

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP5 BTG/BWG

#26,149

291,829 SSA9803RDD/COL  
8-13-96

100-225892-166, 167, 168

## CHANGED TO

100-225892-27-10

100-225892-33-11

100-225892-27-11

NOV 14 1966

mt-RS



EX-114  
REC-69

00-225892-169

March 13, 1961

b7C

3-13-96

SSA9803200/ccl

391829

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/8/99 BY SP-10K/

10/2/10 SP-10K/

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter postmarked March 8, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated. *u*

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry. I, of course, am unable to speak for any other Government agency with regard to the group you mentioned in your communication. *u*

Enclosed is some literature pertaining to the general subject of communism which may be of interest. *u*

Sincerely yours,



John Edgar Hoover  
Director

*pub*

*W.C. Sullivan*

*W.C. Sullivan*

Enclosures (6)

17th National Convention, CPUSA & 3-60 LEB Introduction  
What You Can Do To Fight Communism  
Director's speech of 10-18-60  
Expose of Soviet Espionage  
Communist Target--Youth  
One Nation's Response To Communism

See NOTE next page.

RWE:pjh  
(3)

*37 MAR 14 1961*



TRUE COPY

b7C

Dear Mr. Hoover -

Please tell me whether there is any opinion held by The F. B. I. or any other government group regarding loyalty of C. O. R. E.

There are whispers here that Army Intelligence holds This group "quasi-Subversive". I fail to see any thing Subersive in any way about C. O. R. E.

Would you help me clear C. O. R. E., if you do not have evidence of disloyalty?

Sincerely,

b7C

8-13-96  
SSA9803RDD/col  
291,829

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/5/09 BY SP-8/BJM  
10/21/87 SP8BJ/BWJ

EX-114

REC-69

12 MAR 14 1961

q-106

mem  
23-10-61  
CAR/pt  
to 1-11-61/inf

b7C

Mar. 4, 1961

Dear Mr. Hoover-

Please tell me whether there is any opinion held by the S.B.I. or any other government group regarding loyalty of C.O.R.E.

There are whispers here that Army Intelligence holds this group "Guasi-Subversive". I fail to see anything Subversive in any way about C.O.R.E.

Would you keep me clear C.O.R.E. if you do not have evidence of disloyalty?

Sincerely,

none  
at 3-14-61  
out 10/1/61  
to 10/1/61

b7C

CORRESPONDENCE

8-13-96

SSA9803RDD/CAL

291,829

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/8/15

BY SP-12SK/MA

10/21/87

SP-8 BT/6208



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP5/Buy

8-13-96

291,829

SSA 9203 RDD/CAL

100-225892-170

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-33-12

NOV 14 1966

mt - 8/5

b7C

February 28, 1961

b7C

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

A request for donations from our local Council of Churches has been received and the names of two organizations have been related to the request. We have no knowledge of the aims or personnel of these organizations and I would appreciate any information that you may give us which might guide us in our relationship to them. They are:

1. The Congress of Racial Equality
2. The Peacemakers

The address of the latter organization is given as 19208 Sylvan Avenue, Cincinnati 41, Ohio. Thank you for whatever guidance you may be able to give us.

Sincerely yours

b7C

EX-114  
BEC-46  
MAR 31 1961  
6-13-96  
SSA 9303RDD/CAL 291229  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/5/89 BY SP-7GK/BJ  
10/21/87 Sp80ty/Bury



EX-114

REC-46

100-225892-171

March 8, 1961

[Redacted]

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/5/94 BY SP-10/2/87

8-13-96 SSA 9803 RDD/csl  
29/829

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter dated February 28, 1961, has been received.

Although I would like to be of service, the functions and responsibilities of the FBI as a Federal investigative agency do not extend to furnishing evaluations or drawing conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope you will not infer either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subjects of your inquiry.

In view of your interest, I am enclosing material on the subject of communism available for general distribution by this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,



John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures (7)

- What You Can Do To Fight Communism
- How To Beat Communism
- Director's Speech 10-18-60
- Press Release 12-22-60
- Series from Christianity Today
- Communist Target--Youth
- Expose of Soviet Espionage
- SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

DCL:mb (3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8BJ/butj

8-13-96

291,829

SSA9803ROD/CAL

100-225892- 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177

## CHANGED TO

100-225892-10-2

100-434690-3

100-225892-33-13

100-225892-53-5,6,7

NOV 14 1966

100-225892

0



4/24/61

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Atlanta  
 From: Director, FBI

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
 RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 5/8/87 BY SP8 BTJ/bwy  
 10/21/87  
 8-13-96 SSA9803 RDD/ccl  
 291829

Information has been received at the Bureau that subject organization is sponsoring a movement called "Freedom Ride 1961." A group of specially trained volunteers will make a nonviolent attempt to complete the integration of bus service and related public accommodations in the South next month.

The movement is scheduled to start in Washington, D. C., on May 2 and will end in New Orleans two weeks later. Participants are supposedly to challenge segregation in the buses themselves, in restaurants and in rest rooms. Mass meetings and rallies are supposedly scheduled in cities and colleges along the route.

All offices receiving copies of this airtel should alert their informants, local authorities and furnish the Bureau promptly all developments along the lines as set forth above. Thereafter follow with a letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination. Submit original and seven copies.

MAILED 12  
 APR 25 1961  
 1 - Baltimore  
 1 - Birmingham  
 1 - Charlotte  
 1 - Dallas  
 1 - Houston  
 1 - Jacksonville  
 1 - Knoxville  
 1 - Little Rock  
 1 - Louisville  
 1 - Memphis  
 1 - Washington Field  
 1 - Miami  
 1 - Mobile  
 1 - New Orleans  
 1 - Norfolk  
 1 - New York  
 1 - Oklahoma City  
 1 - Pittsburgh  
 1 - Richmond  
 1 - St. Louis  
 1 - San Antonio  
 1 - Savannah  
 MAY 1 1961  
 RBL:ble  
 SEE NOTE PAGE TWO  
 MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

19 APR 26 1961



NOTE:

The April 15, 1961, issue of "Fellowship," a newsletter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in a column entitled "News from the Peace Front" sets forth information that CORE a nonviolent Negro movement which opposes segregation is planning a "Freedom Ride 1961" from Washington, D. C., to New Orleans. U

Copies of this airtel are being sent to the designated offices since they represent the principal Southern offices where activity by CORE is likely to take place. New York is being furnished a copy since the organization has its headquarters in that city. U

Original plastiplat is being retained in Room 4706 by [REDACTED] pending approval. U

b7C



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8 BTJ/bw

8-13-96 SSA9803RDI/CAL  
291.829

100-225892-179

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-42-4

NOV 14 1966

nt - g/a



5/4/61

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

SSA 9903 RDD/CAL

8-13-96  
291.829

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/17/87 BY SP-1054/1054

TO SACS RICHMOND  
CHARLOTTE  
WASHINGTON FIELD (DSM)

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY RACIAL MATTERS. RE BUREAU

AIRTEL FOUR DASH TWO FOUR DASH SIX ONE. INFORMATION

RECEIVED THAT SUBJECT ORGANIZATION WILL CONDUCT SIT DASH

DOWN STRIKES IN BUS STATIONS AND VARIOUS RESTAURANTS IN

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, FIVE DASH FOUR DASH SIX ONE, PETERSBURG,

VIRGINIA, FIVE DASH FIVE DASH SIX ONE, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA,

FIVE DASH SIX DASH SIX ONE, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, FIVE

DASH SEVEN DASH SIX ONE, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, FIVE DASH

EIGHT DASH SIX ONE, RICHMOND AND CHARLOTTE ALERT LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

RBL:lbm

(5)

NOTE:

REC-40

Information was furnished to various offices by airtel 4/24/61, that subject organization, a Negro group favoring integration intended to conduct a "Freedom Ride 1961" in an attempt to complete the integration of bus service and related public accommodations in the south.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TELETYPE

66 MAY 9 1961

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☒



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SSA9803RDD/CAL

8-13-96  
291.829

100-225892-181

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-42-5

NOV 14 1986

34-95

C



TRUE COPY

b7C

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Please let me know if the following organization is a Communist Front or has any leanings thereto--if you have any information.

