty-five thousand. Nine thousand and eighty years from the date of this writing the Nation of Islam is all wise and does everything right, and exact. The Planet Earth, which is the home of Islam and is approximately twenty-five thousand miles in circumference, so the wise man of the East (black man) makes history or Koran, to equal his home circumference, a year to every mile and thus every time his history lasts twenty-five thousand years, he re-news it for another twenty-five thousand years.

- "2. What is the circumference?**

**Answer:** 24,896 miles Approximately 25,000 miles.

- "3. What is the diameter of the planet?**

**Answer:** 7,926 miles. Seven thousand nine hundred twenty-six miles.

- "4. What is the total square mileage?**

**Answer:** 196,940,000 miles. One hundred ninety-six million, nine hundred forty-thousand square miles.

- "5. How much is the land and water?**

**Answer:** 57,255,000 square miles of land. 139,685,000 square miles of water.

- "6. What is the total weight of our Planet?**

**Answer:** Sixty sex trillion tons. A unit followed by twenty-one ciphers.



" 7. How fast does our planet travel per hour?

Answer: 1,037  $\frac{1}{3}$  miles per hour.

" 8. What makes rain, hail, snow and earthquakes?

Answer: The Earth is approximately covered under water. Approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ th of its surface. The Sun and Moon, having attracting power on our planet while our planet making the terrific speed of 1,037  $\frac{1}{3}$  miles on its way around the Sun. The Sun draws this water up into the Earth rotation, which is called gravitation, in a fine mist that the naked eye can hardly detect. But as this mist ascends higher and increasing with other mists of water in different currents of the atmosphere until when she becomes heavier than gravitation, then she distills back to the Earth in the form of drops of water or drops of ice, which depends on how heavy the mist was in the current of air it was in; there are some layer or currents of air real cold and warm and some very swift and changeable so when the water strikes one of these cold currents it becomes solid ice in small round drops in form or in a light fluffy form which is called snow, but this water is not ever drawn above six miles from the Earth's surface by the Sun and Moon; the reason it rains back on our planet is because it cannot get out of the Earth Sphere with its high speed of rotating around the Sun makes it impossible. Earthquakes are caused by the Son of Man by experimenting on high explosion; in fact that all the above is caused by the Son of Man.

" 9. Why does the devil teach the eight-five per cent, that a mystery God brings all this?

Answer: To conceal the true God which is the Son of Man and make slaves out of the 85% by keeping them worshiping something he knows they cannot see (invisible) and he lives and makes himself rich from their labor; the 85% know that it rains, hails and snows also hear it thunder above his head. But they do not try to learn, who it is that causes all this to happen by letting the 5% teach them; he believes in the 10% on face value.



**"10. Who is that mystery God?**

**Answer:** There is not a mystery God. The Son of Man has searched for that mystery God for trillions of years and was unable to find a mystery God. So they have agreed that the only God is the Son of Man. So they lose no time searching for that that does not exist.

**"11. Will you set at home, and wait for the mystery God to bring you food?**

**Answer:** Emphatically No. Me and my people who have been lost from home for three hundred and seventy-nine years have tried this so called mystery God for bread, clothing and a Home, and we receive nothing but hard times, hunger, naked and out of doors, also was beat and killed by the ones who advocated that kind of God and no relief came to us until the Son of Man came to our aid, by the name of our Prophet, W. C. Fard.

**"12. Tell us why the devil does not teach that?**

**Answer:** Because he desires to make slaves out of all he can. So that he can rob them and live in luxury.

**"13. What bring rain, hail, snow and Earthquakes?**

**Answer:** They continue daily, to teach the 85% that all this that you see such as rain, snow, hail, Earthquakes comes from that mystery God that no one will ever be able to see until he dies. This is believed by the 85%. The 10% know that when man dies that he will never come back and tell the living whether he lied or not because the dead is never known to return from the grave. All the History of Islam never reveals anything that no man had ever been able to come back from a physical death. But there is a chance for mental death, because the lost found was once dead mentally and many of them revived from it. But they were not physically dead, just mentally dead.

**"14. Who is the 85%?**

**Answer:** The uncivilized people, poison animal eaters, slaves from mental death and power. People who do not know the living God,



or their origin in this world and they worship that they know not what. Who are easily led in the wrong direction but hard to lead into the right direction.

"15. Who is the 10%?

Answer: The rich, the slave makers of the poor, who teach the poor lies, to believe that the almighty, true and living God is a spook and cannot be seen by the physical eye. Otherwise known as the blood sucker of the poor.

"16. Who is the 5% in this poor part of the Earth?

Answer: They are the poor, righteous teacher, who do not believe in the teaching of the 10% and are all wise and know who the living God is and teach that the living God is the Son of Man, the supreme being the (black man) of Asia; and teach Freedom, Justice and Equality to all the human family of the planet Earth, otherwise known as civilized people. Also is Moslems and Moslem Sons.

"17. What is the meaning of civilization?

Answer: One having knowledge, wisdom, understanding, culture, refinement and is not savage. Pursuit of happiness.

"18. What is the duty of a civilized person?

Answer: To teach the uncivilized people who are savage, civilization, righteousness, the knowledge of himself, the science of everything in life, love, peace and happiness.

"19. If a civilized person does not perform his duty what must be done?

Answer: If a civilized person does not perform his duty which is teaching civilization to others they should be punished, with a severe punishment. Ezekiel, Chapter 3, 18 Verse; St. Luke Chapter 12, 47 Verse.



**"20. What is the prescribed law of Islam of said person of that ability?**

**Answer:** That the civilized person is held responsible for the uncivilized and he must be punished by the nation of Islam.

**"21. Who was the founder of unlike attract and like repel?**

**Answer:** An original man who was a scientist by the name of Yacob born twenty miles from the holy city Mecca, in the year eight thousand four hundred.

**"22. How old was the founder?**

**Answer:** When Yacob was six years old, while playing with two pieces of steel, he discovered one piece had magnetic in it and the other piece did not. Then he learned that the piece with magnetic attracted the piece that did not have magnetic in it; then he told his people that when he was old enough he would make a nation that would be unlike and he would teach them tricknolleged and they would rule for six thousand years.

**"23. Tell us what he promised his Nation he would do?**

**Answer:** That he would make a devil graft him from his own people and that he would teach them how to rule his people for six thousand years.

**"24. What was his idea of making devil?**

**Answer:** It was predicted of him that he would make devil eight thousand four hundred years before he was born. So he was born with a determined idea to make a people to rule for six thousand years.

**"25. How long did it take him to make devil?**

**Answer:** Six hundred years he was in grafting devil, or making him from the black man.



**"26. What year was that?**

**Answer:** It was in the year eight thousand four hundred, which means from the date of our present history or Koran, or about two thousand and six hundred years before the birth of Prophet Mossa.

**"27. What was the name of the place where he manufactures the devil?**

**Answer:** Pelan. The same that is called Patmos in the Rev; Chapter I, 9 Verse; an island that is situated in the Aegean sea.

**"28. And what kind of rules and regulation including all laws enforced while manufacturing the devil?**

**Answer:** Yacob first rule was to see that all his followers were healthy, strong and good breeders. If not, he sent them back. All that he found that was not good in multiplying and that they should marry at the age of sixteen. Next, Yacob gave his people the law on birth control to be enforced while manufacturing the devil. That was to destroy the alike and save the unlike which means kill the (black babies) and save the brown babies. This law was given to the doctors, the ministers, the nurses and the cremator. The doctors law was to examine all that marry and this was his law that anyone desiring to marry must first be qualified by the doctor, and in turn he qualified or disqualified them to the minister. The minister would marry only the ones that were unlike. The nurses law was to kill the black babies at birth by sticking a needle in the brain of the babies or feed it to some wild beast and tell the mother that her baby was an angel baby, and that it was only taken to heaven and some day when the mother dies her baby would have secured her a home in heaven. But save all the brown ones and tell their mother that she was lucky that her baby was a holy baby and she should take good care of her baby, educate it and some day it would be a great man. All nurses, doctors and ministers, Yacob put them under a death penalty to fail to carry out the law as it was given to them. Also, the cremator who would burn the black babies when the nurse brought it to him; also death for them if they reveal the secret. He also had other rules and laws which are not mentioned in this lesson.



**"29. Tell us, why he was successful in all his undertakings?**

**Answer:** Because the people who were his followers obeyed Yacob laws. Regardless what he told them to do, they did it. If not, they paid with their lives for every law they broke. Yacob did not build prison houses to imprison his people when one fell victim of the law; the penalty was death and was enforced on every victim.

**"30. Tell us what and how the devil is made?**

**Answer:** The devil is made from the original people by grafting; by separating the germs. In the black man there exist two germs; one a black germ and one a brown germ. Yacob, with his law on birth control, separated the brown germs from the black man and grafted it into a white by destroying the black germ. After following this process for six hundred years, the germ became white and weak and was no more original. Also by thinning the original blood it became weak and wicked and it is no more the same. Thus, this is the way Yacob made the devil.

**"31. To make devil, what must you first do?**

**Answer:** To make devil, one must begin grafting from original.

**"32. Tell us the mental and physical power of a real devil?**

**Answer:** The mental power of a real devil is nothing in comparison with the original man. He only has six ounces of brain, while the original man has seven and one half ounces of brain which are original. The devil has six ounces of brain. They are grafted brain. The devil's physical power is less than one third that of the original man. The devil is weak bone, weak blood, because he is grafted from the original; therefore his mental and physical power is much weaker than the original man.

**"33. What is a devil?**

**Answer:** A grafted man which is made weak and wicked, or any grafted live germ, from original, is devil.



**"34. And can you reform devil?**

**Answer:** No. All the prophets have tried to reform him (devil) but were unable, so they have agreed that it cannot be done unless we graft him back to the original man which takes six-hundred years. So instead of losing time grafting him back, they have decided to take him off the planet, who numbers only one to every eleven original people.

**"35. Tell us the exact date of the expiration of the devil's civilization?**

**Answer:** Expired in nineteen and fourteen.

**"36. Tell us the exact number of years, months and days, of devil being birthed on the planet?**

**Answer:** Six thousand and twenty years. And seventy-two thousand, two hundred and forty-one months. Two million, one hundred ninty-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-one days, at the date of this writing (6, 020 years, 72, 241 months, 2, 197, 351 days)

**"37. Tell us what the devil teaches the eighty-five per cent that the God, is a righteous and unseen being, exist everywhere?**

**Answer:** ALLAH is God, in the Earth, and in the heaven above and is just and true and there is no unrighteousness in him. But is not unseen; is seen and is heard everywhere, for he is the all eye seeing.

**"38. Then, why did God make devil?**

**Answer:** To show forth his power, that he is all wise, and righteous, that he could make a devil which is weak and wicked and give the devil power to rule the Earth for six thousand years and then destroy the devil in one day without falling a victim to the devil's civilization; otherwise to show and prove that ALLAH is the God; always has been and always will be.



[REDACTED]

"39. Now, tell us would you hope to live to see that the Gods will take the devil into hells, in a very near future?

Answer: YES, I fast and pray, ALLAH. In the name of his Prophet, W. C. Fard. That I see the hereafter when ALLAH in his own good time takes the devil off our planet.

"40. What will be your reward in regards to the destruction of the devil?

Answer: Peace and happiness. I will give all I have and all within my power to see this day, for which I have waited 379 years. This lesson No. 2 was given by our Prophet, W. D. Fard, which contains 40 questions answered by ELIJAH Mohammed, one of the lost found in the Wilderness of North America, February 20th. 1934."

[REDACTED]



**NATION OF ISLAM**

**Cult of the Black Muslims**

**May, 1965**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
John Edgar Hoover, Director**

**65 D**



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## PREFACE

A monograph entitled "The Nation of Islam" issued in October, 1960, examined the background, organization, activities, and violent nature of this fanatical, all-Negro cult in the United States which is based on a distorted interpretation of the religious principles of Islam and is motivated by hatred of the white race.

This new monograph has been compiled from both public and confidential sources to furnish additional information on this antiwhite group, which has received a considerable amount of publicity. Trials have occurred involving prisoners who claimed their religious rights were denied them during their incarceration; law enforcement officers have been harassed and assaulted by lawbreakers who claimed to be Black Muslims; and Nation of Islam (NOI) members have engaged in verbal battles, as well as actual altercations, with former cult members.

Even members of leader Elijah Muhammad's own family have condemned him. "Black Muslims," since the assassination in February, 1965, of Malcolm X, who was the dissident number-two leader, has become a familiar term nationwide to many who before had never been aware of the group. His murder has deepened cleavages and multiplied allegations. Resulting publicity created national interest that in part benefits the NOI,

[REDACTED]



because this publicity tends to magnify the cult's position out of all proportion to its importance.

The public news media generally refer to all Negroes claiming cult membership as Black Muslims, and this name apparently has been accepted by Elijah Muhammad and the NOI, but attention should be given to the fact that not all persons classified by the press as Black Muslims are actually members of the NOI.

This monograph will clarify some of the distorted images of the cult and reveal the true consequence of this organization.



## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

### A. Summary

Elijah Muhammad has continued as absolute ruler over the Nation of Islam (NOI) since he assumed the title of the "Messenger of Allah" following the disappearance of the cult founder, W. D. Fard, in 1933. Elijah Muhammad formulates and approves all NOI policy and maintains complete control over all funds and properties of the organization. Although he still lives in a luxurious style, his empire has been shaken by recent publicity concerning his immoralities involving many of his young secretaries and by the defection of several members of the cult hierarchy.

The expulsion in early 1964 of the former leading spokesman of the cult, Malcolm X Little, was the first outward sign of a growing dissidence among cult followers. Malcolm's expulsion was followed by the defection of two of Elijah's sons and a grandson. All had been cult leaders and all made many virulent accusations against their former leader, who had preached morality and promised wealth and an independent, segregated paradise to his Black Muslim adherents.

The last week of February, 1965, climaxed a hectic year for Elijah. The dissident Malcolm X was murdered on February 21 while standing to address a meeting of Negro nationalists in New York City. Immediately,



charges were made that Elijah had been responsible for this murder, and threats were made against Elijah's life. To further confuse the image of Elijah and his organization, a few days later at the annual convention of the NOI in Chicago, Elijah's dissident son Wallace apologized for his previous accusations against his father and was reaccepted into the NOI.

At present, approximately 5,000 cult followers attend meetings of the 37 numbered temples and 31 unnumbered groups, the majority of which are located in the East and the Midwest. Nearly half of the total membership belong to only six temples.

Each temple is led by a minister, a Fruit of Islam (FOI) captain, and as many other, lesser officials as are necessary. Within each temple, the male members compose the FOI and the females compose the Muslim Girls Training (MGT). Both are operated under strict, military-type discipline.

All NOI activities are keyed to the raising of money. Each member is required to contribute to several special funds of his temple. Each member's regular contributions vary among the individual temples from about \$6 to \$13.50 per week and are used to operate the local temple and to support Elijah and the national headquarters in Chicago. Other revenue to support "the Nation" comes from bazaars and rallies, sales of the cult newspaper, and from the profits of businesses run by the temples.



Since a large share of the money raised by the individual temples is forwarded to the Chicago headquarters, Elijah Muhammad has amassed considerable wealth and property.

Recently, Elijah inaugurated two new programs to which he requests his followers and other "so-called Negroes" to make contributions. The first is a "3-Year Economic Plan" designed to collect money with which to set up a Muslim bank as soon as \$1,000,000 has been contributed. His other program renews an earlier plan for an educational center to be built in Chicago. These new programs are given much attention in the cult newspaper. "Muhammad Speaks."

Elijah's teachings had been carried in other Negro papers which accordingly cult members had been required to sell; then, in the Fall of 1961, Elijah decided to start his own newspaper. "Muhammad Speaks" was a biweekly tabloid until February, 1965, when it became a weekly. Every issue contains by-line articles of Elijah and his featured columnists on certain phases of Elijah's teachings. Nearly everything printed in the paper tends to aggravate the soreness of race relations in the United States and throughout the world. Always, the white man is portrayed as the brutal oppressor and the black man, as the innocent victim.

Elijah recognizes the importance of publicity and uses it to aid recruitment. In NOI member Muhammad Ali--heavyweight boxing champion



Cassius Clay--Elijah has a widely publicized athlete whose devotion to the NOI is exploited for recruitment purposes. Elijah also broadcasts on radio, and he has advertised unsuccessfully by means of cards on public transportation vehicles.

During the past year, violence has erupted on numerous occasions between NOI members and "hypocrites," Elijah's term for dissident former members. Because of the many violent events of the past year, the security protection given Elijah, primarily ritualistic in the past, has become complete and serious.

