

UP AGAINST THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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IN THE SURPRISE DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR, it was revealed to this paper today that S.R.I. had tried to provoke a major confrontation with S.D.S. on Monday--- and had failed. This scandal-- the worst of the fall offensive-- has led to the alleged arrest of one S.R.I. employee and the spectre of a wide-scale shake-up at the research institute.

ACCORDING TO USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES documents were doused in cheap perfume, after the theft of "Operation Rainbow" and set on fire. James Johnson, 34, a technical technician from San Jose, and a full-time consultant at S.R.I. was arrested shortly after the theft and held without bail. Johnson, a negro, had been hired provisionally last year as part of S.R.I.'s "Upward and Outward Bound Program." (In a related development, it was announced this morning that S.R.I. was "phasing out the 'Up & Out' program" due to lack of interest.)

THE 36-page "OPERATION RAINBOW," which is subtitled "The Need for Pre-emptive Striking Power in Menlo Park" appeared to us to be authentic. It was brought to our office this morning by young men who are widely believed to be associated with those close to S.D.S. According to them, S.D.S. had decided at its general meeting not to provoke any confrontation at S.R.I. Monday morning. When asked what S.D.S.'s plans for the semester were, the men said "Are you serious?" and left.

FROM THE DOCUMENT WE HAVE IN OUR hands, it is clear that if the responsibility for Monday's fizzle must rest squarely on the shoulders of the S.D.S. Central Presidium. S.R.I. fully intended to bring up a long- and possibly bloody- battle outside the Institute and along Ravenswood Avenue.

"OUR FORCES ARE CLEARLY AT OPTIMUM strength," reads the S.R.I. document. "We shall have two security officers outside the building, and on the roofs of (adjacent) Stanford Village. We shall have sixty five black-belt security men inside the building, securing the cafeteria, men's room, and the water supply. We have been promised the total cooperation of the Menlo Park Police Department, and the battle-hardened Palo Alto P.D. And, most important, we shall have at our disposal over 3500 Pinkerton guards donated by responsible leaders of local industry."

DESPITE THIS PREPARATION, the planned confrontation did not come off. This failure was probably due to a leak in security information, which is logical if Johnson is guilty as charged. S.D.S. leaders, forewarned of the impending blood-bath, intentionally messed up their own demonstration by "losing" the sound equipment essential for their noon rally. Once this was accomplished, they demoralized the crowd with speeches, disputes and other unproductive activities.

THEIR TECHNIQUE WORKED WELL. S.R.I. officials were clearly caught off guard by the total lack of militancy at the demonstration. They are reported to be "upset and puzzled" by the moderate appearance of S.D.S. on Monday. There has been some talk at the Institute of preparing an "Insurgency Manual" for the Stanford chapter, in order to help whip it up to fighting stature. S.D.S., however, has already refused the offer, saying that if S.R.I.'s success in Vietnam and Thailand was any indication of their logistics, S.D.S. would rather maintain its formal independence.

THIS STARTLING DEVELOPMENT casts a pale and eerie light on the "rational dialogue between men of good will" which was promised earlier this week by Hower Lane, Public Relations Director of S.R.I. S.D.S. people now have good reason to question the "rationality" of the authors of "Operation Rainbow."