C. O. R. E. --LATOR  
published by the--"Congress of Racial Equality"  
38 Park Row, New York City 38

b7C

as I have been "told" this is a National organization with affiliated local groups working to abolish racial discrimination by direct Non-violent methods.

Please excuse using both sides of this paper.

Thank you,

EX-116  
REC-94  
100-225872-182  
Sincerely yours,

7 MAY 5 1961

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/79 BY SP-105/KS

10/21/87

8-13-96

SP-8 BTJ/Bury  
SSA 9803 RDD/wal  
291.829



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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Please let me know if the  
 following organization is a  
 Communist front or has any  
 leanings thereto - if you  
 have any information.

C.O.R.E. - LATOR  
 published by the  
 "Congress of Racial Equality"  
 38 Park Row, New York City 38

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10/21/97 BY SP8BJ/bur

8-13-96

SSA9803RDD/CCL

291,829 11



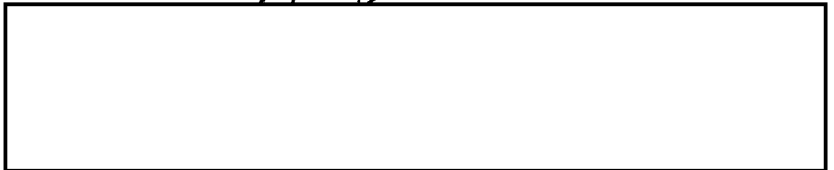
as I have been told this is  
a national organization with  
affiliated local groups working  
to abolish racial discrimination  
by direct non-violent methods.

Please excuse using both sides  
of this paper.

Thank you,

Sincerely yours,

b7C



MAY 1 11 39 AM '61

REC'D - COMM & TOURS  
FBI



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: May 4, 1961

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: SIT-DOWN STRIKES  
MAY 4 - 17, 1961  
COMMITTEE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

Tolson ✓  
Parsons ✓  
Mohr ✓  
DeLoach ✓  
Casper ✓  
Callahan ✓  
Conrad ✓  
Felt ✓  
Gale ✓  
Rosen ✓  
Sullivan ✓  
Tavel ✓  
Trotter ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Ingram ✓  
Gandy ✓

[redacted] called me at 12:30 a. m., 5-3-61 at home. He stated he wanted to tip us off that the Committee for Racial Equality had been training a group of Negroes for the past three days as to how sit-down strikes should be conducted. This group is to participate in such strikes between May 4 - 17, 1961, in a number of cities. [redacted] b7C

According to [redacted] this group will conduct sit-down strikes at the bus stations and various restaurants in Richmond, Virginia, May 4, 1961; Petersburg, Virginia, May 5, 1961; Lynchburg, Virginia, May 6, 1961; Greensboro, North Carolina, May 7, 1961; Charlotte, North Carolina, May 8, 1961; Rock Hill, South Carolina, May 9, 1961; Sumter, South Carolina, May 10 - 11, 1961; Augusta, Georgia, May 12, 1961; Atlanta, Georgia, May 13, 1961; Birmingham, Alabama, May 14, 1961; Montgomery, Alabama, May 15, 1961; Jackson, Mississippi, May 16, 1961; New Orleans, Louisiana, May 17, 1961. U b7C

[redacted] stated that he anticipated difficulty in the southern cities and merely wanted to let us know about his being with the group. U b7C

ACTION:

It is suggested this memorandum be forwarded to the General Investigative Division for any appropriate action deemed necessary. U

- 1 - Mr. Parsons
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Jones

CDD:sak  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/79 BY SP-10/K/m

REC-33

MAY 8 1961

EX-116

56 MAY 11 1961

8-13-96

Sp8 Bty/Bwcy  
SSA 9803 RDD/CL  
291.829

31/10/11



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8 BTJ/BWJ

8-13-96

SSN 9803200/AL

Q 91.8 29

100-225892-184

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-33-14

NOV 14 1966

26-9/8

C



airtel

To: SAC, Atlanta

From: Director, FBI

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
RACIAL MATTERS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/99 BY SP8 BSK/mt

10/21/87

8-13-96

291,329

SSA 9803 RDD/COL

ReBuairtel 4/25/61 concerning a movement called  
"Freedom Ride 1961."

Information has been received at the Bureau that  
subject organization has been training a group of Negroes as  
to how sit-down strikes should be conducted. This group is  
to participate in such strikes between May 4 - 17, 1961, in  
a number of cities.

According to the source, this group will conduct  
sit-down strikes at the bus stations and various restaurants  
in Richmond, Virginia, May 4, 1961; Petersburg, Virginia,  
May 5, 1961; Lynchburg, Virginia, May 6, 1961; Greensboro,  
North Carolina, May 7, 1961; Charlotte, North Carolina, May 8,  
1961; Rock Hill, South Carolina, May 9, 1961; Sumter,  
South Carolina, May 10 - 11, 1961; Augusta, Georgia, May 12,  
1961; Atlanta, Georgia, May 13, 1961; Birmingham, Alabama,  
May 14, 1961; Montgomery, Alabama, May 15, 1961; Jackson,  
Mississippi, May 16, 1961; and New Orleans, Louisiana, May 17,  
1961.

2 - Baltimore  
2 - Birmingham  
2 - Charlotte  
2 - Dallas  
2 - Houston  
2 - Jacksonville  
2 - Knoxville  
2 - Little Rock  
2 - Louisville  
2 - Memphis  
2 - Washington Field

2 - Miami  
2 - Mobile  
2 - New Orleans  
2 - Norfolk  
2 - New York  
2 - Oklahoma City  
2 - Pittsburgh  
2 - Richmond  
2 - St. Louis  
2 - San Antonio  
2 - Savannah

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RBL:jam

(49)

MAIL ROOM

MAILED 25  
MAY 8 - 1961  
COMM-FBI

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Copies made by \_\_\_\_\_  
for review by Rowd Task Force  
Date 2/4/74

DR-14

REC-95

19 MAY 8 1961

57 MAY 10 1961



Airtel to SAC, Atlanta  
RE: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

In line with reairtel, all offices receiving copies of this airtel should alert their informants, local authorities and furnish the Bureau promptly all developments. Thereafter, follow with a letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination. Submit original and seven copies. U

NOTE: The Bureau by reairtel furnished information to various southern Offices that subject organization, a Negro group favoring integration, intended to conduct demonstrations in an attempt to complete the integration of bus service and related public accommodations in the south. At that time it was anticipated that demonstrations would start in Washington, D. C., 5/2/61, and end in New Orleans two weeks later. Exact cities and dates of demonstrations were not known. One [redacted]

[redacted] advised Assistant Director DeLoach on 5/3/61 that he was going to [redacted] and furnished the itinerary. U

Charlotte and Richmond were alerted by teletype 5/4/61 and this airtel will serve to alert the other southern Offices. U

b7C



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP5 BTG/BWY

8-13-96

291,829

SSA9803RDD/CAL

100-225892-186, 187, 188, 189, 190,  
191, 192, 193, 194

## CHANGED TO

100-225892-41-1

100-225892-53-8

100-225892-4-1

100-225892-38-2

100-225892-4-4

100-225892-41-2

100-225892-63-2

100-225892-1-3, 2

NOV 14 1966

mt - 2/5



The Attorney General

May 12, 1961

Director, FBI

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
FREEDOM RIDE 1961  
RACIAL MATTERS

MAILED  
FBI  
MAY 15 11 22 AM '61

This Bureau is conducting investigation into the acts of violence which occurred in Alabama on Sunday, May 14, 1961, as the Congress of Racial Equality endeavored to integrate bus facilities and related public accommodations in the South. The group, which is traveling from Washington, D. C., to New Orleans, Louisiana, had scheduled demonstrations at various towns throughout the South. This information was furnished to local authorities in April, 1961. Birmingham authorities were alerted in May, 1961, that the interracial group was coming to Birmingham and that certain groups were opposing such interracial activity and trouble might result. On May 14, 1961, when a bus carrying some members of the group did arrive in Birmingham there was a fight in the bus station. U