Though Elijah Muhammad publicly denies that he teaches or advocates violence or disobedience to the "white man's laws," a militant approach is actually pursued through obstruction of police and prison authority, excessively harassing demands for the "religious" rights of NOI prisoners, and deliberate violations of the Selective Service Act.

#### **B. Conclusions**


1. The apocalyptic religious doctrine that Elijah Muhammad, the self-proclaimed "Messenger of Allah," espouses in the NOI is a distorted version of Islam.
2. Elijah's appeal to his Black Muslim followers lies not so much in the pseudo-Islamic religious aspects of his organization as in his strong condemnation of white society.
3. Because Elijah has been unsuccessful in recruiting educated Negroes to accept his teachings, the cult's future will depend



upon the success of his concerted appeal to the less-educated and less-privileged Negroes who are dissatisfied and frustrated with their lot in the United States.

4. Elijah's ambivalent teachings baffle his followers. In public, he vows that the NOI does not advocate violence, while in cult meetings he preaches antiwhite, anti-Christian, and anti-Government conduct and threatens the "hypocrites." Violence has erupted in the past and will continue as long as confusion, accusations, and doubts prevail.
5. The death of Elijah Muhammad would place the cult in a perplexing predicament. Elijah claims to be the last Apostle of Allah and has made no provisions for a successor; therefore, upon his death an opportunistic member who knows about the good life the NOI provides its leader undoubtedly would strive to supply his own "brand of concocted religious teachings" to justify assuming leadership of the Nation of Islam.



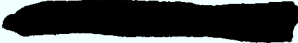


## **I. ROLE OF FBI**

One of the FBI's many responsibilities is that of investigating members of "basic revolutionary organizations or groups" who are dangerous or potentially dangerous to the internal security of the United States.

Persons included under this responsibility are leading functionaries and active, militant members of the Nation of Islam (NOI), who because of their fanatical antiwhite and anti-United States Government teachings and beliefs would be potentially dangerous and likely to seize upon the opportunity presented by a national emergency to endanger the public safety and welfare.

Therefore, the FBI must determine the identities, whereabouts, and activities of these individuals constituting a threat to the internal security, and must develop sufficient information and evidence to sustain appropriate action against such individuals or to control their movements and activities in the event of a national emergency.





## **II. BACKGROUND OF NOI**

A previous monograph explained how the Nation of Islam originated as one of many militant and cultist groups which had arisen in the northern industrial cities of the United States following World War I.

Briefly, the NOI, known at various times as Allah's Temple of Islam and the Muslim Cult of Islam, developed in Detroit, Michigan, out of the teachings of one W. D. Fard. Fard was a door-to-door peddler in the Negro neighborhoods of that city. To stimulate his sales, he told his customers that his products came from their home country from which he also had come. His rather mystic personality apparently entranced his customers, and before long he was instructing small gatherings with tales of their "true origin." In this way, the tenets of the cult were developed. Little factual data was ever learned concerning Fard; and after May, 1933, when ordered by local authorities to leave Detroit, he dropped out of sight and no trace of him has ever been found.

Following Fard's disappearance, one of his followers, a Georgia-born Negro named Elijah Poole, assumed leadership of the cult. Poole explained that Fard had been Allah himself, had renamed him "Elijah Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah," and had ordered him to continue teaching "the lost-found black people in the wilderness of North America."



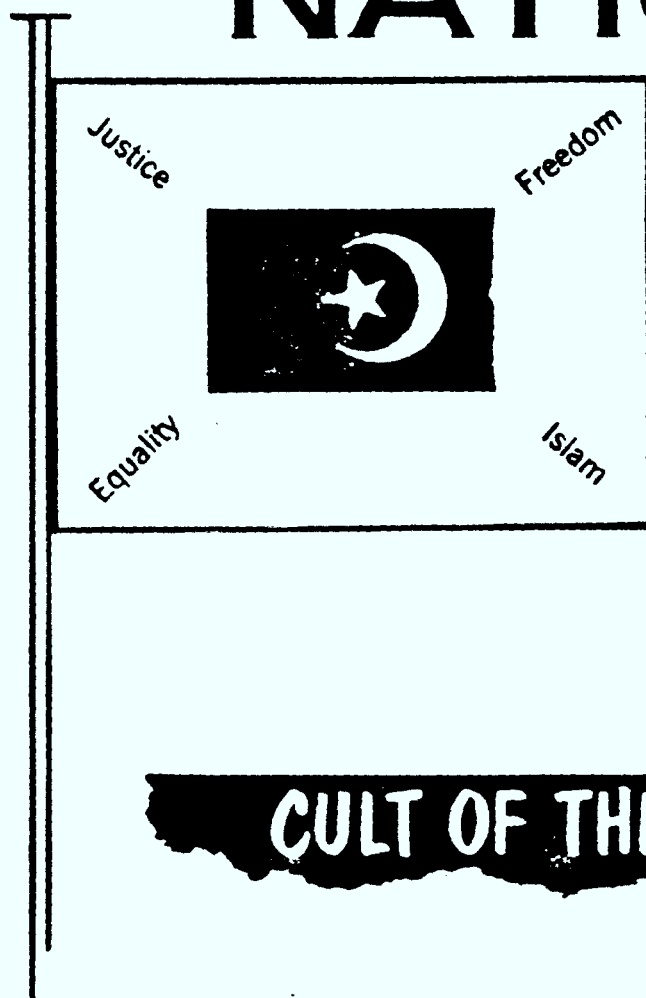
Elijah was active in Detroit until late in 1934, when, because of trouble with local authorities over the operation of the cult school, he moved to Chicago. There, he established Temple No. 2, which became and remains the national headquarters of the NOI.

During the succeeding 30 years, Elijah Muhammad's teachings aroused the interest of many persons who joined the NOI. But Elijah's unorthodox approach and his demands for absolute control over the cult and its members disenchanted many after only short periods of membership. Still, the cult has a certain influence and a considerable following. There are now 38 numbered temples or mosques, one of which is inactive, and 31 unnumbered groups in the United States. Most are centered in the Midwest and the East, with a few groups in the South and a few in the Far West.

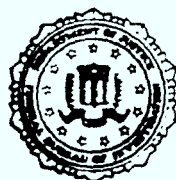


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# NATION OF ISLAM



**CULT OF THE BLACK MUSLIMS**



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR





**MONOGRAPH DATA**

1. Title of monograph and date: "Nation of Islam," May, 1965.
2. Monograph recommended by: R. W. Smith  
[REDACTED]
3. Monograph approved by: Mr. Tolson  
[REDACTED]
4. Purpose of monograph: To clarify the distorted image of this organization and to reveal its true consequence.
5. Monograph is part of a series.
6. Monograph will have current value as a reference work after a lapse of six months or a year.



### III. SIGNIFICANCE OF NOI

#### A. Conditions in United States Affecting NOI

What conditions prevail in the United States which allow this unusual organization its present-day appeal and notoriety? Why is the NOI seemingly more important today than at any time in its history?

Prominent Negro scholars point to a new assertive mood, frequently called "Black Nationalism," rising among the Negroes in this country. But Negro leaders differ in their interpretation and use to be made of this mood. However, into whatever causes they channel this mood, all recognize one common concept--the American Negro is a group with a heritage of suffering, taking action to force the white majority to recognize and fulfill its legal rights.

We observe this new mood in the actions and activities of the majority of the nonviolent demonstrations, such as school integration, voter registration, boycotts, et cetera, of the major civil rights organizations. The "Black Nationalism" of these civil rights organizations is expressed in their dedication to the integration of Negroes within the present framework of society.

However, despite avowals of nonviolence, there has been a growing militant tone to the activities of the Negro rights movements.



Public attention, therefore, has been increasingly focused on the most unorthodox Negro organization--the NOI, or "Black Muslims," whose particular form of "Black Nationalism" expresses itself in open denunciation of the white race and constant demands for complete separation from white society.

#### **B. Changing NOI Tactics**

During the 30 years that Elijah Muhammad has been absolute ruler over the NOI, changing conditions in the United States have noticeably altered the emphasis he has placed on the various aspects of his teachings. This change of emphasis has not reflected a change of policy but has been merely a response to external pressures and realities.

For some time, Elijah faithfully followed the original teachings of Fard, who preached that the black people of North America were not Negroes but were members of the lost tribe of Shabazz, stolen by white slave traders from the Holy City of Mecca many years ago, and that he himself had come to America to find and bring back to life his lost brethren, who must learn that they were the original people and must regain their true religion--Islam.

Elijah furthered Fard's avowal that Christianity was a tool of the white man formed for the sole purpose of keeping the original black man enslaved, and that only through following the laws of Allah would the



original people return to the Paradise from which they had been stolen.

Elijah indoctrinated his followers with the belief that the United States Government was of, by, and for the white man only, that the black people did not belong to America but were citizens of Mecca, and that, therefore, their allegiance belonged to the Muslim flag, which would give them freedom, justice, and equality, not to the American flag, which would bring them only slavery, injustice, and death.

By 1958, however, fearing possible Government prosecution, Elijah ordered his ministers to temper their militant teachings. Though not making any fundamental changes, he de-emphasized the religious aspects of the cult and stressed the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI.

During this same period, the NOI constantly emphasized the cult's efforts in the rehabilitation of Negro criminals, dope addicts, and alcoholics, by publicizing those who had joined the NOI and had bettered their position in society. The former leading spokesman of the cult, Malcolm X, who was assassinated in February, 1965, had been instrumental in spreading the claim that the NOI had had phenomenal success in rehabilitating these Negroes. Malcolm, who publicly acknowledged that he had been a narcotics addict and a criminal before joining the NOI, was a dynamic and evangelistic type of speaker who impressed many Negroes in the United States.



Still another change of NOI emphasis resulted from the steadily rising influence of the present-day Negro civil rights movement. This caused an increase of open NOI denunciation of other Negro civil rights organizations and the Negro Christian ministers who support them. Negro leaders of the civil rights groups are called by the Muslims "the blind leading the blind" and "puppets of the white slave masters." Negro Christian ministers are called "parasites living on the blood of their poor Black brothers," "tools of the white man," and "educated Uncle Toms."

An alliance between the NOI and the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) now and then has been rumored in the press. Again, a connection was reported following the rally in New York City on February 16, 1965, when the deposed Malcolm X charged that there was a conspiracy between these organizations that was "not in the best interest of black people." Malcolm's angry charge came just two days after his home had been damaged by fire bombs which he claimed were thrown on the orders of Elijah Muhammad.

Malcolm's charge of a conspiracy is not borne out by the facts. The NOI and KKK are mutually antagonistic on the race issue. The only aim they hold in common is complete separation of the races. Malcolm himself unproductively negotiated with KKK leaders in January, 1961, for land where the NOI could set up its own businesses, commerce, and government. On another occasion several months later, the minister of the Atlanta Temple



attended a public Klan rally and his presence was acknowledged by the Klan leader. The NOI minister was merely an observer and took no part in the rally, following which, he told newsmen he did not approve of the Klan. Still later in 1961, Elijah Muhammad told a group of his followers that a representative of the KKK had asked to come to an NOI meeting to tell how they supported Elijah's work. Elijah said that "if they showed up they would be carried out."

Not all NOI hatred is vented on other extremists, civil rights groups, and Christian ministers. The Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party\*are similarly denounced and avoided.

Dissident NOI members have reported that Elijah has denounced communism on many occasions while speaking at temple meetings. Elijah's denunciations are echoed in the statements of his ministers. One NOI minister told his followers, "The NOI does not favor the communists and will not have anything to do with communism. Muslims hate communists worse than the white people hate the communists and Russia. Communism is no good for anyone."

Noncooperation with any group of white people is the Black Muslim rule. The NOI prohibits its followers from participating in or lending support to any organization or meeting which non-Muslim Negroes or white people sponsor. For example, an NOI minister on the west coast had agreed to

\*Designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.



participate in a labor forum in May, 1964. When he learned that Clifton DeBerry, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for President of the United States, also was scheduled to speak at the forum, the minister asked NOI headquarters if he might still take part. Denial was immediately forthcoming, and the minister cancelled his appearance.

### C. Communist Interest in NOI

The Communist Party, USA (CPUSA), while sympathetic to the NOI, has a current policy of advocating and supporting integration rather than segregation of Negroes and whites in this country. Ironically, the CPUSA for many years pursued an official policy of "self-determination," or a separate nation for American Negroes. In 1959, when the Party concluded that such a segregationist policy was inimical to communist interest in the civil rights movement, the Party changed its constitution. CPUSA spokesmen since that time have condemned the NOI and the former NOI figure, the late Malcolm X, as "ultrareactionary forces" among the Negro people, and once singled out Malcolm X as an "opponent of the Negro people."

However, the Party has recently moderated its attitude toward the NOI, and communist spokesmen now usually refer to the NOI program as being somewhat "Utopian" and "divisive," thus, not in keeping with communist doctrine. In this regard, the Party has stated that the NOI does not represent the large majority of Negroes in this country, who seek equality within the context of an integrated society.



While the Party does express sympathy for the NOI on the grounds that the capitalist system in this country is responsible for the conditions in which a protest movement such as the NOI can arise, the Party insists, of course, that only under communism will the Negro have full freedom. As a result, the Party is circumspect and has rejected a policy of active cooperation with the NOI.

In contrast to the CPUSA position is that expressed by one militant Marxist group, the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM),\* which follows a pro-Chinese communist line in this country. A leading figure in this movement, who was formerly in the CPUSA, stated after the Harlem riots of July, 1964, that the PLM was willing to work with any group in Harlem--Black Nationalist or Muslim included.

Several articles with a pro-Chinese communist slant appeared in "Muhammad Speaks" in 1964. These articles were undoubtedly published because the NOI considers the Chinese people to be "brothers," inasmuch as they also are non-Caucasian. One of the articles, prepared by Robert Williams, a Negro extremist who fled to Cuba to avoid prosecution for kidnapping and who, in his speeches and writings, advocates violence in civil rights efforts in the United States, described his visit to Red China. He stated that the "American of African descent, whether he understands enough to appreciate it or not, is very fortunate to have the support of the Chinese people."

\*Name changed to Progressive Labor Party in mid-April, 1965.



#### **D. American Negroes' Reaction to NOI**

A well-known Negro author has written: "It is an interesting historical phenomenon that when a people reach the precipice of despair, there is so often waiting in the bushes a savior--a messiah who promises to snatch them back from the edge of the abyss and turn their grief into greatness."

To some dissatisfied Negroes, Elijah Muhammad, the self-proclaimed "Messenger of Allah," appears to be this messiah. Describing in a speech in Los Angeles last summer the calamities which have befallen people in the United States, Elijah asked, "Who can be saved?" His answer was "the Muslim believers who faithfully followed and obeyed His Messenger.... The wisest and surest way to success is to unite behind me. I assure you that, with the help of Allah, you will accomplish your goals: money, good homes, and friendships in all walks of life."

Negroes living in slum conditions, hopeless and frustrated, feel Elijah may be an answer to their many problems. These are the Negroes, the less-educated and least-privileged, to whom Elijah directs his appeals. For these Negroes, the Muslim movement provides a means by which they can both release and control their feelings toward what they regard as a hostile white society. The ritual, the fierce verbal attacks upon whites, and the display of authority give a sense of power and adventure. From within NOI closed meetings, the Black Muslims hurl their imprecations, insults, and vague threats at the



distant white world, as they stand surrounded by other friendly black listeners. And the NOI movement's insistence that Negroes are the original people who "must stay among themselves" gives its followers a sense of security and even tranquility.

However, with the exception of a few educators and businessmen who joined the NOI for purely selfish, economic reasons, the bulk of the Negro population shows little interest in the religious aspects of the NOI. Distinguished Negro leaders on many occasions have soundly denounced the NOI with its distorted version of Islam, which continually attacks all established institutions the Negro normally looks to for leadership. As a noted Negro pastor in Harlem warned, the teaching of the Black Muslims "is going in a way contrary to what we know is best. It solves no problems, but only begets greater antagonism."

While the majority of Negroes in the United States do not rush to join the NOI, many seem to respect it. Among those who do not join, few participate in any criticism of it. The Muslim advocacy of black supremacy arouses the sympathy of many Negroes. They silently applaud the boldness of Elijah and his ministers, who openly condemn white people. This taps sentiments of racial pride which seldom find avenues of expression. The Muslims' repeated appeals for clean living, self-respect, and self-uplift independent of the white community apparently have gained considerable



respect among American Negroes. They approve of the way the Muslims live. Lacking knowledge of the complete teachings of the cult, some Negroes see the economic advantages only. Attracted by constant publicity about the claimed rehabilitation of criminals, and seeing the many photographs of well-dressed ministers and members of the elite guard, Fruit of Islam (FOI), they are impressed with the apparent success the NOI has had in bettering conditions of these members. They feel that anything that could help the Negro must be good.

