



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Los Angeles, California
April 8, 1963

NATION OF ISLAM
(see appendix)

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[REDACTED] the Ben Hunter Show, television channel 11, 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. March 29, 30, 1963, Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] MALCOLM X who appeared on this program is MALCOLM X. LITTLE, Minister of the Nation of Islam (NOI) in New York City, New York. HUNTER described the show as a discussion of race problems by a panel of the following persons:

ALTHEA SIMMONS, Field Secretary of western region of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

LOUIS LOMAX, writer and journalist

MALCOLM X, Minister of Muslim Sect in New York City

NORMAN O. HUSTON, President, Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, Los Angeles, California

There are set forth on the following pages remarks made by MALCOLM X. LITTLE.

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"Yes, as a Muslim not a political leader, but a minister for the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD. As long as America is supposed to be a free country and supposed to be based on democracy and is supposed to be for freedom, justice, and equality. And there are 20 million black people in the country, so-called Negroes who don't have these rights but are relegated to the realm of second class citizenship we don't believe that any progress has been made.

"The Muslims who follow ELIJAH MUHAMMAD have been able to solve this problem. We have our own schools. We have our own schools in Chicago and in Detroit where we never have drop out problems. We never have any trouble with juvenile delinquency whatsoever. And in cities where we don't have our regular established schools, we have schools on Saturday and on Saturday our children are taught respect for parents, respect for authority, respect for teachers, respect for education and by taking advantage of these opportunities it instills in our children a love for education. We just don't have that problem and you will find in most of our Mosques across the country any of the so-called Negroes who come in who have the proper qualifications or are in the field of education we set them up as advice counselors for our children right within the Mosques. Whenever the Muslim parent has children in school the Negroes who have education they will consult with this particular type of Negro and he will give our children instructions, he will check over what they are studying in school and will also give them the advice, they will give them the incentive to go further in school and not to drop out. These are actually problems that we could solve ourselves: but as long as black people sit around and wait for someone else from the outside to come and tell our children or give our children some kind of counseling in so far as the field of education is concerned we will always be on the bottom of the ladder.

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"One becomes a Muslim only by accepting the religion of Islam, which means belief in one God, ALLAH. Christians call him CHRIST, Jews call him JEHOVAH. Many people have many different names but he is the creator of the universe and after accepting the existence of one God and submitting to that one God and practicing the principles of the religion of Islam, which means prayer, charity, fasting, and things of that sort, brotherhood, respect for authority, respect for other people, then this follows right down the line in the child's life and in our schools. We have students who are not Muslims. You don't have to be a Muslim to attend our schools.

"Well, definitely and in this school we have, the child gets the missing ingredient that was missing from yours and my education when we were going to school. When we were going to school all they taught us was about Little Black Sambo. Things that would breed this inferiority complex in us and things also that would make us lose our desire to go to school. But, in the Muslim school, and I might even add that we have teachers who are not Muslim, we have teachers from Africa, teachers from this country. All of them are black. By black I mean non-white and they have an interest in the children that a teacher from the outside just wouldn't have.

"The Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD teaches us that God taught him that the white race is a race of devils and what a white person should do if he is not a devil is prove it. As far as I'm concerned the history of the white race as it has been taught to us by the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is pretty strong evidence against that particular race. Now, if they are not devils, all I say is that they should prove they are not and I'll go back and tell Mr. MUHAMMAD that perhaps he might be wrong.

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"But I have never heard any white man yet come up with a history of angelic deeds towards non-white people. This history as we know it has been a history of oppression, exploitation, colonialization, and today the seeds of oppression, slavery, and colonialism that were sown by the Europeans has caused what we call the pendulum of time to be swinging against them today.

"The Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD, as a religious man, he teaches religion but in line with teaching us the religion of Islam our people are still confronted with a problem that the government itself confesses its inability to solve, and if the government will confess to its inability to solve this problem and the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is solving it for us, the government and I think the white race, should thank him rather than implying that he is teaching something other than religion. If the white race doesn't want to be classified as devils all I say, sir, is that they change their attitude towards the black people in this country.

"Yes, evidently the listener wasn't aware of the fact that here in Los Angeles at that time 75 heavily armed Los Angeles police had brutally shot in cold blood seven unarmed Negroes here in the city. One of them was paralyzed for the rest of his life from the waist down, one died from a bullet in his heart. This a picture of the one who died, this is RONALD STOKES, an innocent man who was shot down by police bullets in Los Angeles and at that time the coroner's jury called it a justifiable homicide despite the fact that they were unarmed, that they were holding religious services, and that they had shot up the place where we hold our religious services. So, after hearing the coroner's jury's decision of justifiable homicide, I mentioned at the time as a religious man I really believed that God would bring disaster down upon the people who were responsible for allowing such an injustice to take place in a country that is supposed to be based upon freedom, justice, equality, and things of that sort. And when this airplane