Another bus containing members of the group en route from Atlanta, Georgia, to Birmingham, Alabama, encountered opposition at Anniston, Alabama. A group of white individuals prevented members of the subject organization from using the facilities of the bus station in Anniston. Several windows in the bus were broken and a tire was punctured. An incendiary bomb was tossed into the bus after it had departed from Anniston. This bomb completely destroyed the bus. Investigation is being conducted by this Bureau concerning the destruction of a motor vehicle. Individual members of the subject organization who were attacked are being interviewed and the Department will be kept fully advised. U

MAILED  
MAY 15 1961  
COMM-FBI

Mr. Byron R. White  
Deputy Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General  
Bernard Marshall

Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. Evans  
1 - Mr. CoLoach

CLM:ers (13)

8-13-96  
SSA9803RDD/CAL 291,829  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/96 BY SP-12/KS  
10/21/87 SP8Bty/BWS

REC-72

EX-125

MAY 16 1961

Tolson  
Parsons  
Mohr  
Belmont  
Callahan  
Conrad  
DeLoach  
Evans  
Malone  
Rosen  
Tavel  
Trotter  
W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Ingram  
Gandy

67 MAY 16 1961



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8BJ/BWJ  
8.13.96 SSA9803RDD/CAL

291,829

100-225892-196,197

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-4-2  
100-225892-48-5

NOV 14 1966

mt-rls



EX-114

REC-33

100-225892-178

May 15, 1961

[Redacted]

MARLOTTE DE VANCE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Dear

[Redacted]

b7C

DATE 5/9/79 BY SP8KSK/br  
10/2/87 SP8Bj/Bury  
SSA9803  
RDD/CAL  
29,829  
9-13-96

Your letter of May 9 to Assistant Director

Cartha D. DeLoach has been referred to my attention. I appreciate your writing and your communication is being made a matter of record in FBI files. U

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 5

MAY 16 1961

COMM-FBI

1 - New York - Enclosure

1 - Cartha D. DeLoach - Enclosure

b7C

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information regarding correspondent to whom we are sending this letter. We have had cordial relations with [Redacted]

[Redacted] CORE Freedom Ride is the subject of Bufile 100-225892 captioned Congress of Racial Equality-Racial Matters. CORE is composed of a group of specially trained volunteers who make a nonviolent attempt to complete the integration of bus service and related public accommodations in the South. The movement was scheduled to start in Washington, D. C., on May 2 and will end in New Orleans two weeks later. Appropriate offices have been advised of this matter. U

b7C

JMM:plt  
(5)

68 MAY 19 1961



Greensboro, N.C.  
May 9, 1961

b7C

Dear Mr. DeLoache,

I have your name from [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Magazine in New York. [redacted] suggested that it might  
be an idea to notify you. I have with me a letter from  
[redacted] and I suppose I ought to add that I am white.

My home address is [redacted]

b7C

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Deke DeLoache  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/4/99 BY 1051/km

10/21/87

8-13-96  
291,329

Sp86ty/Bulz REC-33

SSA 9803 RDD/csl

MAY 17 1961

100-225112-198

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons *HP*

DATE: 5/15/61

FROM : A. Rosen *ARM*SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
RACIAL MATTERS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

In connection with the investigation of the racial incident at the Birmingham bus station, information has been received that on 5/15/61 four Klansmen put a Negro in a car and drove off on 5/15/61. The Klansmen were reported to be from Montgomery, Alabama. Inquiry being conducted by Birmingham and Mobile Offices regarding this incident. *u*

A Birmingham informant reported that after the incident at the bus station, fifteen Klansmen were walking to their cars which were parked about three blocks away. En route they were met by a group of about fifteen Negroes. According to the informant one Negro was put in a car by four Klansmen who drove off. According to the informant some of the Klansmen were from Montgomery. *u*

SAC Jenkins advised that the Birmingham paper had a picture of individuals who were standing around at the bus station and Birmingham has identified three Klansmen among the group. These are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. SAC Jenkins further advised that information had been received as to the identity of several Klansmen who were present at the Birmingham bus station. *u*

One [REDACTED] a member of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), obtained the license plate numbers of cars in the vicinity of the bus station. He obtained the license number of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] gave these numbers to another Negro whom Klan members attacked and the numbers were taken away from him. The license tag number of [REDACTED] was furnished to the Birmingham Police Department. According to information received from our informant, [REDACTED] nothing would come of this information. [REDACTED]

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

CLM:dsj  
(9)

8-13-96  
SSA9803RDD/CAL  
291,829  
10/21/87 SP8TJ/BUS  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/97 BY SP-16SK/DM

REC-85

MAY 17 1961

58 MAY 24 1961

b7C

b7C

b7D



Memorandum for Mr. Parsons  
Re: CORE

SAC Jenkins advised that one [redacted] a police officer at Birmingham, has stated that he received a call from the Trailways bus station at 3:55 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. that a fight was in progress. [redacted] dispatched two cars to the scene. In addition Detective [redacted] who was in the office at the time, went to the bus station and the fight was over when he got there. SAC Jenkins stated that Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor has issued a press release that he let some of his men off on 5/14/61 since it was Mothers' Day. According to Connor the day shift had been kept on standby but it was dismissed at 3:45 p.m. since Connor had heard that the bus was destroyed at Anniston. The Birmingham Police Department had been informed by the Birmingham Office concerning the arrival of the second bus. U

b7C

SAC Jenkins advised that all members of CORE on the Greyhound bus have been interviewed and that he is having trouble locating some of the CORE people who were on the Trailways bus. U

One [redacted] a member of CORE, advised that she saw the incendiary bomb which was thrown on the Greyhound bus and that to her it looked like a small baseball. She also stated that she can identify a one-armed man whom she saw at Anniston at the bus station and later at the hospital. U

b7C

Birmingham Police Department is actively investigating the incident at Trailways and has requested recent photographs of [redacted] members of the National States Rights Party. [redacted] U

b7C

SAC Jenkins later advised that Chief of Police Jamie Moore, Birmingham Police Department, advised that the first call concerning violence at the Trailways bus station was received at 4:20 p.m., on 5/14/61. U

The Attorney General

May 17, 1961

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/8/74 BY SP-16SK/

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"

RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

10/2/18 7 880/By/SM  
8-13-96  
SSA 9803 RDL/CAL  
291,829

MAY 17 1 53 PM '61

The "Freedom Riders" are holding an open meeting this evening at the Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans. At a press conference held yesterday it was indicated that the meeting is to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on segregation and that the group plans to return to their homes after the meeting. U

The New Orleans Police Department has stated that law and order will be maintained. Two marked cars will be outside the Zion Baptist Church this evening, plain-clothes men will be in the church and additional units will be in the area on a stand-by basis. U

The Citizens Council of Greater New Orleans held a public meeting last night in the Municipal Auditorium. The principal speaker was Hugh G. Grant, who was described as an attorney from Augusta, Georgia, and a former employee of the U. S. Department of State. U

Grant alleged that there is a racial revolution spearheaded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, whose leaders seek to mongrelize the people. He alluded to a school allegedly maintained by the Congress of Racial Equality in Miami where delegates are taught the technique of "what is now going on in Alabama." Grant also claimed that communism is behind the activities of the Congress of Racial Equality and he called for a central planning committee and better financing for groups resisting racial integration. U

It was estimated that the meeting at which Grant spoke was attended by less than eight hundred people, one hundred of whom left before he finished his speech. U

MAILED 2  
MAY 17 1961  
COMM-FBI

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

WLM:ers (13)

EX-139

REC-36

MAY 18 1961

63

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



The Attorney General

A Birmingham informant, who has previously furnished reliable information, has stated that it was [redacted]

[redacted] who asserted [redacted] broadcasting from his car during the disturbance at the Trailways bus terminal. These three men were allegedly part of a larger group which demanded and obtained the film from cameras in the bus station. U

b7C

b7D

As [redacted] were running from the bus station they reportedly passed Detective [redacted] and Police Officer [redacted]

b7D

b7C

Alabama Highway Patrolmen who were at the scene of the bus burning have been interviewed. They stated that they did not observe anyone damage the bus and do not know the names of the troublemakers. U

[redacted] state investigator who was on the bus when it was burned, stated that he was too busy and excited to notice the description or appearance of any member of the mob. U

b7C

The Birmingham Police have arrested [redacted] [redacted] was charged with [redacted] was charged with disorderly conduct. The arrests resulted from identifications based upon a photograph taken during the disturbance at the bus terminal. The photograph was published in the Birmingham "News and Post Herald" on May 15, 1961. U

b7C

The intensive investigation of this matter is continuing. U

1 - Mr. Byron A. White  
Deputy Attorney General

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Herb Marshall

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.