Those Negroes who read the NOI newspaper, "Muhammad Speaks," see in every issue a list of ten demands--"What the Muslims Want." The first three of these demands--full and complete freedom, equal justice under the law, equality of opportunity--are fundamental principles which make up the American creed and are desired by all segments of our society. But other stated demands of the Muslims include land for a nation of their own, exemption from all taxation, freedom from prisons for all Negroes, and so forth. These are impracticable, but many uneducated Negroes cannot help being receptive to some of these demands.

Also impressed by publicity on the NOI are Negro criminals serving in Federal and State prisons. They are a very receptive group, who see Muslim activity within the prisons as an outlet for protest against their situation.



With the attitude of what-have-I-to-lose, they hope that some benefits might come to them by joining the NOI.

For a multitude of reasons, there are American Negroes who sympathize with the Black Muslims or actually become loyal followers of Elijah Muhammad and his NOI leadership. For those who join, "the Messenger's" word is law, and all who wish to remain in the cult must follow Elijah's strict discipline as imposed by his loyal ministers. But this discipline has not been able to prevent trouble in the cult.

Elijah's former leading spokesman, Minister Malcolm X, Elijah's sons Wallace and Akbar, and his grandson Hassan Sharrieff broke from the cult. From these former leaders, we heard Elijah called "a religious faker" and "a fraud" who promoted "concocted religious teachings." Another NOI minister who left the cult in disgust described the NOI as "organized like an army"--the members just "following along" trying to obey the strict discipline demanded by the higher-ups who are carrying on "one of the biggest rackets in the land."

Who are these higher-ups of the NOI? What type of man leads this strange organization?



#### IV. LEADERSHIP

##### A. National Officials

Absolute ruler over the NOI is the "Messenger of Allah," Elijah Muhammad, the 67-year-old former Elijah Poole from Sandersville, Georgia. He formulates and approves all NOI policy and decisions, has the entire funds of the cult at his disposal, and possesses considerable valuable properties throughout the country.

This small, frail, seemingly meek and humble man, who has only a fourth-grade education, is a master at creating mood, myth, and mystery. Elijah possesses that "something" mentioned in an essay on leaders attributed to General Charles de Gaulle, for "Allah's Messenger" seems to understand that "there can be no prestige without mystery," that, "in the designs, the demeanor and the mental operations of a leader, there must always be a 'something' which others cannot altogether fathom, which puzzles them, stirs them and rivets their attention."

Never appearing before the public without his black pillbox hat generously encrusted with jewelled stars and crescent, Elijah seems to have a touch of the patient Oriental in his face. He is not a dynamic speaker. In his public lectures, his rather rasping voice drones on in monotony. But he seems to know when to shake his audience into



excitement Suddenly he will electrify them with a tirade against the "white devils," the Government, or nonbelieving "so-called Negroes."

From every speaker's rostrum on which he appears before the public, Elijah practices brinkmanship tactics to the frenzied delight of his audience, some of whom frequently answer his veiled accusations with, "That's right" or "Praise Allah." They "get the message" even as he carefully refrains from specific language which could cause him to be arrested for "incitement" or "advocacy."

Financially and materially, Elijah has done well for himself as the "Messenger of Allah." With his wife, Clara, and at times some of his eight children, Elijah resided for many years in a 19-room, elaborately furnished home in Chicago. Besides this \$75,000 residence, he owns also other properties in Chicago and elsewhere. In Chicago, an apartment building and a group of other buildings owned by Elijah are valued at more than \$200,000.

In 1961, claiming his continued asthmatic attacks made it necessary for him to leave Chicago, Elijah purchased a \$24,000 swimming-pool-equipped residence in Phoenix, Arizona. He had this house completely remodelled and moved there in October, while his wife continued to maintain the home in Chicago. Wanting more pretentious surroundings in Phoenix, Elijah had a new 12-room residence built on adjoining property, into which he moved in





**Elijah Muhammad**  
**"Messenger of Allah"**



January, 1964. This home and its furnishings are valued at approximately \$100,000. He retains the other Phoenix home as his office.

Though the headquarters of the NOI remain in Chicago, Elijah spends most of his time in Phoenix, where he is served by a chauffeur, cook, and several female secretaries. Involvements between Elijah and several of his young, unmarried secretaries have resulted in considerable embarrassing publicity to this leader of a cult that claims to have raised the morals of its members through its strong condemnation of adultery, fornication, lying, stealing, smoking, et cetera.

In July, 1964, in Los Angeles, two of these former secretaries filed paternity suits naming Elijah as the father of their children. One of them claimed Elijah had fathered her three children and the other claimed one child by Elijah. In Chicago, in July, 1962, two other former secretaries caused a much publicized incident, when each of them left her baby on the front lawn of Elijah's residence. Each claimed that Elijah had fathered her child and demanded that he continue support. Since 1957, several other young secretaries have been similarly involved with Elijah and have borne his children. The situation has become so notorious that members of some of Elijah's temples jokingly refer to it as one of the occupational hazards of serving as a secretary to Elijah.

Elijah's wife, Clara, his daughters, and his sons have been aware of Elijah's personal misconduct for several years but because of their complete



economic dependence upon him have had no choice but to ignore his actions. They have been completely engaged in and supported by NOI activities throughout their lives. Most of them have held some leadership position in the cult hierarchy and because of this have fared well economically--Elijah has been generous in supplying all their wants.

Until the defections of Elijah's sons Wallace and Akbar, and his grandson Hassan Sharrieff, the NOI hierarchy had predominantly included most members of Elijah's immediate family. Still holding leadership positions are his sons Herbert and Elijah, Jr , and his son-in-law Raymond Sharrieff.

Herbert, 36 years old, married, and having at least six children, has for years been considered head of public relations for the NOI and, as "Muhammad Speaks" newspaper representative, he has travelled extensively. Since 1962, he has made four trips to Africa, one trip to Cuba and Mexico, and one trip to Jamaica. On each trip, he has attempted to improve the image of his father's cult and gain support of persons abroad for the NOI. Herbert, like his father, has had an affair with an unmarried young woman who bore him a child and with whom he is constantly having trouble concerning support of this child.

Elijah, Jr., 34 years old, married, with one adopted child, is the assistant supreme captain of the FOI and has been employed at the temple bakery and grocery in Chicago for years. Elijah, Jr., failed to register



under the Selective Service Act, was arrested by the FBI, and later registered as a conscientious objector; however, his local draft board advised he was not acceptable for military service as he was a "marginal literate." There are reports that he heads a young "strong-arm group" of the FOI in the Chicago Temple, which has on several occasions assaulted and beaten NOI members who were being disciplined.

Elijah's daughter Ethel Sharrieff, 41 years old, married to Raymond Sharrieff, had three children by her first husband and two by Raymond. She is diabetic and highly emotional. For several years, she had acted as supreme captain of the Muslim Girls Training (MGT); but, according to her son Hassan, she was temporarily suspended by Elijah because she broke cult rules by continuing to contact Hassan after his defection.

Elijah's other daughter, Lottie Fagan, 38 years old, and his other two sons, Emanuel, 44 years old, and Nathaniel, 40 years old, are still considered Muslims though they are not at present in leadership positions.

Raymond Sharrieff, 46 years old, married to his second wife, Elijah's daughter Ethel, is the supreme captain of the FOI. Raymond has been a Muslim for many years, and he served about two and a half years in a Federal prison for violation of the Selective Service Act. He is a disciplinarian of the NOI. Elijah depends more and more upon Raymond, who acts also as a trustee for the NOI.



The only nonfamily member among Elijah's national leaders is John Simmons, known in the NOI as John Ali. He has been national secretary of the NOI since May, 1960, and his duties consist mainly of fund gathering and handling the NOI's financial dealings. He is 37 years old and is divorced. He has served in the United States Army, was employed as a part-time teacher, worked as an accountant, and has been an NOI member since 1954. Elijah's son and grandson, when they left the cult, advised that John Ali is an opportunist who is in the cult only for the financial opportunities and status he can maintain through cooperation with Elijah. Both claimed that he is completely untrustworthy, has misappropriated cult funds, and is "loose morally."

#### B. Dissidents

Though troubles have erupted among members of the cult on many occasions in the past, none had publicly involved the solidarity of the national hierarchy. Many people have wondered what caused the rash of defections and expulsions of former leaders of the cult during the past year. It would be difficult to state for certain, because it must be remembered that the dissident former members and leaders who later loudly condemned Elijah and his present hierarchy for their actions were once among his top supporters and recruiters.

But Elijah does have trouble in his "royal family." The first outward signs of a growing dissidence were revealed after Malcolm X made



**NOI OFFICIALS**



**John Ali**  
**National Secretary**



**Raymond Sharrieff**  
**Supreme Captain of FOI**



**Herbert Muhammad**  
**Head of Public Relations**



**Elijah Muhammad, Jr.**  
**Asst. Supreme Captain of FOI**



a statement on December 1, 1963, characterizing President John F. Kennedy's assassination as an instance of "the chickens coming home to roost." He had told a cheering NOI audience in New York City that this did not make him sad, it made him glad. Elijah feared the publicity resulting from Malcolm's virulent statements would present to a sorrowing Nation an image of his cult which might lead to trouble for him. A few days later, therefore, he announced that, because of Malcolm's statements, he would not be permitted to make further public speeches. For a month, many furtive conferences were held between Malcolm and members of Elijah's hierarchy. Differences became more pronounced, and in early January, 1964, Elijah removed Malcolm as minister of Temple No. 7, in New York City. Malcolm, on March 8, 1964, publicly announced his complete break with Elijah and the NOI.

On many previous occasions, Malcolm had gloated over disasters to white people without incurring censure from Elijah for his remarks. For example, on the occasion of the crash of an airliner in France killing 120 Georgia tourists, Malcolm spoke of the tragedy as "a beautiful thing that has happened." There are indications that Malcolm's remark made following the President's assassination was not the real cause but rather the excuse for Elijah to expel Malcolm, who may have been acquiring an NOI stature that made Elijah jealous and uncomfortable.



Over the years, the public press had devoted more and more coverage to Malcolm because of his violent denouncements of white people in his many public appearances--in speeches throughout the country, during radio and television interviews, and in statements made to the press. More and more importance was attributed to his position in the cult--many articles reported that Malcolm overshadowed Elijah and was taking over the cult from Elijah, who was ill. This caused much concern to Elijah and members of his family. When Elijah was not able to appear at the annual Muslim convention in Chicago on February 26, 1963, and his place was filled by Malcolm, Elijah's family felt Malcolm was too "bossy" and was "grabbing" too much publicity for himself. Resentment and hostility toward Malcolm rapidly increased among various members of Elijah's family.

About this time, Elijah's son Wallace, who had for a long time been considered "heir apparent" to his father's position, was released from a Federal prison where he had been serving time for his Selective Service violation. Though Wallace was on parole and could not engage publicly in cult activities, it became obvious that his attitude toward his father and other cult leaders had changed considerably from his preprison attitude.

Wallace, 31 years old, married to his second wife, had been educated at the cult's school, the University of Islam No. 2. Long regarded as Elijah's favorite son, Wallace had acted as a cult minister-at-large and



like other ministers had strongly supported all of his father's beliefs. In April, 1960, he was sentenced to three years for failure to report for hospital work as a conscientious objector. During the next three years, his father made unsuccessful court appeals to keep Wallace out of prison. Elijah claims to have spent about \$20,000 in these court battles. On November 1, 1961, just three days before entering prison, Wallace married his second wife.

According to Wallace, even before he entered prison he had experienced doubts about some of his father's teachings which he had felt were in opposition to orthodox Muslim teachings. Then, while serving his prison term, he had time to reflect on a statement made by the judge who had sentenced him concerning how he had been "dominated by his father." He claimed he also wondered about his father's connection with Fard, who his father claimed was Allah but who, in Fard's writings which Wallace had seen, had called himself the "Messenger of Allah."

Upon leaving prison in January, 1963, Wallace said he attempted to clarify some of his doubts about his father and his teachings. He talked to other members of his family concerning his father's behavior but, he said, because of their complete financial dependence on their father, they did nothing.

Though Wallace regularly attended NOI and FOI meetings in Chicago, even teaching some classes at the University of Islam, he apparently stirred up much controversy concerning his father's activities, both nationally and



in the Chicago Temple. By January, 1964, word had reached Elijah that Wallace and Malcolm had talked together and with others concerning Elijah's relationship with his various secretaries and the misuse of cult funds by Elijah and his hierarchy. For some time though, Elijah took no action against his son.

Apparently, Elijah's grandson Hassan Sharrieff was one of the cult members who were influenced by the swelling undercurrent in Chicago. Hassan, during 1963 and until at least May, 1964, when he allied himself with Wallace, had regularly attended NOI meetings, acted as a lieutenant of the FOI in Muslim Mosque (MM) No. 2, and was manager of the MM No. 2 clothing store.

In June, 1964, Hassan left no doubt concerning his feelings about his grandfather and the NOI. He went to the Chicago Police on June 23 requesting protection for himself and his Uncle Wallace. He advised that, at a meeting of the NOI in Chicago on June 21, both had been denounced as "hypocrites" and expelled from the cult for deviating from the teachings of Elijah. Because of this, he felt certain they would be attacked, as Hassan knew that other members had been disciplined by beatings delivered by the Chicago Temple's goon squad.

Big headlines in the Negro newspaper, "Chicago Defender," on July 8, 1964, announced the charges of corruption in the NOI brought by both Wallace and Hassan. Hassan called his grandfather "a fake and a fraud."



He also said, "I am not referring to any single individual's wrongdoings or corruption; I am referring to Mr. Muhammad and his whole staff." Wallace agreed to the accusations against the Muslim hierarchy, telling the paper, "Not only are they true, they are mild."

Another son of Elijah, 25-year-old Akbar, was publicly denounced as a "hypocrite" in the January 1, 1965, issue of "Muhammad Speaks." Better educated than other members of the family, Akbar graduated from a business school in Chicago in 1958 and, since the Fall of 1961, has been attending a university in Cairo, Egypt. Akbar's expulsion from the cult followed a visit he and his Egyptian second wife and child made to this country during November, 1964. Elijah had expected Akbar, while here, to denounce publicly Wallace, Malcolm X, and other "hypocrites." Instead, Akbar told a New York newspaper that while he was in Cairo his eyes had been opened. He said his father's "brand" of religion was "a homemade one with its own tight rules and regulations that tend to stifle any criticism of its leader." Akbar and his family shortly returned to Egypt.

Elijah indeed has had trouble in his "royal family"!

Further confusing the image of Elijah Muhammad and the NOI were events which came to a climax during the last week of February, 1965. Following Malcolm's open break with the NOI in March, 1964, he was outspoken in his



opposition to Elijah. He formed two organizations, the Muslim Mosque, Incorporated, and the Organization of Afro-American Unity, which he claimed would better serve the Negro nationalists. Some NOI members left with Malcolm and became members of these new groups. During several extended periods in 1964, Malcolm travelled in many of the African countries. He returned, amid much publicity, to the United States late in 1964 and impressed many with his new image. He appeared to have softened his violent statements although he still openly condemned Elijah and his cult.

Early in 1965, Malcolm began a series of rallies in New York City. On February 21, 1965, just as Malcolm began to speak to a gathering of about 400 Negroes, a disturbance started and several men ran toward the front of the meeting hall firing guns at Malcolm. He was slain instantly. Arrested, and identified by at least one witness as Malcolm's assassins were several Negroes who in the past had attended NOI functions.

This eventful last week of February, 1965, ended with Elijah's dissident son Wallace making an appearance at the annual NOI convention at Chicago to ask forgiveness for things he had said about his father and the NOI. Though, since his expulsion from the cult in June, 1964, Wallace had headed a dissident group called the Afro-Descendant Upliftment Society, or the Uplift Society, surprisingly Wallace was reaccepted into the NOI on the recommendation of his father.



The first week of March brought another surprising development. As reported in the Chicago press on March 6, Hassan Sharrieff decided to "return to the fold." At a meeting with his grandfather, Hassan's plea for reinstatement was accepted.

What the future holds for Elijah Muhammad and his organization cannot be predicted. Among the dissidents, Malcolm's following apparently is being taken over by his half sister, Mrs. Ella Collins; and, while the Uplift Society is now dormant, those who had followed Wallace cannot be pleased by his decisions. The many accusations against Elijah by Malcolm, Wallace, and Hassan will not quickly be forgotten. Feelings between present and former NOI members continue to be strained.



