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March 13, 1970



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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

Analysis

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE
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FBI Current Intelligence Analysis

EMERGENCY CONFERENCE
TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY TO EXIST

Sizable Gathering

The so-called emergency conference to defend the "rights" of the violence-prone, black extremist, and pro-Marxist Black Panther Party (BPP) to exist was held in Chicago, Illinois, on March 7 and 8. Because of the large attendance--estimated at 1,000--the site of the conference was changed from the Church of the Epiphany to the Malcolm X University (formerly Richard T. Crane Jr. College), 2350 West Van Buren Street. The credentials committee reported that there were 540 registered delegates from 23 states and that 128 organizations were represented.

Communist Sponsored

The Communist Party, USA (CPUSA), maintained a low profile throughout this conference, but there can be no doubt that the CPUSA was the guiding force behind the conference. National Chairman Henry Winston and National Committee members William L. Patterson, Charlene Mitchell, Claude Lightfoot, and Jack Kling were named official CPUSA delegates to the conference. The Illinois District of the CPUSA reportedly provided funds for salaries of staff workers in the temporary office established for the conference. In addition, CPUSA functionaries in Boston, New York City, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, Denver, and other cities were in Chicago for the conference.

Welcoming Addresses

After the conference was opened by Father William Hogan, Church of the Holy Angels, Chicago, Angie Dickerson of the World Peace Council, New York, gave the welcoming address. Dickerson was a member of the CPUSA in the 1940's and 1950's. She was also Assistant National Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, a communist front, in the 1950's. She was in East Berlin last June to attend the communist-sponsored World Assembly for Peace. Short welcoming speeches were also given by BPP Chief of Staff David Hilliard, BPP attorney Charles Garry, and Dr. Quentin Young, President of the Chicago Chapter of the Medical Committee

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