The Attorney General

May 15, 1961

Director, FBI

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

291,829  
SSA 9803 RDD/CAL  
5-13-96  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/8/74 BY SP-1 GSK/SM  
10/2/87 SP-8 BTJ/bwg

With further reference to the racial incidents which occurred in Alabama on May 14, 1961, information has been developed by our Birmingham Office that members of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and members of the National States Rights Party participated in these incidents. The National States Rights Party is an anti-Negro and anti-Semitic organization with headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Congress of Racial Equality initiated a project known as "Freedom Ride 1961" to integrate bus facilities and related public accommodations in the South. When the bus arrived at Anniston, Alabama, at 1:30 p. m., on May 14, 1961, there were a group of individuals present in an effort to prevent the subject organization from using the facilities of the bus station at Anniston. No members of the "Freedom Ride 1961" alighted from the bus. The individuals at the bus station broke several windows in the bus and punctured a tire. When the bus departed it was followed out of town and stopped. An incendiary bomb was tossed into the bus completely destroying it. There were no fatalities.

Information has been developed that members of the Anniston Klavern of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, as well as members of the National States Rights Party participated in the activities at Anniston. [redacted] has been definitely identified as being in the group at the bus station.

It is reported that photographs were taken at the bus station and at the scene of the burning of the bus. Our Birmingham Office has obtained copies of some of these photographs and will obtain copies of others in an effort to identify the individuals who participated in the incidents.

Our Birmingham Office advised the Anniston, Alabama, Police Department on May 13, 1961, that the subject group would be in Anniston on May 14, 1961, for a fifteen minutes' stop, and a group of Klansmen planned to prevent the individuals from using the facilities of the bus station at Anniston.

Tolson  
Parsons  
Mohr  
Belmont  
Callahan  
Conrad  
DeLoach  
Evans  
Malone  
Rosen  
Tavel  
Trotter  
W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Ingram  
Gandy

CLM:ers

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Evans



The Attorney General

An informant of our Birmingham Office advised members of the Eastview Klavern of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, as well as members of the National States Rights Party were involved in the incident which occurred in the bus station in Birmingham, Alabama. When the bus arrived a white man and a Negro alighted from the bus and started into the waiting room. The Negro was grabbed by [redacted] a member of the Eastview Klavern, and told that he could not go into the waiting room. [redacted] National States Rights Party, who was standing nearby stated, "Get the son of a bitch." At that time two young white boys jumped on the Negro. Information has been received that there were a number of Klansmen in the area near the two bus stations in Birmingham. U

b7C

The Birmingham, Alabama, Police Department was notified that the Congress of Racial Equality would arrive in Birmingham on May 13, 1961, and further advised on several occasions that groups hostile to integration were planning violence. On May 12, 1961, chief of the Birmingham Police Department was specifically informed of the possibility of violence when the organization arrived in Birmingham on Sunday, May 14, 1961. Chief of Police Moore of the Birmingham Police Department stated on the night of May 13, 1961, that he would not be in Birmingham on Sunday, May 14, 1961, as he planned to attend memorial services for his family outside the city. Information has been received from two informants that it was rumored among Klansmen in Birmingham in the event of trouble, Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor would delay the response of police until the Klan had time to act. U

Additional developments arising in connection with our investigation will be promptly furnished to the Department. U

- 1 - Mr. Byron R. White  
Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Felix Marshall
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-13-96 BY SP8/BWJ  
SSA 9803 RDD/CAL  
291,829  
100-225892 - 202

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-4-5

NOV 14 1966

mt - RD



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: 5-13-61

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
RACIAL MATTERS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b7C

On 4-24-61 information was disseminated by the Bureau concerning the plans of the Congress of Racial Equality, a Negro organization favoring integration, to conduct a "Freedom Ride 1961." U

The purpose was to make a nonviolent attempt to complete integration of bus service and related public accommodations in the south. The movement was scheduled to start 5-2-61 in Washington, D. C., and end in New Orleans two weeks later. All offices have been informed and have alerted local authorities. U

Current information is that the group is to arrive in Birmingham, Alabama, on 5-14-61. U

We have information from a confidential informant that the local authorities may allow disturbances to generate against this group when they arrive. U

The Alabama Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., intend to take violent action against the group when it arrives in a bus terminal in Birmingham on 5-14-61. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Eugene "Bull" Connor is going to turn his back upon any violence. U

b7D

We do not know the accuracy of the informant's information since it emanates from klan officials. We do know that [REDACTED] of the police department is allegedly working closely with "Bull" Connor and [REDACTED] is supposed to be a segregationist, and friendly with the klan. [REDACTED]

b7C

AR:MM

(6)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/8/99 BY SP-10SK/

BY SP-10SK/

10/21/87

SP-8 BT/Bury

17 MAY 19 1961

62 MAY 24 1961

Memorandum to Mr. Parsons  
RE: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

ACTION TAKEN

We have alerted all authorities concerning the information furnished by our informant, including the Chief of Police of the Birmingham Police Department, who is a National Academy graduate. This will put them on notice. U

This matter is being closely followed and informants of the Birmingham Office have been alerted so that we might be in a position to receive any information pertinent to this matter. U

BM chm JK P SRR Kugge



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/07 BY SP8BJP/BWJ

B-13-96 SSA9803RDD/CAL  
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100-225892-204, 205, 206

## CHANGED TO

100-225892-49-6

100-225892-49-3

100-225892-49-7

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206-208

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: May 15, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen *RW*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
FREEDOM RIDE 1961

DATE 5/8/79 BY SP

RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

8-13-96

SSA 9803

291.829

b7C

With further reference to the bus incident at Anniston, Alabama,  
one of the individuals participating in the "Freedom Ride 1961" was

b7C

When interviewed at the hospital by Bureau Agents on

5/14/61,

b7C

a passenger aboard the bus that was burned,  
stated that upon arrival in the station at Anniston, the bus was surrounded by  
a crowd of individuals. In the crowd at the station she observed three men  
armed with a large stick, a pipe and a gun, respectively but she did not  
know these individuals and feels that she would not be able to identify them.  
She could furnish only general information concerning the incendiary  
thrown into the bus and stated that she was actually unaware of it until she  
observed it on the floor of the bus. She escaped from the burning bus by  
climbing through a window and thereafter was taken to the hospital for  
observation. She was released from the hospital today.

b7C

b7C

ACTION:

None. Above is for your information.

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Evans

CLM:ers

(9)

MAY 18 1961

FILE



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/2/82 BY SP8 BT/Bug  
8-13-96 SSA9803 RDD/CAL  
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100-225892-208, 209, 210, 211, 212

## CHANGED TO

100-225892-2-6  
100-225892-4-7  
100-225892-33-17  
100-225892-2-7  
100-225892-4-8

NOV 14 1966

51 10

C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons *SM 517*

DATE: 5/15/61

FROM : C. A. Evans *✓*SUBJECT: *①* CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
RACIAL MATTERS

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Bishop	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

b7C

The Attorney General was contacted at his request. He had with him the Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall of the Civil Rights Division. They had been conferring with reference to action to be taken by the Department in the matter involving "Freedom Ride 1961" of the Congress of Racial Equality. *U*

This is the group whose members were attacked in Anniston, and Birmingham, Alabama, on 5/14/61. *U*

The Attorney General advised that the Department is taking action in an effort to get the local authorities to act and afford protection. The group is scheduled to leave Birmingham in two buses, one of which is to leave shortly after 2 and the other about 3 p. m. today. Both buses are scheduled to arrive in Montgomery, Alabama, about 5 p. m. The group's itinerary next calls for travel to Jackson, Mississippi, on May 16th and to New Orleans on May 17th. *U*