## **V. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

### **A. National Headquarters**

Since 1934, when Elijah was forced to move from Detroit, the national headquarters of the cult have been at Temple No. 2, in Chicago. Muhammad's Temple No. 2 of the Holy Temples of Islam or, as it is sometimes called, Muhammad's Mosque No. 2, is located at 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, and adjacent to it is the University of Islam No. 2, at 5333 South Greenwood. In the basements of these buildings are the offices of the cult's National Secretary John Ali, Supreme Captain of the FOI Raymond Sharrieff and his assistant, Elijah, Jr., and their secretaries. Two secretaries who handle incoming mail, filing, et cetera, are employed at Elijah's long-time residence at 4847 South Woodlawn. Headquarters for the cult newspaper, "Muhammad Speaks," are at 634 East 79th Street.

### **B. National Membership**

Though the NOI has never published membership figures, estimates reported by the public news media have ranged from a low of 25,000 to a high of 250,000, with the number frequently put at 70,000. All of these figures are grossly exaggerated.

After his defection, Elijah's grandson Hassan estimated the total membership of the cult as 7,000; and this figure approximates the estimate



made by the dissident, former NOI member from Boston, Aubrey Barnette, in his article that appeared in "The Saturday Evening Post," on February 27, 1965. According to the latest FBI information, these membership estimates are about 2,000 too high.

Concerning the NOI's membership, Hassan said no one in the NOI hierarchy had any positive idea of the actual number of members. As has been known by the FBI for years, the membership at any given time could only be estimated, as there is a constant influx of new persons, which is balanced by an egression of old members. New people begin attending meetings on a fairly regular basis. They have their names entered in the "Book of Life," maintained in Chicago, and obtain their "X" names. But as new members enter into the cult's activities, many others at any given time are in various stages of disillusionment--they fail to attend meetings regularly, fail to make the required contributions, do not accept the temple leaders' discipline, and are soon completely out of all the cult's activities.

Hassan has said that approximately 100 new persons a month join the Chicago Temple but that "members leave as fast as new ones join" and, therefore, for a number of years the total membership in Chicago has remained almost the same. Several years ago one of Elijah's sons, speaking at a meeting of the Chicago Temple, complained that during the 1961 annual Muslim convention 500 persons "signed up" for membership but only five of them remained in the temple.



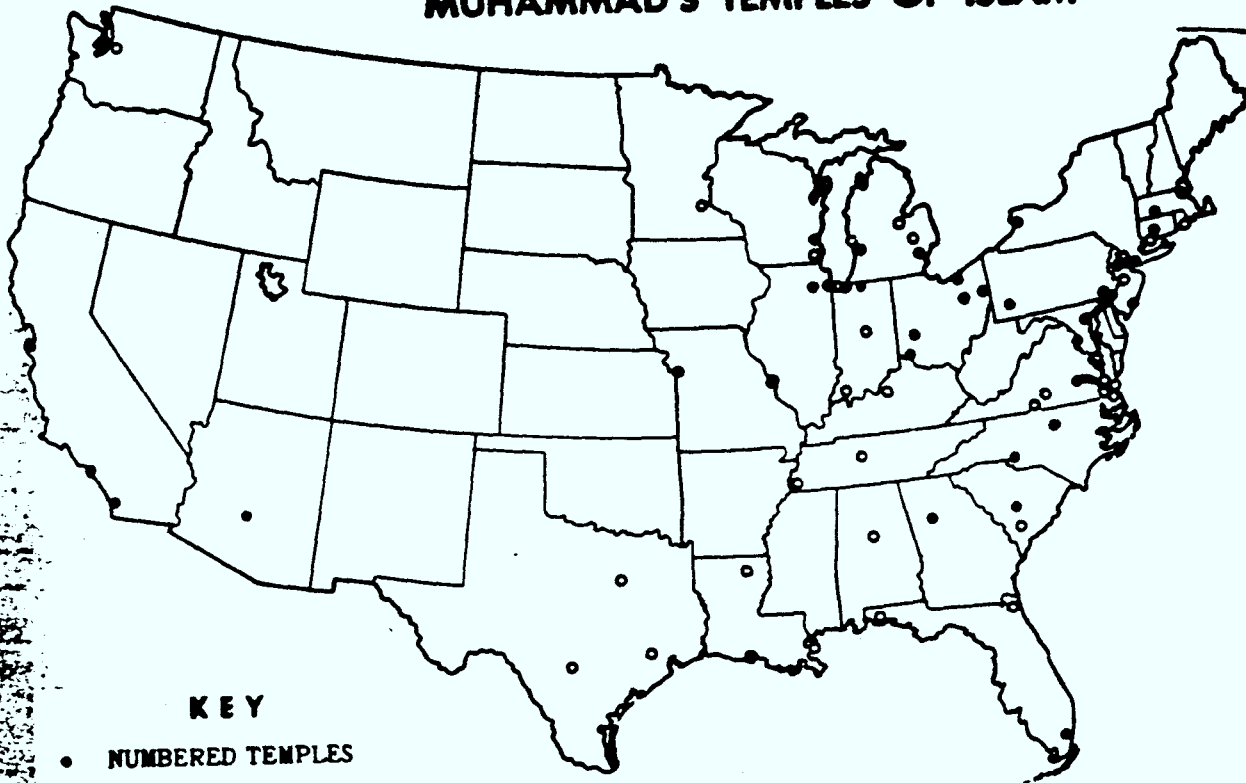
### **C. Temples or Mosques**

Individual temples, or mosques, are located in various cities throughout the United States, but all are under the complete discipline of the national headquarters at Chicago. Elijah has designated altogether 38 numbered temples, one of which has been inactive for several years. The 37 active numbered temples are attended by about 4,300 of the total of slightly over 5,000 members of the cult. Only six of these temples have a membership of over 300 members each. These six temples are located in Chicago; Detroit; New York City; Washington, D. C.; Philadelphia; and Los Angeles. Almost half of the NOI's total membership belong to these six temples. Six other temples have memberships of between 100 and 300, and all the rest (25 numbered temples) have less than 100 members each--several having less than 20 members each.

About 750 NOI members attend the meetings of 31 unnumbered NOI groups in various cities in the country. Many of these groups are led by visiting ministers from nearby temples, who frequently are accompanied by members from their own temples in an attempt to stimulate interest in these neighboring cities. Meetings usually are held in small, rented rooms or in homes of the participants. Estimates of normal attendance at meetings



# MUHAMMAD'S TEMPLES OF ISLAM



## KEY

- NUMBERED TEMPLES
- UNNUMBERED GROUPS

## NUMBERED TEMPLES

- 1 DETROIT, MICH.
- 2 CHICAGO, ILL.
- 3 MILWAUKEE, WIS.
- 4 WASHINGTON, D. C.
- 5 CINCINNATI, OHIO
- 6 BALTIMORE, MD.
- 7 NEW YORK, N. Y.
- 8 SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
- 9 YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
- 10 ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.
- 11 BOSTON, MASS.
- 12 PHILADELPHIA, PA.
- 13 SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
- 14 HARTFORD, CONN.
- 15 ATLANTA, GA.
- 16 GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
- 17 JOLIET, ILL.
- 18 CLEVELAND, OHIO
- 19 DAYTON, OHIO
- 20 CAMDEN, N. J.
- 21 JERSEY CITY, N. J.
- 22 PITTSBURGH, PA.
- 23 BUFFALO, N. Y.
- 24 RICHMOND, VA.

- 25 NEWARK, N. J.
- 26 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
- 27 LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
- 28 SAINT LOUIS, MO.
- 29 MIAMI, FLA.
- 30 KANSAS CITY, MO.
- 31 SOUTH BEND, IND.
- 32 PHOENIX, ARIZ.
- 33 GARY, IND.
- 34 DURHAM, N. C.
- 35 WILMINGTON, DEL.
- 36 CHARLOTTE, N. C.
- 37 AKRON, OHIO
- 38 COLUMBIA, S. C.

- LOUISVILLE, KY.  
 NEW ORLEANS, LA.  
 MONROE, LA.  
 FLINT, MICH.  
 MUSKEGON, MICH.  
 SAGINAW, MICH.  
 MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
 PATERSON, N. J.  
 TRENTON, N. J.  
 PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
 ORANGEBURG, S. C.  
 MEMPHIS, TENN.  
 NASHVILLE, TENN.  
 DALLAS, TEXAS  
 HOUSTON, TEXAS  
 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
 LYNCHBURG, VA.  
 MARTINSVILLE, VA.  
 NEWPORT NEWS, VA.  
 NORFOLK, VA.  
 NORFOLK-BERKLEY, VA.  
 PORTSMOUTH, VA.  
 SEATTLE, WASH.  
 RACINE, WIS.

## UNNUMBERED GROUPS

- BIRMINGHAM, ALA.  
 BRIDGEPORT, CONN.  
 JACKSONVILLE, FLA.  
 PENSACOLA, FLA.  
 EAST CHICAGO, IND.  
 EVANSVILLE, IND.  
 INDIANAPOLIS, IND.



of these unnumbered groups show that only four groups have over 50 persons regularly attending. All of the 27 other groups have less than 35 members each, with many having less than 10.

Most temples are located in the heart of the lower economic or deteriorating Negro neighborhoods. Except for the larger temples, very few are owned by the NOI and most are rented halls which are frequently on the second floor over a store or some other commercial establishment. The notable exceptions are in Chicago, the national headquarters, and in Washington, D. C., where the only NOI-built temple is located.

It is interesting to note that half of the total Negro population of the United States (as of the 1960 census) reside in the 11 Southern States which made up the Confederate States of the Civil War period. Yet, in this area, the NOI has only six temples and 17 small, unnumbered groups having a membership of only about 600 out of the total cult membership of approximately 5,000. Obviously, the NOI has made no great impression on the Southern Negro.

#### **D. Temple Officers**

The highest authority in an individual temple is the minister. He is appointed by Elijah and remains in authority only as long as Elijah believes he is helping the cause. The minister constantly echoes the teachings of Elijah and exhorts his group of Elijah's followers to contribute to the many collections taken for the support of the local temple and its officers and the national organization.



In the larger, established temples, the minister devotes his full time to NOI activity and receives his entire support from donations made by the members of his temple. Usually, his home or rented residence, his auto, and all personal necessities for himself and his family are paid for by the various funds collected at his temple. Those ministers in smaller temples with few regular members frequently must obtain some outside employment to supplement the assistance they receive from the temple. Nearly all ministers do considerable travelling. They make guest appearances at other temples to conduct meetings, or they lead delegations from their temples to attend social affairs and rallies at other temples.

The most articulate and widely known minister, until his expulsion last year, was Malcolm X Little, of MM No. 7, in New York City. As chief spokesman and travelling representative of Elijah Muhammad and the NOI for nearly ten years, he had made numerous public appearances in lectures and debates before college forums, on radio and television, and through interviews given to the public press. A tall, well-dressed, 38-year-old former convict, he freely admitted having been a dope addict, numbers runner, and burglar before becoming "rehabilitated" by Elijah Muhammad. Since his entrance on the NOI scene in early 1966, his dynamic, magnetic personality had been instrumental in the recruitment of many of the present ministers.



In examining the background, education, and personalities of the nine most publicized and active ministers (including those from the six leading temples), one notes a distinct difference in the type of minister active prior to Malcolm's rise to prominence and the type which joined the cult after 1953 and rose to power, influenced and assisted by Malcolm.

Four of the nine ministers had been members of the NOI prior to 1953. Three of these became Muslims in the early 1940's, and each served a prison term for refusal to register for the Army draft. Each had been a Muslim for years before attaining the status of minister. The fourth of these ministers was Malcolm's brother Wilfred, who, though a member of the NOI prior to 1953, had not yet risen to a leadership position. He had earlier been rejected for military service because of low mentality. Only one of these four ministers, whose average age is 43, completed high school.

The remaining five of the nine leading ministers joined the NOI after Malcolm had become a leading official in the cult. All five had been either influenced by Malcolm to join the cult or had received his assistance in their rather rapid rise to leadership positions. All had a high school or college education, one being a Ph. D. and former college professor. These younger men, whose average age is 35, are eager, ambitious, and definitely opportunistic. Two of these five men were former entertainers, one a comic and one the leader of a group of calypso singers. The former college professor had



been first a member of the Socialist Workers Party, and then a prominent member of a group of dissidents who broke off to form the Workers World Party. Finally, after contacts with Malcolm, he allied himself with the Muslims.

As might be expected, the many Muslim ministers, with varied backgrounds, education, and experience, and with very little control over them from national headquarters, use a variety of techniques in maintaining the interest of their members and in their appeals for new Muslims. It could be said the ministers' style of preaching is a blend of the revival preacher and the ward-healing politician. They deliver their messages sometimes in a calm voice with unctuous earnestness and sometimes with rash and inciting statements startling their listeners. Anything goes, as long as it holds the interest of the present followers of Elijah, gains new converts to the cult, and keeps the donations coming into the temples' many funds.

Below the minister, the next highest authority in an individual temple is the captain of the FOI, the group within the NOI composed of the adult male members. Though answerable to the minister, the captain is responsible for discipline in the temple and is the leader of the temple's FOI. In the larger temples, the captain frequently receives financial support and is furnished an automobile from the donations of the members. The captains are usually aggressive, domineering men who relish the opportunity to command the members. They maintain strict military-type discipline over the temple members.



**THE MOST ACTIVE NOI MINISTERS**



**Jeremiah X (Pugh)**  
Philadelphia



**Louis X (Walcott)**  
Boston



**John Shabazz (Morris)**  
Los Angeles



**Bernard X (Cushmere)**  
San Francisco



**Lonnie 3X (Cross)**  
Washington, D. C.



**Isaiah Karriem (Edwards)**  
Baltimore



**James 3X (McGregor)**  
Newark, Jersey City,  
New York



**James 3X (Anderson)**  
Chicago



**Wilfred X (Little)**  
Detroit



The minister and captain are the important officials in each temple, but frequently there are conflicts of authority between them. This became of sufficient concern to the national hierarchy that during 1962 Elijah ordered that Supreme Captain of the FOI Raymond Sharrieff maintain closer control over the FOI captains. Previously, the minister could appoint or remove his captain without consulting national headquarters.

Trouble between the temple officers leads to the development of factions in the temple. Some members support one and some the other leader to obtain favored treatment. Those members suffering most usually just drop out of the temple, but occasionally they form a dissident group and complain to the national officers. As a result, a national officer usually comes to the temple, questions the members, and decides what action is to be taken. Sometimes the dissident members are expelled or, when the official believes the continuance of the temple is endangered, one or the other offending temple officer is transferred to another city.

Other, lesser officials in the individual temples are appointed by the minister according to his need for assistance in conducting the activities of the temple. The female NOI members are headed by one of their number who is called captain of the MGT. Both the FOI captain and the MGT captain have as many lieutenants assisting them as are needed, according to the size of the membership. Here again, there is no standardization in number of officers



in the various temples. Favoritism displayed by the minister leads to ridiculous situations at times. Normally, each captain is assisted by two or three lieutenants, but one temple minister set up his own elite group of twelve particular friends within the temple and made all of them lieutenants. Other members derisively called them the "palace guard."

Larger temples generally have investigators, instructors, inspectors, secretaries, et cetera, each with his own assistants. Some temples also have assistant ministers, who are generally ambitious young men occasionally allowed to lead portions of the temple meetings, and field ministers, who travel to nearby areas to meet with small groups of people in an attempt to bring in new converts.

#### E. Fruit of Islam (FOI)

The Fruit of Islam (FOI) is the special elite group within the NOI, composed of the male members. Under the leadership of Supreme Captain Raymond Sharrieff and the individual temple FOI captain, each temple's FOI is organized and governed by a system with general orders similar to the system in a regular military organization. Regularly, the FOI participates in close-order military drills, engages in group physical exercises, and receives judo and karate training. The major objective of this training program is to create healthy minds and bodies among the faithful followers of Elijah. Acting as bodyguards and escorts for temple



# FRUIT OF ISLAM



Elijah Muhammad (1) Arriving at Airport in New York and Guarded by Supreme Captain Sharrieff (2) and FOI Men



Drill Captain



Callisthenics in Temple No. 2



officials, these vigorous young men impart a crisply efficient tone to the meetings of the organization. They impress nonmembers of the Negro communities with the massed and ready power of the Muslim organization and the accomplishments they have achieved through faith in Elijah's teachings. But the FOI has other functions.

Besides the protection of officers and property of the cult, the FOI enforces compliance with the many cult rules imposed on all members. Probably most important of these many rules is that every Muslim must sell the NOI newspaper, "Muhammad Speaks." The FOI sees to it that the members fulfill their obligation to sell the paper. To discipline those members breaking the rules, as well as nonmembers who cause trouble for the cult, goon squads have been organized in some of the temples. These small groups of selected men, frequently led by former professional boxers, well-trained in karate and judo, have been employed to threaten or, on occasions, to brutally assault other Negroes. Charts have been used to show vulnerable spots on the human body, and instructors demonstrate the lethal blows that can be used. One instructor advised members of his group to "obtain salt brine" and soak their hands in it to toughen them enough to break planks.

