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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

DATE: 08-20-2007

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08-20-2032

1 SEP 1967

TO: Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Julian Mayfield's Comments on the Summer Civil  
Disturbances

REFERENCE: CSCI 316/02895-67 dated 20 June 1967

1. [redacted] received a letter from Julian Mayfield [redacted]  
The following are excerpts from this letter.

"We expect some trouble in D.C. Gunshops are doing standup business. When I went to purchase hardware for my house, I had to wait half an hour. Blacks and whites, all amiable towards each other, were purchasing rifles and hand weapons, apparently to shoot 'deer'.

"Last night was a scare night for D.C. Trouble may come later. The extremely large Negro middle class and the dispersal of slum Negroes geographically should make Washington an unlikely site for the Detroit-Newark kind of rebellion, but there is no way of predicting accurately. Plainfield was not the kind of place you would expect a riot either, they tell me.

"Went personally to Newark at height of riot because of concern for Leroy Jones and see for myself. Didn't really see much and was unable to help Leroy who had been beaten by the cops.

"I haven't the slightest doubt that the Newark disturbance was provoked by the white power machine. The high death toll among blacks shows this. The evidence of snipers was rare, but nervous and angry policemen and state troopers (whom Robert Williams long ago labled - "crackers in uniform") shot at everything that

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Sec. 2  
pg. 180

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moved. One of them said on television that he had shot into an apartment building "because I saw a face at the window." Newark Afro-Americans testify that some of the troopers, brought in to restore "law and order" themselves joined in the looting, and in frustration during the last two days of the rebellion, began to shoot up every black-owned business with a sign "Soul Brother" on the outside. Keep in mind also that most of the people shot were unarmed persons accused of looting. I don't think a television set or a radio is worth the life of a black man or woman or child. But this is such a sick nation that no one has asked the question: 'SHOULD A PERSON WHO IS OBVIOUSLY STEALING BE SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD FOR IT?'

"I consider this summer's disorders merely the first disorganized phase of the rebellion of the black masses against a repressive system. We have known for a long time that "law and order" and "justice" in the U.S. have nothing whatever to do with black Americans except to keep us in our place and protect white property. Now the ghetto blacks know it in their guts, and are not afraid to risk their lives to show their contempt for the system which condemned most of them to a living hell on the day they were born.

"The most dangerous development I see is the growing alienation of the black middle class from the black poor. These rebellions disturb them as much as they disturb the whites, perhaps more so because their air-conditioned cadillacs and swimming pools are more recently acquired. This is a development that is being consciously and assiduously encouraged by far-seeing federal, state and city leaders. The black middle-class is being bought off at a faster rate and to an extent that I never thought possible. They remind me of the wealthy European Jews who thought until it was too late that they could do business with Hitler. The only difference is that the Negro bourgeoisie does not even possess real wealth, just trappings, no power. I would not be surprised to see the black poor turn on the 'nigger rich' with the contempt they deserve.' "

2. It is requested that the Bureau take no action based on the above information without prior consultation with this Agency.

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PB-181