The Attorney General already has a commitment from the Louisiana authorities to protect the Congress of Racial Equality group. However, no definite commitments have been received from the local authorities in Alabama and Mississippi. *U*

The Attorney General indicated the immediate problem relates to Montgomery, Alabama, since the group is to arrive there this afternoon. The Attorney General is having Assistant Attorney General Marshall call the Mayor of Montgomery specifically alert him to the fact that the group is to arrive there and to enlist his support in having the local authorities maintain law and order. The Attorney General asked if the Montgomery Police Department had been alerted by the Bureau to the scheduled visit. *U*

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

CAE:mar

(10) 63 MAY 23 1961

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/8/74 BY SP-1576

10/2/1987

SP-1576/Bury



Memorandum to Mr. Parsons  
RE: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"

of the Congress of Racial Equality group. When informed this had been done earlier, he asked that the Montgomery Police be recontacted and again alerted. The Attorney General stated he desired to be informed as to what, if any, expressions of intent as to preserving the peace with reference to this visit were expressed by the Montgomery Police. U

ACTION TAKEN:

The General Investigative Division has telephonically instructed the Mobile Division to again alert the Montgomery Police to the planned bus trip to Montgomery and to immediately advise the Bureau by telephone as to what action the Montgomery Police say they are going to take to preserve law and order. The SAC of the Mobile Division is at Montgomery, Alabama, and will handle this matter personally. As soon as information is received from the Mobile Division, you will be advised and the Attorney General will thereafter be informed. U

ADDENDUM: C. A. Evans 5/15/61

The Attorney General called back at 3:40 p. m. He advised that he had perfected arrangements with the state and local authorities to escort this group from Birmingham, Alabama, to Montgomery. In addition, the Attorney General said he had assurances from the authorities in Montgomery that the local police would afford protection and preserve order. The only action which the Attorney General desired at this time is for us to insure the Police Department in Birmingham is aware of the plans of this group to depart from the bus station between 2:15 and 2:30 today (this is 4:15 - 4:30 Washington time) and that the Birmingham Police Department is aware of the action which has been taken by the Attorney General with regard to the further travel of this group. The Birmingham Division has been telephonically instructed to so advise the Birmingham Police Department. U

E F J S J V

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/2/87 BY SP8 BT/Buy

8-13-96  
291,829

SSA 9903 RDD/CAL

100-225892-214

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-20

JUN 7 1961

BC/vmc

C



## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: May 15, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
 "FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
 RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
 AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b7C

SAC Jenkins of Birmingham has advised information has been received from a confidential informant that the bus burning incident at Anniston, Alabama, involved members of the Anniston Klavern of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and members of the National States Rights Party (NSRP). A local photographer took a number of pictures both at the Anniston bus station and at the scene of the burning. The Birmingham Office has obtained some of these photographs and will obtain copies of all photographs so that they may be exhibited to informants to identify individual participants. U

Birmingham informant has advised that members of the Eastview Klavern of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, as well as members of the NSRP, were involved in the incident at the bus station in Birmingham. A white man and a Negro alighted from the bus in Birmingham and started into the waiting room. The Negro was grabbed by [redacted] b7D b7C [redacted] told that he could not go in there. [redacted] who was standing nearby, yelled, "Get the son of a bitch." At that time two young white boys jumped on the Negro. U

According to the Birmingham informant there were approximately 80 Klansmen in the area of the two bus stations in Birmingham. Birmingham informants are endeavoring to elicit information as to the exact location of the Klan leaders during the incident. U

All of the members of the Congress of Racial Equality group who were on the bus at Anniston have been interviewed except four and they are coming in this morning for interview. U

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

REC-41

100-205872-215

CLM:ers  
(9)

2 XEROX  
 MAY 19 1961  
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 JUN 6 1961  
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 4/8/79 BY SP-10/KP  
 10/2/87 SP-8/16way

50 MAY 23 1961

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Memorandum for Mr. Parsons

ACTION:

We have squads at Anniston and also at Birmingham specially assigned to this matter. U

Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall stated that he appreciated the promptness with which we went into this matter yesterday as it has assisted him in handling pressures that have been generated by these incidents. *This is the first plane we did.*

The matter will continue to receive the most expeditious and thorough attention. U

*R. Chow*

*JPM*

*Expedite.*  
*K*



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/2/11 BY SP8 BTJ/Bury  
E-13-96 SSA9803RDD/CAL  
291,829

100-225892-216, 217, 218

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-11-8

100-225892-8-4

100-225892-33-15

NOV 14 1966

mt - 9/8

C



The Attorney General

May 18, 1961

Director, FBI

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
FREEDOM RIDE 1961  
RACIAL MATTERS  
DESTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT OR  
MOTOR VEHICLES  
CIVIL RIGHTS

SSA9803

RDD/CAL

8-13-96 291829

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/99 BY SP-10SK/

The open meeting of the freedom riders which was held in New Orleans last night was attended by over 1,000 people and many were unable to enter the church. The area was well protected by New Orleans police and no incidents were noted. U

Speakers at the meeting encouraged the continuance of peaceful sit-in demonstrations but said that demonstrators must be prepared to take whatever trouble they encounter. It was also stated that the purpose of the freedom riders' trip was to determine whether the President and the Attorney General would afford protection. U

[REDACTED] has been possibly identified as the one who threw the fire bomb into the bus on May 14, 1961. He has declined to be interviewed until he engages counsel. Possible identifications have also been obtained concerning others who were involved in the disturbances on May 14, 1961. U

[REDACTED] has admitted that it was he who lay in front of the bus at Anniston, Alabama, on May 14, 1961. He alleged that he suffers from epileptic seizures and lay down because he was dizzy. He also stated that he went home in a taxi a few minutes later. U

It has been alleged that Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Imperial Wizard, Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Incorporated, is remaining in Birmingham and expects to receive several calls from the Governor's Office. U

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

WLM:seo  
(14)

Tolson  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Bishop  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

67 MAY 23 1961

REC-95

100-225892-219

MAY 19 1961



The Attorney General

We are continuing to vigorously pursue every avenue of approach in this matter. All further developments of a pertinent nature will be brought promptly to the attention of the Department. 4

- 1 - Mr. Byron R. White  
Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Burke Marshall
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/82 BY SP8 BTG/Buy  
8-13-96 SSA 9703 RDD/ccl  
291.829

100-225892-220, 221, 222,  
223, 224

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-1, 5, 6, 11  
100-225892-2-8

JUN 7 1961

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NOV 14 1966

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100-225892-225, 226  
227, 228

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-7, 2, 8  
100-225892-33-16

JUN 7 1961

BC/wmc

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/2/87 BY SP8 BT/bwy

8-13-96 SSA9803RDD/col

291,829

NOV 14 1966

C mt/KS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO :

Mr. Rosen

DATE: 5-14-61

FROM :

b7C

SUBJECT:

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
RACIAL MATTERS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SAC Thomas J. Jenkins telephonically advised at 3:55 p. m., this date that the first bus load of two buses of the "Freedom Ride 1961" group made a scheduled stop in Anniston, Alabama, at about 3:20 p. m., today when en route from Atlanta, Georgia. While the bus was stopped a group of about fifty people was responsible for a punctured tire and windows broken out. Among this group was [REDACTED] who reportedly is a Ku Klux Klan leader. He stated the bus, while about five miles west of Anniston, Alabama, was on fire reason unknown. U

b7C

At 4:12 p. m., SAC Jenkins advised that some type of incendiary device had apparently caused the fire on the bus and some of the riders were partially burned and partially overcome with smoke. The bus was completely destroyed. One Alabama State Investigator was on the bus. Reinforcements are being sent by the Alabama Highway Patrol to the location of the second bus load of this group. U

SAC Jenkins at 4:50 p. m., was instructed to conduct investigation to determine if a violation of the Destruction of Aircraft or Motor Vehicle statute is involved. At [REDACTED] authorization Jenkins was advised to answer press inquiries to the effect that we are inquiring into the situation to determine if a violation of Federal law has been committed. Birmingham will submit a summary teletype covering the events of this situation this date. U

b7C

ACTION

REC-24

For information and record purposes. U

CRM:tjl  
(6)