The FOI is deadly serious. In one temple preparing for a visit from Elijah, the captain told the FOI to "be more like soldiers" and not to be smiling.



all the time. He said, "I want you to look like killers. We are not here to play. We will protect the Messenger at all costs."

In most large temples, the FOI is broken down into several groups. One consists of men 18 to 25 years old, about six feet tall, with good physiques, and in excellent health. These men, smooth-shaven and with close-cropped hair, and neatly attired in dark suits, act as honor guard at all public events. Young men 16 to 18 years of age and men over 25 years are generally placed in other groups. Most temples also have a junior FOI composed of boys up to 16 years of age who are trained for eventually joining the senior groups.

F. Muslim Girls Training (MGT)

Similar to the military-type organization of the FOI is the NOI's female counterpart called the Muslim Girls Training (MGT), sometimes referred to by the female members as the General Civilization Class. Led by its captain and as many lieutenants as are necessary, this group engages in the many activities Elijah believes necessary for his female followers. They have classes in homemaking, hygienics, calisthenics, and other subjects, such as Muslim history and the English language. They are constantly urged to be "properly dressed", that means, they must wear long, loose-fitting dresses or white robes, flat shoes, and no lipstick and cover their heads with a white shawl-type headdress. They are expected to purchase their apparel



**MUSLIM GIRLS TRAINING (MGT)**



**"Properly Dressed" Sisters of NOI**



**Elijah's Daughter Ethel Sharrieff  
Instructs the Sisters**



at the cult's Chicago clothing store, at prices usually higher than at other stores. In all its activities, the MGT is under the same strict discipline from its superior officer as is the FOL. And, like the FOL, it has a junior MGT of girls under the age of 16.

#### G. Schools

Two schools are presently being operated for NOI children, the University of Islam No. 1, in Detroit, and the University of Islam No. 2, in Chicago. Actually, neither is a university. The one in Detroit is attended by about 125 students in grades one through nine, and the one in Chicago has about 500 students and includes high school subjects. Few stay to graduate. The University of Islam No. 2 graduated in February, 1964, only four from high school and seventeen from the eighth grade.

Christine X Johnson, director of the Chicago school, said in a recent issue of "Muhammad Speaks" that the purpose of the NOI schools is, besides teaching the regular academic subjects, educating "the children of Muslims in the knowledge of self, through the history of black men from ancient times to the present." She described how the schools turn their boys and girls "into self-respecting, intelligent, well-mannered, disciplined citizens."

While this seems commendable, those inside the movement know the real purpose is to indoctrinate the students with Elijah's teaching while keeping



them ignorant of American history and government and out of contact with the "white devil" children. It is known that NOI schools have many problems of discipline, many students being suspended and others dropping out because of pregnancy.

The Chicago and Detroit schools have operated since the middle 1930's, but over the years they have not been without their problems with education and health officials. During 1963, the Illinois Legislature considered a bill concerning control of certain schools, specifically aimed at control of the Muslim school; but, although it passed the senate, it failed to get through the house.

Other temples, on occasions, have attempted to start schools but to date have been unsuccessful. Several temples do operate one-day-a-week classes for NOI children, and others have some form of an adult education program.

For several years after 1958, there were numerous requests and much publicity regarding donations for a proposed large NOI educational center in Chicago. Though Chicago authorities blocked this building program several years ago, Elijah has recently inaugurated a new program for an educational center in Chicago. He says this center will be "not for Muslims exclusively, but for the whole black nation." He is, therefore,



appealing to all "so-called American Negroes" to contribute to the MDM No. 2 educational fund. Elijah feels this center would assure the "so-called Negroes" of his desire to give them "knowledge of self."



## **VI. RESOURCES**

### **A. Sources of Income**

"The prime source of funds for national obligations come from the Muslims' charity," National Secretary John Ali frequently reminds the members in letters to the NOI temples throughout the country. "Muslims' charity" certainly begins at home, for John Ali, soliciting cult funds, demands that members "should forget their rent, bills, wives and children, as when the Nation needs money you must give." Charity actually implies need, and benevolence and good will to the poor and suffering. But, if "Muslim charity" reaches the poor and needy, Elijah Muhammad must exercise the benevolence, for he controls all the resources of the cult and cannot, himself, be said to be suffering from lack of material things.

Other revenue to support "the Nation" is raised by members at bazaars, rallies, and dinners arranged by the various temples, through sales of the cult newspaper, and from the profits of businesses operated by some of the temples.

It is significant that every activity of the NOI is keyed to the raising of money. Those activities which do not produce the desired profit are abandoned and new activities are then stressed.



# **1. Funds**

Every member of the NOI is required to make regular weekly contributions to numerous special funds collected in each temple. Money collected in four of these funds is sent directly to Chicago for use of the national organization:

No. 2 Poor Treasury Fund--The prime charity of the cult, for the personal use of Elijah to support his family.

Central Point Fund--For the expenses of the national organization and to assist in paying the salaries of various ministers.

National Security Fund--For the defense of Muslims involved in trouble with the law.

Savior's Day Fund--For a gift which is presented to Elijah at the Muslim convention held about February 26 of each year. Each member is requested to give from \$100 to \$125 in honor of the NOI founder, W. D. Fard, whose birth date Elijah claims was February 26, 1877.

Other funds are used for the expenses of the individual temples.

Though the needs of the particular temple determine the number of special funds required, the following have been customary in various temples:

Administration Fund--For salary and expenses of the temple minister.

Rent or Mortgage Fund--For payment of temple rent or mortgage payments.

General Treasury Fund--For general expenses of the temple.

School Fund--For operation of school or special classes at the temple.

Transportation Fund--For operation of autos used by temple officers.



In addition to these regularly used funds, special collections are frequently taken for specific incidental purposes. For example, when Elijah attends an NOI rally put on by a certain temple, the members usually must provide extra funds to cover his expenses. Often, when a temple officer needs a new car or some extra item, the members must make additional contributions.

The contributions demanded from members vary in individual temples from about \$6 to \$13.50 per week. Of course, not all members can meet these demands and this is a frequent cause for ridicule of or disciplinary action against the delinquent member.

NOI rules, which ministers constantly stress to members, include fasting on certain occasions, reduction of regular meals to one a day, and the nonuse of tobacco, liquor, and drugs. Ostensibly, these rules are for improving members' health, but one wonders if there also may be an economic reason behind these regulations made by Elijah. In their constant requests for contributions, ministers remind the members that Muslims who eat only one meal a day save \$730 per year more than Christians who eat three meals a day; that, by following the rules against smoking and the use of liquor, they can save additional hundreds of dollars a year; and that, therefore, it should be no hardship for them to make their weekly duty contributions or their annual Savior's Day gifts.



## **2. Cult Newspaper**

While serving as their main propaganda organ, the cult's weekly newspaper, "Muhammad Speaks," is another money-making enterprise. FOI captains regularly emphasize to members that "the number-one program is selling the newspaper." Though the number to be sold varies in individual temples, each FOI member is required to purchase and resell from 50 to 300 copies of each issue of the paper. Contests are held by the various temples. Teams are made up to cover certain areas of each city and prizes are awarded to top salesmen. A winning team of two young salesmen of one temple sold 1,800 copies of a particular edition. Currently, the paper is running a nationwide contest in which the winner, who "circulates" the most cult papers before June 30, 1965, is promised a new 1965 automobile.

Sales by the NOI's unpaid "newsboys" plus income from advertising net the cult approximately \$30,000 from each weekly edition of "Muhammad Speaks."

## **3. NOI Businesses**

Most of the larger temples of the cult operate restaurants, grocery or meat stores, clothing stores, or service-type enterprises; and, in nearly all other areas where the cult is active, many additional businesses are owned and operated by cult members. Because these businessmen derive most of their income from sales to other cult members, they buy advertising space



in the NOI paper. Then, reaping double benefits, the cult demands sizeable contributions from these business owners.

Elijah constantly preaches that his followers should trade only with other Muslims and stresses the importance he places on Muslims' developing their own business enterprises completely separate from the white society.

Despite Elijah's emphasis on members' operating their own businesses, the cult's many rules restricting its members make the successful operation of a business very difficult. The member who owns a business, just as any other member, is required to attend cult meetings several nights a week and on weekends and is expected to sell his quota of the cult newspaper. For a cult member whose establishment should stay open evenings and weekends, these requirements cause him a loss of income. Additionally, many of the businessman's customers are cult members who frequently buy on credit. This further restricts the businessman's income because, as mentioned earlier, members are advised to pay their cult dues before paying their bills.



#### **4. Public Activities--Bazaars and Rallies**

**Other favorite fund-raising activities of the NOI are rallies and bazaars held by the various temples during the year.**

**Amid much publicity, bazaars are supposed "to focus public attention on the economic potential of the Negro community by displaying the wares, products, and services of Negro businessmen." Some form of musical entertainment is provided, and the Muslim minister and some Negro celebrity usually appear as speakers. Of course, admission is charged, and refreshments and craftwork are sold. Heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay, known in the cult as Muhammad Ali, is a great drawing card for the NOI and has appeared at bazaars in New York, Boston, and other cities.**

**Individual temples also hold rallies at which Elijah or some other member of the national hierarchy usually delivers the main speech. Busloads of cult members from nearby temples attend these rallies, and visiting ministers precede the main speaker to "warm up" the crowd with praise of Elijah. Collections are taken from those in attendance, and frequently the host temple arranges a dinner where those in attendance may purchase meals following the rally.**

**The most important public rally of the cult is the annual convention, called the Savior's Day convention of the Muslims. The 1965 convention was a three-day affair held February 26 through 28 in the dingy, 65-year-old**



Chicago Coliseum. As at all Muslim rallies, after passing through the searching procedure, the visitor entering the hall was met by Muslim guards holding out buckets for contributions. Elijah appeared and spoke on only two afternoons, the 26th and the 28th. On Saturday afternoon, the 27th, a Unity Bazaar was held. This is a regular event of each annual convention, but for this bazaar there was featured a special boxing exhibition by Cassius Clay. "Muhammad Speaks" had announced that tickets would be on sale at cult business places for "donations" ranging from \$10 for ringside to \$1.50 for third-balcony seats. Clay's scheduled second exhibition that day was cancelled for an undisclosed reason. Frequently, these Muslim bazaars fall short of the claims set forth for them in advance press notices.

On the last afternoon, the 28th, Elijah spoke before about 3,000 in the hall which could hold 7,500. Because of Malcolm's assassination a few days earlier, violence was expected, and one former Muslim was beaten and forcibly ejected just before Elijah was to speak. The United Press has reported that Elijah's rambling speech lasted over three hours and that "even some of his devoted followers were leaving the Chicago Coliseum as he droned his way through the last hour." Concerning the contents of Elijah's speech, the United Press reported that it "ranged from economics to moon flights, from Islam to short skirts on women, and from the threat of death



to men on Mars. He confided that 'Allah takes pictures of people on Mars. They're tall and skinny, they're about seven to nine feet tall, not intelligent as we are.'" The 1965 convention was no glowing success. Attendance at all functions was considerably less than at previous conventions.

#### **B. Wealth**

As previously mentioned, all NOI funds and property are under the complete control of Elijah Muhammad. Although most real estate is owned in the names of various temples, members of Elijah's family, or the Progressive Land Developers, Incorporated, Elijah, as the "Messenger of Allah" and absolute ruler of the NOI, makes or approves all decisions involving the financial policies and holdings of the entire cult.

In recent years, Elijah apparently obtained professional aid to protect his real-estate holdings. The Progressive Land Developers, Incorporated, was organized in January, 1963, "to own, operate, manage and maintain, subdivide and otherwise develop and promote real-estate business." Officers of this company are FOI Captain Raymond Sharrieff, MM No. 2 Minister James SX Anderson, and John Hassan--Raymond Sharrieff's cousin and an old-time member who has no authority but whose name is frequently utilized in the cult's financial transactions. The title to many of the recent real-estate acquisitions of the cult has been held in this corporation's name.



For many years, the NOI transacted all of its business in cash; but, since late 1961, the national organization and several of the individual temples have utilized banking facilities. Claiming to be a religious body, the national organization opened corporate accounts, both checking and savings, in the name of "Muhammad's Temple No. 2 of the Holy Temples of Islam." During the 26 months prior to August, 1964, nearly \$1,750,000 passed through these accounts.

The Chicago Temple also utilizes individual savings accounts for each of the various funds to which members of MM No. 2 donate money for temple expenses. Many other temples also maintain savings accounts in their home cities for temple funds.

Elijah and his wife, Clara Muhammad, have personal accounts in banks in Chicago and Phoenix. Rumors have circulated that Elijah and his wife have also secretly deposited funds in foreign banking institutions. Foreign deposits could have been made by Elijah's wife and some of his sons who in recent years have made numerous trips outside the country; however, there are so many ways by which funds could be sent out of the country secretly that it would be virtually impossible to prove this allegation.

C. "Muhammad's 3-Year Economic Savings Plan"

Many persons over the past few years have credited the Black Muslims with helping American Negroes to better themselves through the



various NOI programs. One of these programs which the NOI has proudly advertised in its newspaper and by signs on public transportation vehicles is "Muhammad's 3-Year Economic Plan." This so-called self-help savings plan deserves close examination.

Elijah Muhammad began laying the groundwork for his new savings bank program in two articles on economics which appeared in the July 3 and 17, 1964, issues of "Muhammad Speaks." In these articles, Elijah renewed his often - repeated claims that "the white man's time is growing shorter" and that "Christianity has never been able to produce the right leadership for our people--and never will." He again berated the "black man in America" as "a people who do not want to accept their own responsibility," who are "begging and praying to the white man to accept you." Elijah complained that "it is difficult to plan an economic system for a people who are subject to the whim of another people. You are limited in your jobs, salaries and income by the white man. But you can still learn not to be reckless and wasteful spenders."

Elijah advised his readers, "You can save hundreds of millions of dollars--even billions--if you would accept the right economic program and stop using things which destroy your health, such as tobacco, which doctors warn us can cause cancer. X-rays are known also to be dangerous and produce



cancer.... Scientists now warn you against gazing into TV sets for any long length of time, because this can produce cancer in the body."

Elijah warned, "The only salvation for you and me now is in unity and being under the guidance of Allah through his Messenger and His program for us all.... Our problem is to be solved by a divine solution of Allah's Messenger. Follow me and live. Reject me and die as people without the help of God and friend."

The first public announcement of Elijah's "divine solution" appeared in the August 28, 1964, issue of the cult paper. Large headlines proclaimed, "Muhammad Calls for--3-Year Savings Plan for Negro." The article by Elijah contained the following excerpts:

"I appeal to all Muslims, and to all the members of the original Black Nation in America, to sacrifice at least 5 cents from each day's work to create an 'Economic Savings Program' to help fight unemployment, abominable housing, hunger, and nakedness of the 22 million Black People here in America who continue to face these problems."

"Send your 25 cents every week to Muhammad's Mosque No. 2--Chicago, Illinois. This 25 cents will be banked until we have a million dollars to begin building a banking system."

"Let the entire nation sacrifice..."



"As soon as we have enough finance in our bank to purchase farm lands sufficient to feed the 22 million black people, we will build storage warehouses to store our produce for the necessities of life for our people."

"Please respond and help yourself. Each and everyone of you will be sent a receipt which will be recorded in our books for the Muslims' Three-Year Economic Program for the Black Nation in America. You will be receipted for every penny you sent to this office, which you will keep as your record."

"I await your response."

The next issue of "Muhammad Speaks" contained another article by Elijah in which he claimed great progress with the "3-Year Savings Plan." Following are excerpts from this September 11, 1964, issue:

"This plan has been accepted by both Muslims and non-Muslims.... Let us continue this most essential work: give all we can and stop buying that which we can do without.

"I am asking that we (the whole nation) sacrifice for the next three years, and when we get enough in our bank we will put it to work to make more money...."

"We would like to raise at least \$500,000,000 in the next three years. If all would contribute willingly and honestly all that they could to this economic plan.... we would soon have billions...."



"There are millions of your dollars lying in the white man's banks, doing nothing for anyone...."

"I am appealing to you--each and every one of the 22 million black people of America--to send every penny, nickel, dime, dollar, hundreds of dollars, thousands of dollars, and millions of dollars that you can spare to this 'Three-Year Economic Plan;' MUHAMMAD'S MOSQUE NO. 2--5333 South Greenwood Ave. --Chicago, Illinois 60615."

