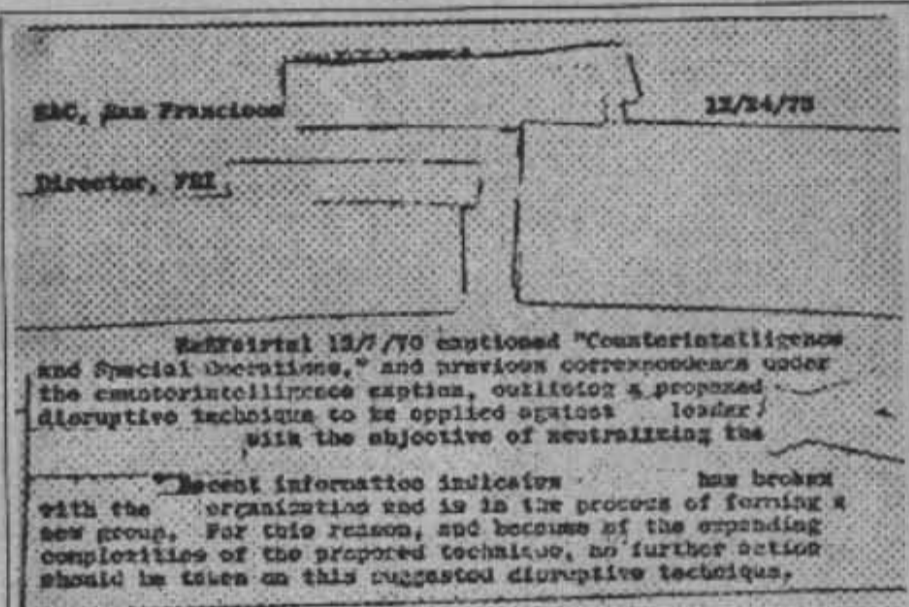


The Star

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1974

Nixon To Re



DISRUPTING FRANKLIN'S ACTIVITIES? — This censored FBI memo may refer to a plan to disrupt the political activities of a prominent Stanford radical. The words "Bruce Franklin" would fit exactly in the blank in the fifth line of the text.

Anti-Franklin Plan Topic Of FBI Note?

By BILL EVERS

A recent re-evaluation of an FBI memorandum released on March 7 seems to indicate that in December 1970 the FBI suspended or halted a proposed disruption program directed against the political activities of since-fired Stanford English Prof. H. Bruce Franklin.

Leonard Siegel, a member of the Pacific Studies Center research group in East Palo Alto, made the new assessment of the memorandum last Friday while examining a set of internal FBI documents. The documents had been released in censored form by the Justice Department as a result of a Freedom of Information Act suit brought by NBC reporter Carl Stern.

Siegel found a Dec. 24, 1970 memorandum from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to the Special Agent in charge of the FBI's San Francisco office. "It obviously referred to Prof. Franklin," Siegel said of the document later that day.

'Franklin' Fits Space

Close examination of the photographically reproduced text of the document shows (1) the words "Bruce Franklin" and "Franklin" fit exactly in the typewriter letter spaces where someone's name has been deleted; (2) the initials "RU," standing for the Revolutionary Union — the communist group to which Franklin belonged — fit in the spaces where organizational initials originally were; and (3) the date of the memorandum matches the date of the split between the present-day RU and the Peninsula radical group led by Franklin that subsequently became the now-defunct Venceremos organization.

Inserting what is believed to have been deleted, this memorandum reads: "[Re previous correspondence] outlining a proposed disruptive technique to be applied against RU leader H. Bruce Franklin with the objective of neutralizing the [?]."

"Recent information indicates that [redacted] has broken with the RU

organization and is in the process of forming a new group. For this reason, and because of the expanding complexities of the proposed technique, no further action should be taken on this suggested disruptive technique."

Part Of FBI Plan

The memorandum is part of the FBI's internal correspondence on what it called its COINTELPRO (counterintelligence program) effort to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize" radical political groups.

The March 22 issue of *The Militant*, a Trotskyist weekly newspaper, said this same memorandum referred to the split between Eldridge Cleaver and Huey Newton in the Black Panther Party. However, Cleaver was at the time in Algeria not the Bay Area, his name does not fit in the blanks properly, and the split in the Black Panthers occurred in late February, 1971.

Franklin, in an interview with the *Daily*, added that he knew from "first-hand evidence" that at that time the New York Panther 21, a group of trial defendants who supported Cleaver's position, were "out here having meetings with the Oakland people," who supported the Newton position. Therefore, the Panthers were still united at the time the memorandum was written.

Franklin believes that the memorandum is referring to him and says "it proves what we have been saying" about police provocateurs and "the kind of operation they conduct."

Memorandum 'Outrage'

Charles Marson, legal director of the Northern California American Civil Liberties Union, called the memorandum and the disruption program mentioned in it "an outrage."

Such disruption programs, Marson stated, were "wholly illegal." He said that the typical pattern was infiltration by a provocateur, who would then urge illegal acts which

(Please turn to back page)

APRIL 30, 1974

FBI Note

(Continued from front page) would discredit the political group with the public.

Marson contended that such a disruption effort "takes away privacy" as well as "counsels criminal acts." He said a citizen's civil liberties were being violated if he could not attend a political meeting without wondering whether a person taking notes or talking was working for the FBI.

Marson said that the FBI will not acknowledge its sabotage of the activities of political groups, "except under the pressure of a lawsuit or when there has been a theft." It was the theft of FBI documents in Media, Pa. that first revealed the existence of the COINTELPRO project.

FBI Special Agent Charles Bates, who is in charge of the Bureau's San Francisco office, declined to comment beyond noting that anyone with the necessary number of letters in his name could be the person to whom the memorandum referred.