10/31/87 SP8 BTJ/BWJ  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 5/5/99 BY SP-16 SKM  
 8-13-96 SSA 3903 RDD/COL  
 291,824

See Addendum page 2

KEROX  
 JUN 6 1961

MAY 24 1961

149-1684  
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CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
RACIAL MATTERS

ADDENDUM

CRM:tjl

5-14-61

SAC Jenkins advised at 5:50 p. m., that the U. S. Attorney, Birmingham, has stated that the facts in this case are a violation of the Destruction of Aircraft and Motor Vehicle statute and the Birmingham Division is proceeding with intensive investigation. The ASAC along with four Special Agents are at the scene of the burning at this time and the SAC is remaining in the office inasmuch as there is some indication that there might be some trouble when the second bus load of these individuals arrives in Birmingham at 4:30 p. m., Birmingham time. U

SA [redacted] Washington Field Office, advised 6:00 p. m., he had received a telephone call from one [redacted] Congress of Racial Equality. [redacted] advised that he had been with the group of "Freedom Ride 1961" until the morning of 5-14-61 when he returned to Washington, D. C. [redacted] had received a telephone call regarding the burning of the bus and desired to advise the FBI of this incident. U

b7C

SAC Jenkins advised at 6:45 p. m., that the second bus load of this group which was on a Trailways Bus arrived in Birmingham at the Trailways Terminal ten or fifteen minutes ago. Members of the press and radio were at the station and [redacted]

[redacted] along with riders of the Trailways Bus were assaulted. The assaultants, according to the SAC, used a lead pipe to inflict the beating and at this time SAC has learned that only three people actually partook in the assault. SAC advised [redacted] alleged on his radio station that the Birmingham Police Department "dilly dallied" around in getting policemen to the bus terminal and were not there when the bus arrived. He stated the group of people who were on the bus that burned were to arrive at the Greyhound Bus Terminal, Birmingham, Alabama, at about 6:20 p. m., according to information he has received. U

b7C

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
RACIAL MATTERS

SAC Jenkins said the best information he had was that the bus load of people who had been in the bus burned were arriving at the Greyhound Bus Station, Birmingham, Alabama, at about 6:30 p. m., Birmingham time. He stated he had a problem of whether or not to send Agents to the terminal for the purpose of interviewing these people inasmuch as there might be trouble at that terminal also. U

SAC Jenkins was called and advised at 7:13 p. m., that he should call Chief of Police Moore, Birmingham, and advise Moore about the arrival of the bus at the Greyhound Station. He should advise Moore that Agents will meet the bus and interview persons on the bus and to advise Moore further that this is the second time he has been put on notice concerning this situation. SAC was advised to have Agents proceed to the Birmingham Police Department and determine who took the original call concerning the "Freedom Ride 1961," who was in charge of the station that took the call and what action was taken. The SAC should alert the Alabama Highway Patrol to the arrival of the bus at Greyhound Station and keep military intelligence advised as to this situation. U

SAC replied that he personally advised Chief of Police Moore originally of this matter and that Moore was presently out of town. He stated military intelligence has been kept advised of this entire situation and advised that one of his Agents in Anniston, Alabama, has just advised him that the people that were on the bus that burned have not left that area and efforts will be made to interview them in Anniston. U

[REDACTED] of the Crime Records Division has been kept appraised of all developments. U b7C



UNITED STATES

## Memorandum

TO :

Mr. Rosen *Rgh*

DATE: May 12, 1961

FROM :

b7C

SUBJECT:

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
RACIAL MATTERS

b7C

ASAC Raby of the Birmingham Office was telephonically instructed to notify Birmingham Police Chief of the possibility of racial violence Sunday, May 14, 1961. *U*

ASAC Raby was informed that in view of the possibility of a racial incident on May 14, 1961, that the Bureau could not do else but advise local police authorities. He was informed that it should be pointed out to Chief Moore of the Birmingham Police Department that the inter-racial group was moving into Birmingham and that the group would probably assemble in public places such as public parks, restaurants, bus or railroad terminals, theaters and other public places wherein they have in the past been denied the right to enter on an equal footing. He was advised that the police should also be informed that information was available that groups were opposing such inter-racial activity without necessarily identifying such groups. *U*

ASAC Raby was advised that the police should be alerted to the fact that opposition to a racial group on a Sunday afternoon in a downtown or crowded area could be the spark which would set off serious racial violence and if the police were not duly alerted serious trouble might ensue. *U*

ACTION:

ASAC Raby stated that this matter would be brought to the attention of Chief Moore again so that the police department would be on notice as to the possibility of racial violence in that city when the inter-racial group arrives on May 14, 1961. *U*

CLM:jlt

(6)

66 MAY 24 1961

REC-24

100-225892-230

291.829

SSA9803RDD/CAL

8-13-98

MAY 18 1961

10/2/82 Sprat/Bwr  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/4/94 BY SP16R/L

Memorandum for Mr. Rosen

ACTION CONTINUED:

Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall was advised of the statement made by [REDACTED]

b7C

ADDENDUM: (5:30 p.m. 5/15/61, CLM:ers)

ASAC Jordan of the Mobile Office telephonically advised that Police Commissioner Sullivan had been contacted and Sullivan was advised that the CORE group would be proceeding to Montgomery and that there would be police escorts to the city limits and there was a possibility there might be disorder between the city limits and the bus terminal or at the bus terminal. He was asked as to what action would be taken by the city authorities and Sullivan would only issue the following statement: //

"Insofar as this matter is concerned, we do not intend to permit outside sources to incite, create or provoke any racial incident in our city. The Montgomery Police Department is under instructions to enforce existing laws and take whatever action is necessary to suppress agitation and prevent violence." //

SAC Jenkins of the Birmingham Office advised that the delay had been occasioned by the CORE group in departing from Birmingham inasmuch as the Greyhound company could not get any of its drivers to operate the bus. Jenkins said information had been received that Attorney General Kennedy had called the manager of the Greyhound company in Birmingham regarding this action.

*Ch*



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO: Mr. Rosen *Rosen*

DATE: May 15, 1961

FROM: [REDACTED] b7C

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

ASAC Tom Jordan of the Mobile Office was contacted regarding action to be taken by police authorities in Montgomery, Alabama. ASAC Jordan stated that the chief of police and the assistant chief of police in Montgomery both are in Chicago attending a meeting at Northwestern University. He advised that they had been unable to locate Police Commissioner Sullivan of Montgomery. Sullivan, however, had been quoted over a local newscast as stating that he would not permit local laws to be violated and would permit no disorders. *U*

[REDACTED] and in charge of the police department for today, stated that large details of police would be sent to both the Greyhound and Trailways bus depots. No disorders will be permitted and full protection will be afforded to all citizens. *U*

b7C

Director of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Alabama Floyd Mann stated that he had talked to the Attorney General, Robert Kennedy. Alabama Highway Patrol will provide escorts from the city limits of Birmingham to the city limits of Montgomery. He stated he cannot go beyond the city limits because of their jurisdiction. Mann advised further that he has assigned patrolmen to strategic spots along U. S. Highway #31 as he received information from [REDACTED] of the Greyhound bus company in Birmingham that individuals may attempt to bother the buses en route between Birmingham and Montgomery. *U*

b7C

ACTION:

Mobile is continuing its efforts to contact police commissioner Sullivan regarding action to be taken by Montgomery authorities. *U*

1 - Mr. Evans

CLM:ers

(7)

66 MAY 24 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/4/99 BY SP1026 SM

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*U* (4-1)

REC-41

100-225872-1231

8-13-96 SSA9803RDD/CAL 291.22.9

MAY 18 1961

10/21/87 SP8 BT/Burg SI XNW

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/21/07 BY SP8BJS/BWJ

B-13.96 SSA9803RDD/CAL  
291.829

100-225892-232

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-4-6

NOV 14 1966

mt - RD



100-225892-233,234  
235,236

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-3,9,10  
100-225892-33-19

JUN 7 1961

BC/mmc

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/2/87 BY SP/BJ/buy

8-13-96 SSA9803 RDD/CAL  
291,829

NOV 14 1966

mc - RD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/2/17 BY SP8 BTG/Buy  
8-13-96 SSA9803RDD/col  
291.829