"... When our mark of one million dollars is accomplished, we are going to build a national reserve bank for the black people of America."

To the casual observer, this program may appear plausible. But using a little arithmetic, we find that before Elijah Muhammad could accomplish his goal of \$1,000,000 to open the national reserve bank, he would need considerable help from non-Muslim Negroes. For, if every one of his known active followers faithfully contributed the 25 cents per week which Elijah has requested, it would take over 15 years, or well into 1980, to collect that amount.

Even more unlikely of accomplishment is his proposal to raise \$500,000,000 in the next three years. To reach this goal, well over 12 million persons would have to contribute 25 cents every week for the next three years.

Could it be that a friend of the NOI applied some arithmetic to Elijah's "divine solution" and pointed out its inconsistencies? At any rate, there appeared



in the September 25, 1964, issue of "Muhammad Speaks" a coupon to be clipped, signed, and mailed to the Chicago headquarters of the "3-Year Economic Plan."

In fine print was the pledge:

"I am going to enclose 50¢ with this coupon, and every coupon hereafter that is printed in this Newspaper..."

Soon issues of the paper contained more than one coupon. The November 20 issue had five. Perhaps it was felt that if "every coupon" was forwarded to Chicago, Elijah's proposed bank could be started earlier than 1980.

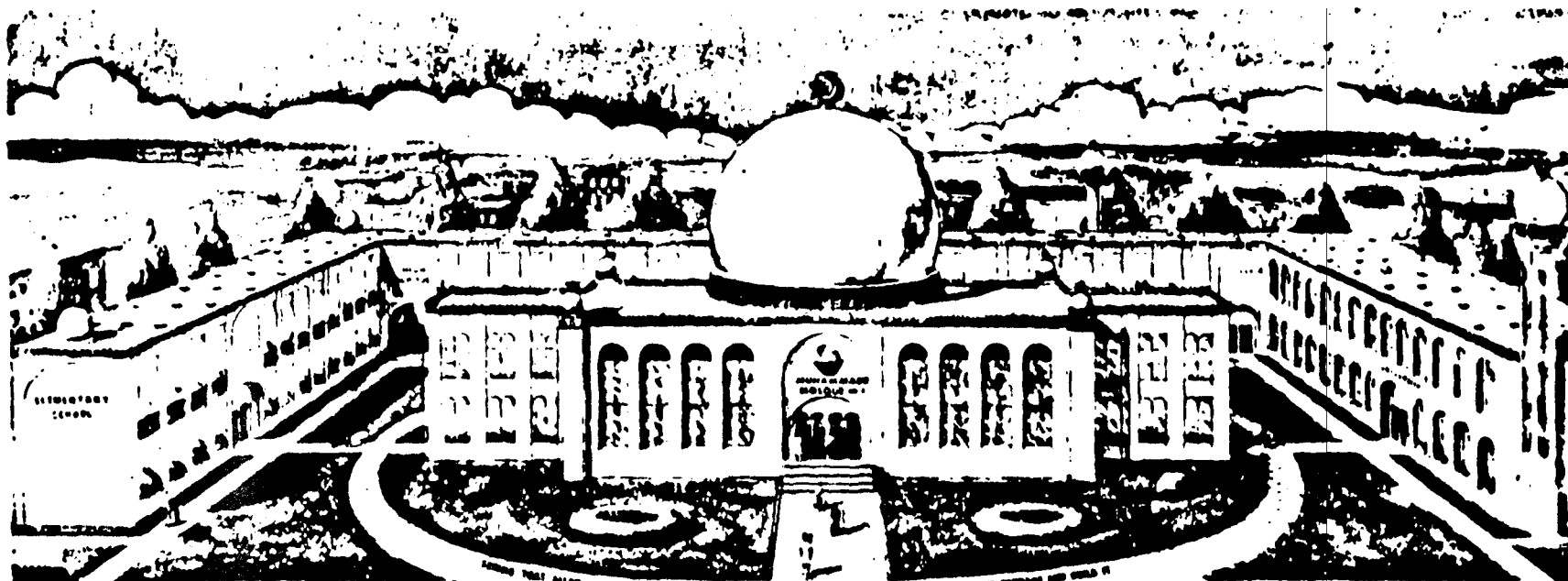
#### D. Educational Center

Elijah Muhammad apparently desires to initiate programs frequently to show his earnestness in aiding the "so-called Negroes" in America. With his "3-Year Economic Plan" under way, he has renewed an earlier plan for an NOI educational center to be built in Chicago.

This earlier proposed center was announced in 1958. In the following two years, Elijah's constant appeal for contributions began with \$3,500,000 and grew to \$20,000,000. Though land was purchased in Chicago, it was condemned later for city use by the Chicago Park District, and the NOI was compensated for its return. Whatever funds were collected in this two-year drive never have been publicly accounted for.

Now, Elijah has revived his drive for a new educational center. In January, 1964, the cult newspaper began the campaign with articles and drawings





## AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER

*As seen through the eyes of cartoonist Eugene Maller of Muhammad's idea*

(AN ARCHITECT'S DRAWING WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN OUTSIDE COUNCILS ARE SECURED)

**LET US HELP HIM TO BUILD!**

**THE UNITY OF MILLIONS CAN DO THIS!**

Proposed Educational Center



regarding the proposed center. The plans are even more extravagant than the earlier ones; however, this time Elijah does not set a figure for the amount he needs before beginning the project. Each issue of the paper requests "all so-called Negroes" to "send your contributions today to: Muhammad's Mosque No. 2 Educational Fund."



## **VII. RECRUITMENT AND MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES**

### **A. Recruitment**

The most successful recruiter for the Black Muslims over the past few years had been Malcolm X. Due to the rising interest in the Negro rights movement, Malcolm's outspoken attacks on white society, widely publicized in the press, aroused the curiosity of many American Negroes. These people, therefore, were in a receptive mood when approached by Muslim recruiters "fishing" for "lost-found" to "come to Muhammad's temple and hear our minister tell you of our program for the so-called Negro."

All temples require their FOI men to "fish" throughout Negro areas prior to the Sunday, public NOI meetings. Frequently, this is done in areas where Negro Christian churches hold their services. FOI men, while hawking the cult newspaper, also urge Negroes to visit open temple meetings. But strict rules forbid these recruiters, or any rank-and-file Muslim, to engage in discussion of NOI teachings with non-Muslims. Only NOI ministers and national officers trained to promote Elijah's version of Islam are permitted to teach the "lost-found."

During the Spring of 1964, the FOI captain of one of the leading NOI temples discussed "fishing" procedures which he said Elijah wanted followed. He said Elijah was interested in the "trashy" or indigent-type Negro rather



than the "elite" or "snooty" ones. According to this captain, Elijah was interested in dope addicts, prostitutes, thieves, gamblers, and drunkards. His technique apparently is to offer to society's black rejects the organizational apparatus of the NOI. Believing these social outcasts will be shunned by other Negro leaders, Elijah hopes to impress upon them that he is interested in their rehabilitation. After considerable experience, Elijah knows the unintelligent Negro is more apt to follow cult teachings.

To date, Elijah has had little success in recruiting educated Negroes, whom he calls "white folks loving" Negroes. He expressed his feelings toward them at an NOI rally in Detroit in May, 1964. He said, "College people think their education will save them. Negroes are ignorant even though they attended college because they do not have a knowledge of themselves. They will be destroyed because of their ignorance and stubbornness."

Cult ministers and other leaders recognize that the constant turnover in membership requires constant recruiting efforts. One extreme measure used in Chicago over the past few years has been the cult's effort to interest various Negro youth street gangs in NOI membership. NOI recruiters, taking advantage of a gang member's penchant for militancy, approach a youth and remind him that the NOI basically is fighting for the same objective as the gang, that is, Negro supremacy; and, whereas the



gang is small, the NOI is great and would welcome these youths. As additional enticement, recruiters promise the gang member he will receive judo and karate training as a member of the cult. Chicago Welfare authorities, who have closely followed this recruitment activity, report the Muslims have had no apparent success. Gang members, when introduced to the religious aspects of the cult and the discipline demanded of members, after only a few meetings lose interest in the NOI.

The cult newspaper, "Muhammad Speaks," and Elijah's exploitation of famous Negro athletes are other approaches to recruitment which will be discussed later in this monograph.

#### B. Membership Procedures

The "lost-found" Negro who has been "steered" into the temple by NOI recruiters is met there by a well-dressed, polite FOI guard who takes the visitor's name. The guard explains to the visitor that before entering the meeting room he must be searched. Following a frisking, the visitor is seated near the front of the hall, facing the minister. Much of the minister's message is directed to him and his fellow visitors. Guests are always pressed to return to the next meeting.

After the initial visit by a "lost-found," the follow-up methods of the various temples may be slightly different. However, all temples continually urge nonmembers to "unite with your own kind." Those who express a desire



( )

to learn more of the NOI are considered "registrants." They receive a certain amount of instruction and are furnished a letter which they must copy in their own handwriting and send to Elijah Muhammad's Chicago address. This letter is the sender's application for membership and closes with the statement: "I desire to reclaim my own. Please give me my original name. My slave name is..."

Usually, the registrant must wait several weeks before receiving an answer from Chicago. If he made no error on his application, he is notified he has been accepted for membership and his name entered in the "Book of Life."

It is explained to the registrant that the "so-called Negro," during the centuries he was in slavery, lost his original name and was given his master's surname. When the registrant becomes an NOI member, his "slave" name is dropped and he is given an X (meaning unknown) until his "true" name is given back to him. When entered in the "Book of Life," the first James was James X; the second, James 2X; and so forth. Members with a common given name are now being given "X" names in high numbers, such as James 78X, John 57X, and Charles 37X.

But how he receives his "true" name, if ever, is somewhat of a mystery to even the NOI member. Hassan Sharrieff, in his letter of resignation from the NOI, denounced his grandfather Elijah and complained



about his flagrant injustice with regard to assigning "true," or original, names to his followers. Elijah never did favor certain old faithfuls with any but an "X" name, Hassan said and added his observation that these slighted Muslims were those who achieved no material gain or fame in Elijah's eyes. Although Hassan recalled that Elijah had said he could not give out these names, that it was up to Allah, he noted that Elijah's favorites, such as his personal secretaries, National Secretary John Simmons (John Ali), and Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali), the heavyweight boxing champion, received their "true" names quite early. Clay learned of his while he was listening to a radio broadcast. He commented, "I am honored. "



## VIII. PUBLICITY

Elijah Muhammad fully understands that wide publicity is extremely necessary for the continuation of the NOI. Though he and his ministers appear before the public frequently to promote NOI teachings--on radio and television, at rallies and feasts, and at the annual conventions--Elijah has long felt the written word could reach "so-called Negroes" who would not attend public functions. Also, he has not overlooked the fact that this method of spreading his "message of Truth" brings in considerable revenue.

### A. Publications

Beginning in early 1956, Elijah arranged for a column, under his by-line, entitled "Mr. Muhammad Speaks" to appear regularly in the weekly Negro newspaper, the Pittsburgh "Courier." Immediately, selling papers became one of the most important of the cult's programs. In temples throughout the country, NOI members were given quotas for the number of these papers they were required to buy and resell. By the Summer of 1959, however, Elijah's attempts to dictate the paper's policy caused a conflict with the publisher, and his column was dropped. The NOI then switched its hawking activity to another Negro weekly, the Los Angeles "Herald-Dispatch," which also had been printing Elijah's column and other NOI news.



By the Fall of 1961, Elijah and some of his hierarchy decided they had "made money for several other papers, now we will make some for ourselves." In October, 1961, they hired the "Chicago Defender" to print the first issue of their new paper, "Muhammad Speaks." Soon after, the Muslims bought themselves a rotary press and issued their own paper once a month until July, 1962, when they changed it to a bimonthly. Since February 12, 1965, "Muhammad Speaks" has been issued weekly. The paper first sold at 10 cents per copy, but the price was raised to 15 cents in January, 1962, and to 20 cents in April, 1963.

Over the years, other Negro newspapers have intermittently printed articles on the cult, as well as columns written by Elijah and other cult members. But Elijah's dictatorial attitude and demands have caused considerable trouble. The editors of the Los Angeles "Herald-Dispatch" became disenchanted with Elijah and dropped his column in May, 1963. Only the "New Crusader," a struggling Negro weekly published in Chicago, has been fairly consistent in running Elijah's column. Prior to its NOI association, this small paper, edited by a former waiter, was published under another name and supported leftist doctrines.

"Muhammad Speaks" is a tabloid newspaper published by Muhammad's Mosque No. 2, at 634 East 79th Street, Chicago. Generally 24 to 28 pages in length, this paper is superior to the average Negro paper in layout and



technical quality. Large headlines in unusual combinations of black and white lettering on a shaded background streak across the pages. Since mid-1964, more and more pictures have been printed in color.

On the front page of every issue, an article by Elijah Muhammad, usually accompanied by his photograph, dramatically sets forth some phase of his teachings. Very often, also appearing on the front page is either a large picture or a drawing which emphasizes racial strife, police brutality, or some form of violence against the black man. Throughout the paper, nearly everything printed tends to aggravate the soreness of race relations in the United States and around the world. Always, the white man is portrayed as the brutal oppressor and the black man as the innocent victim. One- or two-paragraph news articles and filler-type inserts printed throughout the paper follow this same line. Some of the articles are dated, but many are not. The time element is not important. One recent issue contained six filler inserts, all of which referred to Negro slave revolts in the United States during the 19th century.

To emphasize the progress of the black man through following Elijah's teachings, many articles describe the achievements of members who operate their own businesses. Each issue of the paper also contains a section called "What Islam Has Done For Me." Therein, various NOI members relate the circumstances which led them into the cult. In all





Typical Front Pages of Cult Newspaper



cases, they tell how they were unhappy, destitute, and without hope but how, after becoming followers of the "Messenger of Allah," they are happy, their economic status has improved, and they have a purpose in life.

Many photographs and pictorial sketches are included throughout each issue of the paper. A typical issue contained five pictures showing Negroes being beaten by white police, two cartoons depicting the Negro being threatened by whites, a large photograph of a sobbing Negro mother whose son had been slain in a riot, and one of a Negro male victim of a beating by white youths.

Interspersed with these pictures of white violence are many news pictures of Elijah, Negro leaders of emerging African countries, smiling and happy NOI members, and prominent Negroes--both Muslim and non-Muslim. The back page of each issue has a photograph of Elijah, and the rest of the page is devoted to "The Muslim Program." This consists of the list of 10 items entitled "What the Muslims Want" and a list of 12 items entitled "What the Muslims Believe."

Considerable advertising appears in each issue of "Muhammad Speaks." The paper regularly carries classified advertisements placed by businesses operated by the various NOI temples and by individual NOI members. In addition to coupons soliciting future classified advertising, many other coupons are printed. Readers are thus enticed to clip and mail these coupons, indicating thereon that they wish to contribute to the "3-Year Economic Plan,"



or desire to subscribe to "Muhammad Speaks," or perhaps want to purchase books and other products for sale by NOI shopkeepers.

Regular features of the paper are columns by Tynnetta Deanar, Harriett Muhammad, and Abdul Basit Naeem. Who are these featured columnists?

Tynnetta Deanar, in late 1959, was a young, light-skinned, unmarried Negro girl who became a secretary to Elijah Muhammad and soon began writing a column entitled "Women in Islam." In her column, Tynnetta forcefully echoes Elijah's teaching that the Negro woman should completely disassociate herself from the customs and practices of the white woman, that the white race is "the real enemy of our people," and that the black people must develop strong "racial pride and solidarity."

What Tynnetta advocates, however, is not what Tynnetta practices. Since serving as a secretary to Elijah, she has taken two vacations, once travelling to Cincinnati in 1960, where she gave birth to a baby girl, and again to Albuquerque in 1964, where she gave birth to a baby boy. This young Negro columnist, who so strongly advocates pride of race, listed on the girl's birth certificate that the baby was white, that she herself was white, and that the alleged father was white.



The Messenger of Allah Presents

# The Muslim Program

## What the Muslims Want

This is the question asked most frequently by both the whites and the blacks. The answers to this question I shall state as simply as possible.

1. We want freedom. We want a full and complete freedom.

2. We want justice. Equal justice under the law. We want justice applied equally to all, regardless of creed or class or color.

3. We want equality of opportunity. We want equal membership in society with the best in civilized society.

4. We want our people in America whose parents or grandparents were descendants from slaves, to be allowed to establish a separate state or territory of their own—either on this continent or elsewhere. We believe that our former slave masters are obligated to provide such land and that the area must be fertile and mineral rich. We believe that our former slave masters are obligated to maintain and supply our needs in this separate territory for the next 20 to 25 years—until we are able to produce and supply our own needs.

