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September 19, 1963

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Are we doing anything to curb the activities of  
Black Muslim leader "Malcolm X"?

Aren't his ideas somewhat on a parallel with  
those of Adolph Hitler?

Isn't "Malcolm X" in the category of traitors to  
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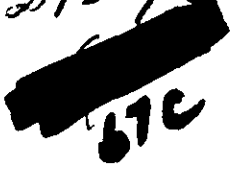
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ENCLOSURE

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SEP 30 1963



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# A Stranger Goes to Hear Malco' 'If White Man Touches Yo

By TONY WEITZEL  
MIAMI HERALD NEWS WRITER

CHICAGO — A friend of mine wangled his way into the Washington cloisters of the Black Muslims.

"I just happened to be in the Capital," he explains, "and I heard Malcolm X was going to talk. I've heard so much about that man I wanted to hear him."

He heard Malcolm X. He came out bemused, and a little frightened.

"No man," he says, "should have the power that man Malcolm X seems to exercise over his followers."

How did my friend get into the Black Muslim temple? He had one advantage. He's a Negro. He represented himself as a possible convert to the weird politico-religious-racist cult.

The Washington HQ, he found, is not too pretentious a building. "But the place was clean. That's the first thing I noticed. Everything inside was immaculate, as if it had been scrubbed over and over."

"When I got there it was a little after 8 o'clock at night. There were a lot of Muslims going in, men and women. The men were sent down a flight of stairs to the basement. The women were directed upstairs, to an anteroom just off the little auditorium."

"There were guards at the entrance, guards at the bottom of the stairs, guards up in the hall. The men were searched at the bottom of the stairs by the guards. They took everything metallic like

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Malcolm X  
... hypnotic manner

knives, pens, even nail files. They took my little camera. I looked worried. The guard said 'Don't worry, man, you'll get it back.'

"I found out later the women were searched, too, just as thoroughly. And the guards took their identification, too."

"One guard asked me my name and where I lived. I told him. He grunted. 'Prove it!' I showed him the driver's license out of my wallet. He said, 'OK, you go up, Brother!'

"One thing about those guards. They weren't big men. I mean they weren't burly types. But they looked and moved as if they were trained fighters. I brushed against one guard's arm. It was hard as steel."

"They stood like athletes, too, or maybe like superbly disciplined soldiers. For 15 minutes, each guard stood

"No man should have the power that man Malcolm X seems to exercise over his followers..."

"He calls the white man 'the beast of the land.' Sometimes he says 'wolf of the land.'"

stiff at attention, nothing moving but his eyes. Then he'd do a military heel snap and change post.

"Upstairs a guard showed me to a seat on one side of the hall. All the men were on that side. The women were on the other side, across the aisle. The crowd wasn't big, maybe 75 people. But they were sure fervent."

"When everybody got inside the guards stood in front of the platform and alongside Malcolm X. There was a man on each side of him and every 15 minutes another guard came over from each side, military like, and took over. The men who were relieved clicked their heels, turned sharply, and walked off stage."

"Malcolm X began to talk. He's not loud. He's not bombastic. But he has an almost hypnotic manner."

"He begins quietly. He says things you know are true. He builds up your emotion slowly. When he gets to a point where he knows the audience is stirred he stops. He is silent. Then he snaps, 'Right!' The followers yell, 'Right!'

"As he goes on, they begin to wait for those pauses and

when he asks, 'Right?' They sound like a steam safety valve going off. It's great psychology. He fills 'em up with explosive emotion and then when they're ready to burst, he pops the valve."

"Then they started clapping their hands each time, and chanting, 'Right! Right! Right!' He had 'em now, eating right out of his hand. Now he began to talk about the future. He lifted his voice a little and talked about the future, about the final liquidation of the white man."

"He calls the white man 'the beast of the land.' Sometimes he says 'wolf of the land.'"

"And he stirs such emotion it's frightening. I began to feel fear myself. I thought, what if he looked right down at me and pointed and said, 'There's an unbeliever!' Man, the way that crowd was stirred up they could have torn me apart."

"He talked about public behavior. Be kind, he said. Be humble. Be polite. But don't love nobody but your black brother. If a white man touches you, hit him in the mouth!"

"He talked about the Freedom March. He said it was a chump's march. He said Minister J.F.K. should get the Academy Award for the biggest hoax of the century and the six Negro leaders and the four white leaders should get Oscars for the best acting."

"He said, 'Martin Luther King's dream of white and Negro kids going to school together is no dream. It's a

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Malcolm X

## ... u, Hit Him!

nightmare! Right? They yelled back that was right ... right!

"There was a blackboard on one side of the platform. On one side was a picture of the U.S. flag and a Negro hanging from a rope. It read underneath, 'American Democracy.' On the other side was the word 'Islam' and a

flag, and under it, 'Freedom and Equality for All.'

"Malcolm X turned the blackboard over. He wrote on the other side, 'Washington started the Revolution. Lincoln started the Civil War. Kennedy started the race war!'

"I thought suddenly, 'Man let me get far away from here!'

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[Redacted]

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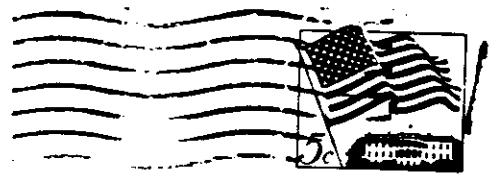
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REC-19

100-399321-72 September 25, 1963

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REC'D-READING ROOM  
F B I

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of September 19, 1963, with enclosure, has been received.

I am unable to answer your specific inquiry due to the confidential nature of our files. I would like to assure you, however, that the FBI is carrying out its responsibilities in the internal security field with the same dispatch and thoroughness which have characterized our investigations in the past.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

[REDACTED]

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bureau files.

[REDACTED] jlw (3) jlw

MAILED 31  
SEP 25 1963  
COMM-FBI

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[REDACTED]

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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