100-225892-237, 238, 239

# CHANGED TO

149-1684-14  
100-225892-61-1  
149-1684-12

JUN 7 1961

BC/vmc

NOV 14 1966

int - 210



The Attorney General

May 16, 1961

Director, FBI

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

10/21/87 SP805/ewy  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/99 BY SP1001/SM

6-13-96  
SSA 9803 RDD/CAE  
291,829

Investigation at the Trailways bus terminal in Birmingham indicates that one [redacted] an investigator from the State Attorney General's office, and two Birmingham police officers were present when the beatings occurred at the bus terminal on May 15, 1961. [redacted] picked up a trace chain used by the subjects and took it with him. U

b7C

One [redacted] was registered at the Molton Hotel under the name of [redacted] and was known to hotel employees as a state investigator. U

b7C

[redacted] b7C porter in the Trailways station, stated that he saw several detectives in the parking lot at the back of the station, but they disappeared about five minutes before the bus arrived. The bus arrived at 4:15 p.m. and departed at 4:30 p.m. U

[redacted] Birmingham Police Department, related that he received a complaint of a fight at the bus station but failed to note the time of the call or the identity of the complainant. He estimated the time of the call as 4:00 p.m. He informed [redacted] U

b7C

[redacted] has advised that he was the first officer present at the bus station and that when he arrived the participants in the beating had departed. U

b7C

Birmingham Chief of Police Jamie Moore stated on the morning of May 15, 1961, that he could find no record of the complaint allegedly received May 14, 1961. Later in the day he advised that he had determined that the call was received at 4:30 p.m. and cars were dispatched to the Trailways depot at 4:22 p.m. U

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

WLM:dsj  
(14)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to Parsons, 5/16/61, same caption, WLM:dsj.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

07 MAY 22 1961

MAILED 18  
MAY 16 1961  
COMM-FBI

REC-46

MAY 23 1961

100-225892-2470



The Attorney General

Confidential informants have advised that the Klan was actively present at the Birmingham and Anniston disorders. Several individuals including Klan leaders have been identified as being on the scene. Several different Klan groups are alleged to be involved and this aspect is being vigorously pursued. U

After the fight at the Trailways depot, an informant alleges that approximately fifteen Klansmen were going to their cars when they met and fought with a group of Negroes. One Negro was badly injured. He was placed in a car and driven from the scene by four Klansmen. This fight started when the Klan forcibly took from a Negro a record of license numbers of cars seen in the area. [REDACTED]

b7C  
b7D

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
furnished the following eyewitness account of the burning of the bus at Anniston. One individual, who had demanded that the occupants leave the bus, said, "If you don't come out, we are going to gas you out." Then, from a nearby car, he obtained an object approximately eight inches long and two inches in diameter which was wrapped in a cloth. He appeared to light this object with a match and then threw it through the window of the bus. U

b7C

The plans of the "Freedom Riders" to depart from Birmingham by bus on May 15, 1961, were canceled because no driver was willing to make the trip. Arrangements were then made to proceed to New Orleans by Eastern Airlines. This flight was canceled after an anonymous telephone call was made to Capital Airlines alleging that a bomb was going to be placed on the plane carrying the people to Montgomery. U

When the Eastern Airlines flight was canceled, arrangements were made for the group to continue to New Orleans by Capital Airlines. The Capital Airlines flight was canceled when the pilot refused to proceed. U

The group finally left Birmingham by Eastern Airlines and arrived in New Orleans at 11:53 p.m., Central Standard Time. New Orleans police were present to protect U



The Attorney General

all persons and prevent disorder. No unusual crowds appeared and no incident occurred. U

[REDACTED] who are connected with the Louisiana State Sovereignty Commission, were at the New Orleans Airport and were seeking information as to where the group planned to stay in New Orleans. Ten of the fourteen "Freedom Riders" plan to stay at Xavier University, a Negro institution in New Orleans. The plans of the other four are not known. U

b7C

At 10:13 p.m., May 13, 1961, while the "Freedom Riders" were preparing to leave for New Orleans, an airline insurance employee at the Birmingham Airport, received an anonymous telephone call to the effect that a bomb would go off inside the terminal in eighteen minutes. No explosion occurred and no explosive device was found. U

b7C



The Attorney General

We are continuing to investigate this matter vigorously, and further developments will be reported to the Department promptly. 4

- 1 - Mr. Byron White  
Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Burke Marshall
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.



100-225892-241

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-4-10

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/21/87

SP8Bj/Bwj

8-13-96 SSA9803RDD/CAL

291.829

NOV 14 1966

mt - RB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8BJ/BWJ  
8-13-96 SSA 9803 RDD/CAL  
291,829

100-225892-242

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-15

JUN 7 1961

BC/mc

C



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: May 19, 1961

FROM :

b7C

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
 "FREEDOM RIDE, 1961"  
 RACIAL MATTERS  
 CIVIL RIGHTS

SSA 9803 RDD/CAL  
 8-13-96 291829  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 1/8/99 BY SP-1052/SA  
 10/21/87 SP8Bty/Bwy

At 9:25 p. m., 5/19/61, SAC Jenkins of the Birmingham Office telephonically advised that he had just received information from a newspaper man in Birmingham to the effect that Judge Walter B. Jones, Circuit Judge, State of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama, had at about 9 o'clock (Washington, D. C., time) issued an injunction against the "Freedom Riders" banning them from riding any bus in the state of Alabama with intent to breach the peace. U

SAC Jenkins added that according to the information available to him Judge Jones issues an injunction every time Governor Patterson requests an injunction. U

SAC Jenkins said he was getting in touch with Mobile by telephone and would have them to obtain the facts regarding this injunction and advise the Birmingham Office and the Bureau. U

At 10:10 p. m., 5/19/61, SAC Jenkins telephonically advised that the 8 o'clock bus (CST) was announced for Montgomery and the "Freedom Riders" that were in the bus station in Birmingham, went to the platform to load the bus. At this time the bus driver came out of the terminal and said the bus would not be leaving as they could find no one to drive. U

SAC Jenkins advised that on the 17th of this month, [redacted] was charged with two counts with interfering with an officer in the discharge of his duty and refusing to obey law enforcement officers. That case came up in court tonight, May 19, 1961, and it was passed for one week. SAC Jenkins said quite a crowd is gathering around the bus depot, but the police seem to have them under control. U

At 10:25 p. m., 5/19/61, SAC Jenkins telephonically advised that he had just received information that the Birmingham Police Department had received a telegram from [redacted] Birmingham, Alabama, stating that no instructions were issued U

62 MAY 26 1961

b7C

Memo to Mr. Rosen  
RE: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

~~were issued~~ to drivers not to drive the buses. 4

SAC Jenkins advised that [redacted] of the Birmingham Police Department had advised that while in the Greyhound bus terminal in Birmingham he had been advised by an official that a driver would take the bus out if the bus was afforded police protection or they would let a policeman drive the bus. 4 b7C

ACTION:

SAC Jenkins was advised that upon receipt of the information from Mobile he should furnish the facts to the Department of Justice representatives that are on the scene, in order that they will be fully advised and we, the FBI, cannot be accused of not keeping them informed. 4

Messers Rosen, Malley, [redacted] advised of the above. 4 b7C

Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall, Civil Rights Division, was advised of the above. Mr. Marshall advised he had already received the information but was very appreciative of the Bureau's call. 4



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: 5/16/61

FROM : A. Rosen

SSA 9803RDD/CAL  
291.829 6-13-96SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLESALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/4/04 BY SP7

10/2/87

b7C

A memorandum is being prepared to advise the Attorney General of current developments. Additional pertinent details are set out below: u

It is noted that the "Freedom Riders" were finally successful in leaving Birmingham and flying to New Orleans. They arrived in New Orleans by Eastern Airlines at 11:53 p.m., Central Standard Time, 5/15/61. u