Since we cannot get along with them in peace and equality after giving them 400 years of our sweat and blood and receiving in return some of the worst treatment human beings have ever experienced, we believe our contributions to this land and the suffering forced upon us by white America, justifies our demand for complete separation in a state or territory of our own.

5. We want freedom for all Believers of Islam now held in federal prisons. We want freedom for all black men and women now under death sentence in innumerable prisons in the North as well as the South.

We want every black man and woman to have the freedom to accept or reject being separated from the slave master's children and establish a land of their own.

We know that the above plan for the solution of the black and white conflict is the best and only answer to the problem between two people.

6. We want an immediate end to the police brutality and mob attacks against the so-called Negro throughout the United States.

We believe that the Federal government should intercede to see that black men and women tried in white courts receive justice in accordance with the laws of the land—or allow us to build a new nation for ourselves, dedicated to justice, freedom and liberty.

7. As long as we are not allowed to establish a state or territory of our own, we demand not only equal justice under the laws of the United States, but equal employment opportunities—NOW!

We do not believe that after 400 years of free or nearly free labor, sweat and blood, which has helped America become rich and powerful, that so many thousands of black people should have to subsist on relief, charity or live in poor houses.

8. We want the government of the United States to exempt our people from ALL taxation as long as we are deprived of equal justice under the laws of the land.

9. We want equal education—but separate schools up to 16 for boys and 18 for girls on the condition that the girls be sent to women's colleges and universities. We want all black children educated, taught and trained by their own teachers.

Under such schooling system we believe we will make a better nation of people. The United States government should provide,

free, all necessary text books and equipment, schools and college buildings. The Muslim teachers shall be left free to teach and train their people in the way of righteousness, decency and self respect.

10. We believe that intermarriage or race mixing should be prohibited. We want the religion of Islam taught without hindrance or suppression.

These are some of the things that we, the Muslims, want for our people in North America.

## What the Muslims Believe

1. WE BELIEVE in the One God Whose proper Name is Allah.

2. WE BELIEVE in the Holy Qur'an and in the Scriptures of all the Prophets of God.

3. WE BELIEVE in the truth of the Bible, but we believe that it has been tampered with and must be reinterpreted so that mankind will not be misled by the falsehoods that have been added to it.

4. WE BELIEVE in Allah's Prophets and the Scriptures they brought to the people.

5. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of the dead—not in physical resurrection—but in mental resurrection. We believe that the so-called Negroes are most in need of mental resurrection, therefore, they will be resurrected first.

Furthermore, we believe we are the people of God's choice, as it has been written, that God would choose the rejected and the despised. We can find no other persons fitting this description in these last days more than the so-called Negroes in America. We believe in the resurrection of the righteous.

6. WE BELIEVE in the judgement, we believe this first judgement will take place as God revealed, in America.

7. WE BELIEVE this is the time in history for the separation of the so-called Negroes and the so-called white Americans. We believe the black men should be freed in name as well as in fact. By this we mean that he should be freed from the names imposed upon him by his former slave masters. Names which identified him as being the slave master's slave. We believe that if we are free indeed, we should go in our own people's names—the black peoples of the earth.

8. WE BELIEVE in justice for all, whether in God or not, we believe as others, that we are due equal justice as human beings. We believe in equality—as a nation—of equals. We do not believe that we are equal with our slave masters in the status of "freed slaves."

We recognize and respect American citizenship as independent peoples and we respect their laws which govern this nation.

9. WE BELIEVE that the offer of integration is hypocritical and is made by those who are trying to deceive the black peoples into believing that their 400-year-old open enemies of freedom, justice and equality are, all of a sudden, their "friends." Furthermore, we believe that such deception is intended to prevent black people from realizing that the time in history has arrived for the separation from the whites of this nation.

If the white people are truthful about their professed friendship toward the so-called Negroes,



Honorable Elijah Muhammad

600, they can prove it by dividing up America with their slaves.

We do not believe that America will ever be able to furnish enough jobs for her own millions of unemployed, in addition to jobs for the 20,000,000 black people as well.

10. WE BELIEVE that we who declared ourselves to be righteous Muslims, should not participate in wars which take the lives of humans. We do not believe this nation should force us to take part in such wars, for we have nothing to gain from it unless America agrees to give us the necessary territory wherein we may have something to fight for.

11. WE BELIEVE our women should be respected and protected as the women of other nationalities are respected and protected.

12. WE BELIEVE that Allah (God) appeared in the Person of Master W. Fard Muhammad, July, 1930; the long-awaited "Messiah" of the Christians and the "Mahdi" of the Muslims.

We believe further and lastly that Allah is God and besides HIM there is no God and He will bring about a universal government of peace wherein we all can live in peace together.

Back Page of "Muhammad Speaks"



Harriett Muhammad's advice-to-the-lovelorn column, "For and About You," has been a regular feature of the paper since November, 1963. Harriett was married to Elijah's son Akbar from 1960 to October, 1963. In September, 1961, she accompanied Akbar to Cairo, Egypt, where both attended schools. Their marriage was unsuccessful, and they returned to the United States and were divorced in October, 1963. Akbar went back to Egypt and married an Egyptian girl. Harriett, with hardly the best qualifications for her new job, immediately began her advice-to-the-lovelorn column. In June, 1964, columnist Harriett remarried. This time, she became the wife of a 27-year-old bigamist who had deserted a wife and three small children.

The third regular contributor to the cult paper, Abdul Basit Naeem, for the past eight years has written much in praise of Elijah Muhammad. Naeem began a new column, "Speaking of Business," in the January 29, 1965, issue of "Muhammad Speaks." Its purpose is to report on and furnish advice to Muslim businesses and to stimulate their use of the newspaper for advertising.

Naeem was born in India and entered the United States from Pakistan in 1953. In the Fall of 1956, he issued a bimonthly publication, "The Moslem World and the U. S. A." Through this little periodical, he said, he desired to impart information about Islam and to consolidate various orthodox Muslim groups in the United States. After including an article about the NOI in one issue, he was contacted by cult leaders. Being in dire financial straits,



Naeem published additional favorable articles on the NOI in exchange for considerable monetary assistance and a guaranteed increase in sales of his publication. Orthodox Muslims then stopped buying his publication and he devoted his attention to Elijah Muhammad and the NOI. Since then, Naeem, pretentiously claiming to be a "leading Pakistan Muslim and world lecturer," has written profusely for the cult paper extolling Elijah Muhammad and the NOI.

An editorial in the January 29, 1965, issue of "Muhammad Speaks" reveals the main theme and purpose of Elijah Muhammad's whole publicity program through the years:

"...we cannot get our freedom, justice and dignity from the American government without Divine help. It has been Divinely predicted that God alone would send a Messenger and that messenger is among us."

"...The slave is never able to free himself from the master without a guide. And that guide is the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, born to do just that."

But the "so-called Negro" needs prodding. Elijah's articles conclude with the urgent appeal: "HURRY AND JOIN ONTO YOUR OWN KIND. THE TIME OF THIS WORLD IS NOW AT HAND."

Elijah occasionally has had to change this "time" that he foretells, and once again he is warning in the above-mentioned issue of the paper:



**COLUMNISTS**  
for "Muhammad Speaks"



**Abdul Basit Naeem**  
"Speaking of Business"



**Harriett Muhammad**  
"For and About You"



**Tynnetta Deanar**  
"Women in Islam"



"America is falling. Her doom has come and none, said the prophets, shall help her in the day of her downfall.... What is going to happen in 1965 and 1966? It certainly will change your minds about following a doomed people--a people who hate you and your kind, and who call one who teaches the truth about them a hater. They are the producers of hatred of us. We are with God and the righteous."



## **B Exploitation of Negro Athletes**

Noted Negro athletes, with many admirers among members of all races, are exploited by the NOI to gain publicity for the cult. The NOI has been most successful in this regard with heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay.

Clay was known prior to his title fight with Sonny Liston on February 25, 1964, as the "great mouth" and "the impish chatterbox who dabbled in verse." Clay's "I-am-the-greatest" antics brought him considerable news coverage. On many occasions, he had been asked by the press about his reputed Muslim connections. During interviews at that time, he gave the impression that he was not a Muslim member, although he admitted his respect for the religion.

Then, the day after Clay's defeat of Liston, which greatly surprised the sports world, Elijah Muhammad announced to the annual Muslim convention in Chicago that Cassius Clay was a follower of the Muslims and had accepted him as the "Messenger of Allah." Elijah claimed that the reason Clay had not been defeated was that "Allah and myself said no." Clay then told the press that he had been a member of the Muslims for five years. But what events led up to this declaration by Clay?

Clay's own father, speaking earlier to the press about his son, said that the Muslims had been "hammering at him and brainwashing him" ever since he had won the Olympic light-heavyweight title at Rome in 1960.



Like many other Negro youths in Louisville, Kentucky, Clay had evidenced some interest in the Muslims, but he had also "marched for integration." Clay spent considerable time with cult leaders in Miami while training for a fight during the Fall of 1961. During 1962, with his younger brother, he attended several NOI functions in Miami and elsewhere. But little attention was paid to him by the NOI. In fact, the NOI was backing Liston and in "Muhammad Speaks," of February 18, 1963, printed an article captioned "Memo to Cassius Clay." The article supported what it called Liston's verbal haymaker, that Clay was "the youngest, fastest thing coming up--with his mouth," and referred to Liston as "the best thing that has happened to boxing since Joe Louis blazed across the fistic horizon."

Three straight victories in the ring by Clay during the first half of 1963, and Clay was gaining considerable attention in the press. Suddenly he became important to the Muslims. Malcolm X developed a close friendship with Clay. During the rest of that year, Cassius and his brother were introduced as "visitors" at several NOI temples; and the press throughout the country described Cassius' appearances at various public NOI functions. The interest of the press really became aroused in January, 1964, when Clay disappeared from Miami, where he had been training for his title fight, and appeared and spoke before a New York NOI rally. These were the events that took place before Clay became champion and that led to his open affiliation with the NOI.



With this new champion in his corner, Elijah decided it was time to honor Clay with a new name. On March 6, 1964, Elijah bestowed on Clay his "true" name, Muhammad Ali. Since then Muhammad Ali has not failed to stir up the publicity which Elijah so desperately seeks.

Although they may never find another Muhammad Ali, the publicity-seeking Muslims have not bypassed other Negro athletes. Professional football star Jimmy Brown and professional basketballers Bill Russell and Wayne Hightower have each been publicized in the cult paper for statements they made praising the Muslims.

#### C. Advertising

Elijah Muhammad has utilized various advertising media to publicize himself and his cult programs. With typical extravagant and exaggerated claims, he published a schedule in the first edition of "Muhammad Speaks" which listed 198 cities throughout the country where his weekly radio broadcasts could be heard. As is usual with Elijah's pretentious plans, his radio broadcasting too was beset by problems. Stations which began broadcasting his weekly taped speeches frequently cancelled the program after short periods of time because of complaints from listeners. Those stations which continued to carry his program often had difficulty obtaining new tapes and were obliged to repeat previous programs.



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The Late Malcolm X Little



Cassius Clay Presenting Gift to Elijah



The actual value to Elijah of his radio broadcasting is hardly assessable. However, it is significant that the schedule continues to be set out in the cult paper and that frequently the list of stations carrying his programs and the list of cities reached reflect changes. The March 5, 1965, issue of "Muhammad Speaks" lists 31 cities which can receive Elijah's weekly broadcasts beamed from 19 radio stations around the country. Fourteen of the 31 cities are supposed to be receiving the programs from Station XERF, a Mexican radio station located just across the border from Del Rio, Texas.

Another advertising media tried by Elijah was beset with even more difficulties. Early in 1964, Elijah decided to utilize public transportation systems to carry signs advertising his programs. This plan proved expensive and disappointing to Elijah. Many transportation companies would not accept his advertising, others that agreed to carry the signs soon cancelled the program after receiving complaints from citizens and civic organizations in their areas.

When the transit program was begun early in 1964, the signs carried Elijah's picture and, in large letters, the challenge: "Read--Muhammad Speaks Newspaper." Below these words appeared the name of the local radio station and the time when Elijah's speeches could be heard. Later, after his economic program was devised, those companies still accepting his advertisements displayed pertinent new signs. Again, Elijah's picture drew attention, but the new



caption read: "Join Muhammad's 3 Year Savings Plan to Help Fight Poverty and Want--5335 So. Greenwood Ave. , Chicago, 15, Illinois. Buy 'Muhammad Speaks' newspaper. "

Early in 1965, because of the expense and the lack of response, the transit advertising program was discontinued.



## **IX. SECURITY MEASURES AND DISCIPLINE**

### **A. Security Measures**

"It's for everybody's protection," explains the FOI guard to the visitor, who must be searched before entering an NOI meeting place. Negro reporters for the "Chicago American" told about their experience before a meeting got under way where Elijah was to speak. You are led into a room, they said, where you register with a smiling Muslim at a desk. Then you are conducted before a team of guards who begin to search you for dangerous weapons. They are gentle but thorough, covering hat to shoes:

"... A muscular young Muslim tells you to empty your pockets. Your ballpoint pen is clicked repeatedly to make sure it's not a miniature weapon. Anything objectionable in your pockets goes into a brown bag and you get a claim check to redeem it after the meeting.

"Then you're standing... arms thrust skyward. The muscular one takes a karate stance and commands you to 'move into me.' His fingers dart up to yours, then flick downward over your arms, across the top of your chest, under your armpits, and down your sides. The hands go inside and under your belt, all the way around.

"Then the probing fingers glide down your legs, inside and out. The Muslim slaps your thighs and hips, nods to three men standing silently behind you and mutters, 'O.K.' Then in a dull monotone, he apologizes for the frisk and hopes 'you're not offended.'"

Frisking for weapons as the standing line gradually moves up causes long delays. Men search men, women search women. After being cleared, the



visitor enters the meeting hall, where men sit on one side and women on the other. The speaker is surrounded by stern-faced, neat, young bodyguards standing at ramrod attention and facing the audience from fixed positions around the rostrum. Other FOI guards stare into the audience from side and rear positions or move soundlessly around the hall. At short intervals the guard changes. With appropriate salutes and a brief verbal exchange, those on duty are relieved.

Constant vigil is kept because Elijah and his leaders always suspect the presence of "stool pigeons" and "hypocrites." After years of cautioning the faithful to guard against "stool pigeons," Elijah now fears "hypocrites" even more than "stool pigeons." Since the cherished Malcolm X broke from Elijah, Elijah has constantly denounced him and others like him who once followed closely but later deserted.

Should a "stool pigeon" or a "hypocrite" gain entrance to a meeting or rally and be discovered, FOI guards immediately converge on him and forcibly eject him. During the 1965 Savior's Day convention, guards spotted a visitor who had formerly attended meetings and later spoken out against the NOI. Twenty or more FOI guards charged toward him and dragged him to the back of the hall. They beat him and kicked him unmercifully before he crawled out through the doorway, where police rescued him.



**B. Protection of Elijah Muhammad**

**Elaborate and showy security protection has always been provided for Elijah Muhammad by the FOI bodyguards. Much of this protection in the past undoubtedly was ceremonial and ritualistic evidence of his followers' respect for him as the "Messenger of Allah."**

Since early 1964, however, when Malcolm X and many other cult members left the NOI, the protection afforded Elijah has been very serious and complete. During the Summer of 1964, a new procedure was inaugurated to protect Elijah. Formerly, his escorts numbered into the hundreds. Confusion and shoving resulted when they attempted to enter buildings and automobiles. The new plan is for the supreme captain of the FOI and a selected few highly trained and trusted FOI men tightly to surround Elijah at all times. On either side of these bodyguards, a column of security escorts acts as the buffer guard. The FOI guards are constantly reminded that they are the soldiers of Islam, serving the greatest general, Elijah Muhammad, and that every "Fruit" must be willing to sacrifice his life for "the Messenger."

After the assassination of Malcolm in New York City on February 21, 1965, and subsequent threats by Malcolm's followers against Elijah and NOI property in Chicago, Elijah advised the press that he did not fear for his life; nevertheless, he welcomed the protection afforded him by the Chicago police.



When appearing at the annual convention less than a week after Malcolm's death. Elijah was additionally protected on the speaker's stand by a double row of NOI ministers sitting in front and on either side of him. This double row was in addition to the regular FOI guards facing the audience and standing shoulder to shoulder in front of the speaker's stand.