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crashed in France with 130 some people on it, I didn't think that it was a coincidence that 120 of them happened to be from the state of Georgia. I mentioned at that time that I felt it was an act of God. That was the same thing that BILLY GRAHAM mentioned in Chicago. He even mentioned that it was an act of God. But when BILLY GRAHAM mentioned it they didn't find anything wrong with it. As you can see for yourself from an AP report, BILLY GRAHAM said the same thing that I did, that it was the hand of God that brought that airplane out of the sky. So, as a Muslim and follower of the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD who believes that God can step in and execute justice wherever an injustice has taken place against innocent Negroes. We believed then and we believe today that it was an act of God. And these same men are going on trial here in Los Angeles beginning next Monday and being a religious man I believe again that every day an effort is made to persecute these innocent men by the city of Los Angeles that the people will see nothing but disaster and it wouldn't find any sympathy in me. In fact, I still believe that it is an act of God and I thank God for it.

"I think that anyone of us should know how to define Negro. The white man has laid it down himself when he says if he finds out you got one drop it doesn't make any difference if you look like ADAM POWELL you are still a Negro. This is his own sword that he has created and it is swinging back on him today because now what happens is whenever your society where the blood mixture has come into existence all of the people who have black blood are beginning to outnumber those who have white blood. Now we who follow the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD don't even accept the classification Negro. Negro is a term that the white made up himself during slavery and put on our people and told us that it means black in Spanish. So, you have Negroes running around here today who say don't call him black in English and if you ask him what shall I call you they say well, call me a Negro. And ask him what a Negro means and they say black in Spanish. In other words, don't call him black in English but call him black in Spanish and they can't even speak Spanish. So the word Negro, all of this shows the criminal deed that

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was done to us during slavery and if there is a mixture of blood that in itself is an indictment because a blood mixture did not come through you and me going with his women. The blood mixture came during the time that he had us in his possession and he had free access to our women whenever he wanted to or whenever he wanted them.

"The Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD teaches that it is time for the black man in this country to be recognized as a human being. Now, integration is not your objective. Integration is the road by which you hope to obtain your objective. The objective of black people is human dignity, respect for human beings. When you think that integration will get you there we think that separation will get us there. It is not objective that we disagree upon, it is the road where many of those who are integrationists have gotten off the boat, they have had so much trouble getting integration that now they are beginning to believe that integration is their goal and they have lost sight of their original goal. How are you going to say that integration will solve it when you have got a President who is supposed to be for integration, a Congress who is supposed to be for integration, a Senate that is supposed to be for integration, and a Supreme Court that is supposed to be for integration and you don't have integration yet. Any time you get that many forces on your side and you still can't get what you are supposed to have you can have it. But as far as separation is concerned black people and white people in this country are already separated.

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"Let me explain, the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD doesn't teach segregation he teaches separation. The basic difference being segregation he says, is that which is forced upon inferiors by superiors. Whereas separation is done voluntarily by two equals and an example, you notice they call the Negro neighborhood a segregated neighborhood, but they never call the oriental neighborhood a segregated neighborhood. Because the orientals control their own businesses, their own banks, their own schools, their own everything. And they are independent, they live there among themselves voluntarily. But, usually the area where Negroes live they are forced into their ghetto, or forced into their school. The schools are controlled by whites, the banks are controlled by whites, in the Negro neighborhood, the businesses are controlled by whites except the California Golden State Mutual. Because of this since the Negroes neighborhood is segregated, which means it is regulated from the outside, we are always begging the white man for better education, begging him for better jobs, begging him for better housing, instead of doing something to create housing for ourselves, education for ourselves, and whatever else we need for ourselves. Now, the Honorable ELIJAH MUHAMMAD says when black people are in a position to stand on our own two feet like men then we can separate. We can do for ourselves that which whites have been doing for themselves. This is all he says and as long as you try to integrate or force yourself into a neighborhood, or into the company of some people who don't want you, you'll always be a begger in their society.

"As long as America professes to be the citadel of democracy and the leader of the so-called free world, at a time when she is not able to give freedom, justice, and equality to 20 million black people in this country, America will be looked upon with scorn and rejection by an ever increasing number of the black people in this country despite what the bourgeois Negro leadership says."

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

APPENDIX

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In January, 1957, a source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD had described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam".

On May 2, 1962, a second source advised: ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI). Muhammad's Temple of Islam Number 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI. In mid-1960, MUHAMMAD and other NOI officials, when referring to MUHAMMAD's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam".

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930, in Detroit, Michigan. MUHAMMAD claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following MUHAMMAD's teaching and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils", in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon".

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including MUHAMMAD, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised MUHAMMAD had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 2, 1962, a third source advised MUHAMMAD had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to MUHAMMAD, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.