C. Discipline and Punishment

NOI members are constantly reminded that "the first law of Islam is obedience." Members are guided by a variety of "musts" and "must nots." Some of these are that they must regularly attend meetings, make the required financial contributions, sell their quota of the cult newspaper, and trade with Muslim-operated businesses. They must not smoke, drink liquor, eat pork, use narcotics, commit adultery, or associate with non-Muslims. Women members must wear the prescribed head covering, keep their homes neat, and serve the proper Muslim foods; and they must not wear lipstick, high heels, or short dresses. These rules are but a few of the many that have guided those who accept Elijah Muhammad's concocted version of Islam.

Muslims are warned that they must obey without question all orders of those in authority. Any member who violates the rules is subjected to disciplinary action administered by the NOI leadership composed of Elijah Muhammad, the national officers, the temple ministers, captains, lieutenants, and investigators.



When a member is "brought up on charges," he is given a trial, sometimes before a regular temple meeting, sometimes before only the temple officials. The penalty of the guilty depends upon the nature of the charge and varies considerably among temples. For a minor violation, a member may be suspended from all temple activity for a period from 30 to 90 days; or, if the charge is more serious, he may be suspended for one to five years.

A suspended member is not permitted to associate with other members or take part in any temple activities. Upon completion of his sentence, the member who shows the proper respect and promises to obey henceforth all Muslim rules is permitted to return to the organization. One member, although suspended for a year for having an affair with a woman other than his wife, took steps to ensure that he would be able to return at the completion of his sentence. He continued his regular monetary contributions and sent numerous recruits to his temple.

Except in certain isolated cases, the most severe penalty meted to violators of cult rules has been permanent expulsion from the cult. During the past year, however, the rise of dissidence among members influenced by the expelled leaders--Malcolm X, Wallace, and Hassan--has led to the cult's resorting to violent measures to punish those who have been slandering "the Messenger" and questioning his claim to be the last Apostle of Allah.



Throughout 1964, the cult paper regularly printed articles concerning hypocrites. A hypocrite, as defined by Elijah, is "one who first says he believes, then disbelieves, and seeks to oppose the Messenger and those who believe in him." During the first half of the year, Elijah's venomous condemnations were aimed at Malcolm X as the "chief hypocrite," and after Wallace and Hassan broke away from the cult in June, 1964, they too were denounced as hypocrites.

During June, the Chicago press was reporting on seven admitted dissident members of the Chicago NOI temple who complained that each one of them had been threatened with bodily harm by the Muslim goon squad. One of them already had been beaten by two FOI lieutenants. Other newspapers reported similar beatings administered to dissident members in both Philadelphia and New York.

Elijah grew concerned over the publicity regarding an increasing number of hypocrites. He called an emergency meeting of ministers and captains at Chicago on August 19, 1964. From many temples, they slipped secretly into Chicago to hear Elijah discuss how the problem of defectors, dissidents, and hypocrites should be met.

In Boston, just three days after this conference, a dissident member and his wife were beaten by FOI guards outside the Muslim temple. The day after that, two dissident male members were badly beaten by nearly a dozen



strong-arm men from the Boston Temple. One of these men, in an article in "The Saturday Evening Post," February 27, 1965, described their beatings as punishment for quitting and also as a warning "to keep our mouths shut."



## **X. NOI VERSUS LAW AND ORDER**

### **A. Contradictions**

Elijah Muhammad has publicly denied that the NOI teaches or advocates the use of violence or disobedience to the "white man's laws" in order to achieve its goals. This disclaimer has been repeated in public by the ministers of the various NOI mosques throughout the country. The same message of denial is carried in "Muhammad Speaks."

While this attitude toward violence and disruption is publicly enunciated, a more militant approach is actually pursued. Violent action to prevent police officers from entering NOI meeting halls and to avenge what is considered unprovoked police measures is condoned. In addition, obstruction of police and prison officials, excessive requests for freedom to practice their "religion" in prison, and deliberate violation of certain laws are actions supported by NOI leaders and members.

Black Muslim conflict with authority and with the law and order of our civil society has been particularly evident in the areas of police jurisdiction, prison confinement, and FBI investigations.

### **B. Police Jurisdiction**

Police departments in numerous cities have been involved in investigations pertaining to NOI representatives. The most publicized



incident in recent years occurred in Los Angeles on April 27, 1962, when police officers, in a routine investigation, stopped two men apparently selling clothes from an automobile. The officers were thereupon attacked by the suspects, who were NOI members, and by numerous fellow members who poured from an adjacent mosque. In the melee, shots were fired. One NOI member was killed, and other members and some of the police officers were wounded. The NOI immediately charged police brutality. NOI leaders and ministers, to exploit sympathy, have widely shown a photograph of the dead member lying on the pavement at the scene of the altercation.

Court proceedings against NOI participants in the fight have been extensive and undoubtedly did not end with an October, 1964, decision of the Second District Court of Appeals in Los Angeles that affirmed the prior convictions of 11 Black Muslims on charges of assault and resisting arrest.

Another incident took place in Rochester, New York, on January 6, 1963. Two police officers, dispatched to investigate a call that a man with a gun was on the second floor of a building, were halted at the street entrance to the hall in which the NOI was holding a meeting. The NOI guard was told the purpose of the officers' visit and, as the police went up the stairs, the guard shouted a warning upstairs. The officers were met and assaulted by several NOI members who responded to the guard's warning. Upon the arrival of another police officer with a K-9 dog, the members retreated into the hall,



where they were ordered to identify themselves to the police officers. Arrested were 15 NOI members, the majority of whom were visiting members from the Buffalo Mosque.

Four trials have been held as a result of these arrests. The first trial was terminated following picketing of the courthouse in which the trial was being held. The second and third trials resulted in deadlocked juries. Following new indictments returned by a grand jury, a fourth trial was held which ended in the conviction of the 15 members. All the defendants received four-year suspended sentences and were placed on probation for one year.

On October 27, 1963, three Flint, Michigan, police officers sought admission to an NOI meeting being addressed by Elijah Muhammad. NOI guards called on them to surrender their weapons before entering the hall, but the police refused to obey the NOI rule that only unarmed persons can enter their meetings. Elijah Muhammad then suspended the meeting. He later instituted a million-dollar damage suit against the police officers and the city attorney, charging that the constitutional immunities and guarantees of the NOI were violated by the police.

A Federal district court judge in July, 1964, dismissed the suit on grounds that the police had a legitimate right to enter the hall, that three police officers could hardly be considered too many when about 2,500 people



were in the hall, and that the suit was merely an assertion by Elijah Muhammad that the Constitution gives him the right to conduct a public meeting or religious assembly in a public place with the public invited, free from police supervision.

A Trenton, New Jersey, patrolman approached two Negroes on September 27, 1964, to issue them a traffic ticket for double-parking. The two Negroes, later identified as NOI members, knocked the patrolman to the ground, kicked him repeatedly, and attempted to obtain his revolver. A third Negro seized the revolver and ordered the NOI members to release the patrolman. A passer-by telephoned for police assistance. The two NOI members resisted arrest. In the attack, the patrolman suffered a fractured elbow and torn thumb ligaments.

One of the NOI attackers was found guilty of traffic charges of failing to obey a signal of a traffic officer, failure to show a driver's permit and an automobile registration, illegal double-parking, and failure to notify the Bureau of Motor Vehicles of a change of address. In February, 1965, the NOI members were indicted for atrocious assault and battery against the police officers.

### C. Prison Confinement

Individuals claiming to be Black Muslims and followers of Elijah Muhammad have created numerous problems for prison authorities in recent years. Some of the individuals involved were members of the NOI prior to



confinement, while others professed different religious affiliation on entering prison and later claimed conversion to the NOI.

The problems created by NOI practitioners in prisons, reformatories, and detention centers have included outright violence, as well as preparation of petitions or legal suits alleging authorities were denying them their constitutional right of religious freedom. One of the most significant court battles between prisoners and prison authorities has involved NOI members or sympathizers in District of Columbia penal institutions.

Members of the NOI were first permitted to conduct weekly religious meetings in District penal institutions in 1955. In 1959, a group of Muslims nearly rioted in a recreation yard at the Lorton Reformatory in Lorton, Virginia, where District inmates are incarcerated. Some time later, prison officials isolated a prisoner for preaching the NOI program to his fellow prisoners.

The NOI follower brought a suit in Federal district court in Washington, D. C., charging discrimination for not being allowed to practice his religion. In July, 1962, a district court judge ordered him to be returned to the area of general prisoners and to be permitted to practice his religion. In his decision, the judge indicated that NOI adherents embraced a legally recognized religion, since they believed in



a Supreme Being. The judge also stated that, while the prisoner deserved disciplinary action, the punishment given him had been excessive and was based principally on the fact that he had made complaints against District of Columbia officials.

Less than a month after NOI prisoners were granted permission to practice their religion, there were two riots in the Youth Center at the Lorton facility. Damage of several thousand dollars was caused by about 50 NOI followers and sympathizers. Prison authorities promptly banned further Muslim services in the Youth Center as dangerous to prison discipline and order. Services were still permitted in the adult section of the prison system, where NOI leaders were allowed to conduct services for the NOI inmates.

In 1964, a Federal district judge ordered District prison officials to permit NOI followers at the Youth Center to resume the practice of their religion. The order came in a ruling involving a suit filed by 15 NOI prisoners. The judge declared that to "justify the prohibition of the practices of an established religion at the Youth Center, the prison officials must prove by satisfactory evidence that the teachings and practice of the sect create a clear and present danger to the orderly functioning of the institution." There was no conclusive evidence offered, the judge held, to show that the 1962 riots had been instigated or led by members of the NOI.



The extent of this problem is revealed in statistics issued in June, 1963. At that time there were 183 legal petitions and 42 appeals by NOI prisoners pending in the Federal courts of Washington, D. C., and Virginia. NOI prisoners were termed a "cult of harassment" by District of Columbia officials, who declared that the volume of complaints was causing administrative and investigative backlogs that interfered with the normal work of the Corporation Counsel's office.

Typical of the complaints from Muslim prisoners was a charge that Lorton officials had not lived up to an agreement to grant special concessions during Ramadan, the Muslim's month of fasting. Actually, Ramadan is the ninth month of the Mohammedan calendar year; but, on account of the Mohammedan year being a few days shorter than the Gregorian calendar year, this fasting month occurs during various months of our year. For convenience, therefore, Elijah established that the month of December would be Ramadan for his followers.

Lorton officials were cooperating with Elijah's rule when they allowed Muslim inmates special mealtimes during December so that they would be served before sunrise and after sunset, as is the Ramadan custom. Mealtimes for the Muslim prisoners were based on sunrise and sunset tables of the United States Naval Observatory. In spite of this consideration, Muslim prisoners protested that it was not dark enough to eat at the designated times



because, according to Elijah's rules, there should not be enough light to distinguish between a black thread and a white thread.

In a study of 38 Muslims who were first permitted to hold religious services in District of Columbia penal institutions, authorities noted that each of the Muslim inmates violated prison rules sufficiently to warrant disciplinary action during his period of incarceration, whereas considerably less than half of an average group of prisoners ever committed violations that came to the attention of prison authorities. At the time of admission of these 38 inmates, 16 indicated Protestant religious preference; 10, Roman Catholic; nine, Muslim; while three indicated no religious preference. Thus, 75 per cent of these NOI members were recruited and trained during their confinement in jail.

While the legal proceedings concerning Muslim prisoners in District of Columbia penal institutions have not been ruled upon by the United States Supreme Court, that Court has been involved in a suit brought by a prisoner at the Illinois State Penitentiary who charged that he had been denied his constitutional right to practice his religion. The prisoner, sentenced in 1953 to two consecutive 100-year terms for two Chicago holdup murders, brought suit in July, 1962, in the Federal district court in Chicago alleging that prison officials prohibited him from buying and reading the Koran and Arabic language books and from seeing other inmates of his faith. Prison officials claimed that the prisoner was a troublemaker, who was isolated for several years for disciplinary purposes.



In December, 1962, the Federal district court in Chicago dismissed the suit on grounds that it pertained to a matter not within the court's jurisdiction. On appeal, the United States Court of Appeals in 1963 dismissed the complaint and held that the Black Muslim movement in this country was not a religion but a racist organization. Therefore, the court added, its members were not covered by the guaranty of religious freedom in the United States Constitution.

In June, 1964, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the prisoner's complaint had asserted a proper cause of action and should not have been dismissed by the appellate court. The latter court was ordered to conduct hearings to determine if prison officials had improperly denied the prisoner his constitutional right to practice his religion. A hearing in this case has been scheduled for 1965.

In addition to resorting to the State and Federal courts for permission to practice their religion, NOI prisoners have used other means to protest prison treatment. Several years ago, for instance, the leader of an NOI group of prisoners died from gunshot wounds received from a prison guard during a disturbance between white and Negro prisoners in the exercise yard of the San Quentin, California, Adjustment Center. The Center, a portion of the California State Prison, is reserved for incorrigible inmates.



The next day, about 70 Negro inmates assembled in the yard and refused to work. A spokesman presented to prison authorities several demands including segregation of NOI followers in the prison and a place for religious worship. The demands were denied and 59 of the protesting prisoners refused to go to work. However, after a brief period of isolation for these prisoners, they returned to work. Word of the disturbance at San Quentin apparently spread, as several days later, NOI leaders in California came to the prison to present demands for special privileges for NOI prisoners. Their demands were refused.

Much publicity is given to the contention that NOI members are taught to live cleanly and to improve themselves physically, spiritually, and morally. While NOI adherents in prison have sought freedom to practice their religion and to follow the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, the sincerity and depth of their convictions are sometimes in doubt. While in prison, a Muslim often asserts devotion to his religion and claims his religious rights are being denied by prison authorities. Then, released from prison, he may violate religious principles unscrupulously.

For example, an NOI member confined in a New Jersey State prison filed a suit alleging that prison authorities discriminated against NOI inmates. His suit reached the New Jersey Supreme Court, which has yet to render a decision in this matter. However, this prisoner was paroled and, in 1964,



while still claiming active NOI membership, he was arrested again, this time by New York City police, and charged with assault and battery, two narcotics violations, impersonating an officer, auto theft, possession of burglary tools, and concealing a dangerous weapon. He received concurrent sentences of five to ten years on two counts of attempted robbery.

#### **D. FBI Investigations**

During investigations of NOI members coming within the purview of FBI jurisdiction, information has been developed showing how NOI literature and speakers have fostered the impression that violation of United States laws is cause for suspension or expulsion from the NOI. The facts, however, refute this law-abiding pose.

Primarily, NOI members in conflict with Federal statutes are involved in alleged violations of the Selective Service Act. Among NOI leaders found guilty and sentenced to prison in the past for such violations are Elijah Muhammad himself, his son Wallace, and his son-in-law Raymond Sharrieff. In addition, numerous members have been investigated for similar violations.

NOI ministers give members confusing and contradictory instructions concerning Selective Service laws. The leaders remind NOI members that their allegiance is to the Muslim flag. They say that they cannot order members not to go to war, but that members should use their heads and decide for



themselves whether to go into the Army or to jail, that Elijah Muhammad served time for not going into the Army and no other NOI member is better than Elijah.

Bernard X, the NOI's youthful minister in San Francisco, decided he was "no better than Elijah." He refused to report for induction, as ordered by his local draft board. From November, 1961, until July, 1963, he served time in a Federal prison. Immediately following his release, he returned to his NOI ministerial duties.

In one case beginning in 1963, an NOI member was convicted for failure to appear for induction as ordered by his local draft board. He was placed on probation on condition that he seek "employment of national importance" within 60 days. However, he failed to do so and in 1964 was sentenced to prison for two years for violating that condition.

In another case, a self-admitted NOI member was sentenced in 1964 to two years in prison for failure to report for induction. He had originally registered in 1958 with a draft board in South Carolina and had been classified 1-A. In 1961, he requested to be classified as a conscientious objector, a request that was denied. He was ordered to present himself for induction in 1962 but he failed to appear. He was then transferred to a local draft board in New Jersey, where he had taken up residence. At a preinduction examination in that State, he was found acceptable for military service.



[REDACTED]

On two occasions in 1963, however, he failed to report for induction. His request for deferment to attend school was turned down. His case was transferred back to the South Carolina draft board in late 1963, and he was again classified 1-A. When he neglected to report for induction in early 1964, he was arrested by FBI Agents in New Jersey and refused to give a signed statement concerning his failure to report for induction. He informed a United States commissioner that he was an NOI member and would not submit to induction into the armed services for either combatant or noncombatant duty, because of his religious beliefs.

A Federal grand jury in South Carolina indicted the NOI member for violation of the Selective Service Act, but he consented to stand trial in New Jersey. On pleading guilty, he was given a two-year sentence.

Several years ago, John Ali, national secretary of the NOI, enunciated a policy governing NOI contacts with the FBI. He warned members not to sign any papers if requested by the FBI and to report immediately to NOI leaders if interviewed by FBI Agents.