John Seigenthaler, Administrative Assistant to the Attorney General, was with the "Freedom Riders" when they arrived in New Orleans. Also aboard the plane were fourteen members of this group, three Negro newsmen, two NBC men from Montgomery, Alabama, and three television men from New York. Representatives of the press, radio, television and other news media met the plane in New Orleans. u

It is noted that prior to their actual travel to New Orleans, the group had planned to leave Birmingham by bus, but no bus driver would drive them. Arrangements were then made to go to New Orleans by Eastern Airlines but an anonymous telephone call was made to Capital Airlines in Birmingham alleging that a bomb would be placed aboard the group's plane. In this regard [redacted] telephoned the Bureau at 10:08 p.m. 5/15/61. He stated that the Birmingham police had refused to search the plane or baggage and that he understood that the FBI would not search the plane or baggage. He was informed that the FBI would not conduct such a search. [redacted] then stated that he had issued instructions to cancel the flight. They then arranged to use Capital Airlines but the pilot refused to fly. After this they perfected their plans to fly by Eastern Airlines. [redacted] u

## ACTION:

A memorandum is being prepared for the Attorney General which sets out pertinent developments in detail. u

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- WLM:dsj

57 MAY 31 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8 BT/BWJ

B-13.96 SSA 9903 EDD/COL  
291,829

100-225892-245

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-16

JUN 7 1961

BC/vmc

C



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 31 1961  
TELETYPE

URGENT 5-21-61 6-08 PM RAM

TO SACS ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, DALLAS, HOUSTON, JACKSONVILLE, KNOXVILLE, LITTLE ROCK, MEMPHIS, MIAMI, MOBILE, NEW YORK, NEW ORLEANS, SAVANNAH & TAMPA

FROM DIRECTOR 1 P

FREEDOM RIDE, ONE NINE SIX ONE, RACIAL MATTERS, DESTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES, CIVIL RIGHTS. IN VIEW OF RECENT RACIAL DISTURBANCES IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND IN PARTICULAR THE PRESENT SITUATION IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA ALL OFFICES ARE TO REMAIN ALERT FOR ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT KLAN OR HATE-TYPE ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONTEMPLATING ANY MOVEMENT INTO THE DISTURBED AREA. ALL OFFICES SHOULD ALSO REMAIN ALERT FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUOTE FREEDOM RIDES END QUOTE MOVING TOWARD THIS OR ANY OTHER SOUTHERN AREA. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED SHOULD BE FURNISHED TELEPHONICALLY TO THE BUREAU, MOBILE AND INTERESTED OFFICES. U

END & ACK PLS

DL OK FBI DL JAP

HO OK FBI HO LAS

LR OK FBI LR BCB

ME OK FBI ME GLS

NN OK FBI NN WGS

NO OK FBI NO JC

TU DISC

B-13.96  
55A9803RDB/CAL 291829  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/8/77 BY SP-1000/BA

10/21/87 SP-800/BA



TELETYPE

URGENT 5-21-61 4-53 PM RAM

TO SACS ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, DALLAS, HOUSTON, JACKSON-  
VILLE, KNOXVILLE, LITTLE ROCK, MEMPHIS, MIAMI, MOBILE, NEW YORK,  
-2- NEW ORLEANS, SAVANNAH & TAMPA

FROM DIRECTOR 1 P

FREEDOM RIDE, ONE NINE SIX ONE, RACIAL MATTERS, DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES, CIVIL RIGHTS. IN VIEW OF RECENT RACIAL  
DISTURBANCES IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND IN PARTICULAR THE PRESENT  
SITUATION IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA ALL OFFICES ARE TO REMAIN ALERT  
FOR ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT KLAN OR HATE-TYPE ORGANIZATIONS  
ARE CONTEMPLATING ANY MOVEMENT INTO THE DISTURBED AREA. ALL OFFICES  
SHOULD ALSO REMAIN ALERT FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUOTE FREEDOM RIDES END  
QUOTE MOVING TOWARD THIS OR ANY OTHER SOUTHERN AREA. ANY INFORMATION  
OBTAINED SHOULD BE FURNISHED TELEPHONICALLY TO THE BUREAU, MOBILE  
AND INTERESTED OFFICES.

END & ACK PLS

WA R2 OK NY FCI

U  
8-13-96  
SSA 9903 RDD/CAL 0291.829  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

-ATE 5/8/94 BY SP-1051/

10/21/87

SP8 Bf/Bw



5/21/61

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS ATLANTA  
BIRMINGHAM  
CHARLOTTE  
DALLAS  
HOUSTON  
JACKSONVILLE  
KNOXVILLE  
LITTLE ROCK  
MEMPHIS

MIAMI  
MOBILE  
NEW YORK  
NEW ORLEANS  
SAVANNAH  
TAMPA

291,829  
SSA 9803 RDD/CAL  
8-13-86  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/8/79 BY SP-ROK/fmc  
10/21/87 SP-85ty/Bury

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

CORE.  
FREEDOM RIDE, ONE NINE SIX ONE, RACIAL MATTERS, DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES, CIVIL RIGHTS. IN VIEW OF RECENT  
RACIAL DISTURBANCES IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND IN PARTICULAR  
THE PRESENT SITUATION IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA ALL OFFICES ARE  
TO REMAIN ALERT FOR ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT KLAN OR  
HATE-TYPE ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONTEMPLATING ANY MOVEMENT INTO  
THE DISTURBED AREA. ALL OFFICES SHOULD ALSO REMAIN ALERT FOR  
ANY ADDITIONAL QUOTE FREEDOM RIDES END QUOTE MOVING TOWARD  
THIS OR ANY OTHER SOUTHERN AREA. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED  
SHOULD BE FURNISHED TELEPHONICALLY TO THE BUREAU, MOBILE AND  
INTERESTED OFFICES. U

RBL:bwd (4)

REC-61

100-225892-547

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

56 MAY 26 1961

19 MAY 22 1961

TELETYPE

B-13-96  
 SSA9803RDO/CAL 291.829  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8 BTJ/BWJ

100-225892-248

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-42-6

NOV 14 1966

mt - rls

e



8-13-96  
SSA 9803RDD/CAL 291.829  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8RBY/BWY

100-225892-249

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-17

**JUN 7 1961**

BC/vmc

C

# Race Group Shifts to Airliner

## Freedom Riders Denied Bus Seats At Birmingham

By Elsie Carper  
Staff Reporter

The embattled "freedom riders" flew to New Orleans from Birmingham, Ala., last night after abandoning plans to complete their journey by bus.

The 17 men and women, who were ambushed and assaulted Sunday by white hoodlums in Anniston and Birmingham while traveling by bus, left Birmingham on an Eastern Airlines plane. An earlier

Lynchburg city manager urges Negroes to go slow on race problems. Page B8.

flight on which they had booked passage was canceled by a bomb threat.

Jeff Dishongh, district sales manager for Eastern in Birmingham, said the plane was cleared at the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and baggage was searched. Then the flight was canceled.

The biracial group made the decision to fly after spending two hours waiting in the Greyhound station for a bus to Montgomery, the State capital.

Greyhound said it could not find a bus for the bus. A State Police escort was canceled.

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy had called on Alabama officials to provide police protection for the group which has been touring the Deep South to test compliance with Supreme Court decisions outlawing segregation in interstate transportation.

The group sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality left Washington May 4 and planned to be in New Orleans May 17.

Kennedy said he had been assured that the State of Alabama would provide police protection to prevent further outbreaks of violence. In Birmingham, Alabama Safety Director Floyd Mann said he had assigned a highway patrol car to accompany the bus.

The Associated Press reported that the escort order was canceled later by Gov. John Patterson. He was quoted as saying that feelings were so high in the State that it would be unsafe for the group to remain in Alabama.

The Governor said he would provide a patrol to the nearest State line but "we will not escort them to any other cities

See RIDEES, A4, Col. 1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/6/79 BY SP-16 SKG  
10/21/87 SP 8147/184  
8.13.96  
SSA 9803 RDD/csl  
291.829

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

31

4

A is me do this?

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Memo Rasmussen  
W.C. Sullivan  
5-10-61  
R.B. Lowmyer

REC- 95

100-225872-2500

14 MAY 23 1961

MAY 15 1961

ENCLOSURE  
picture

50 JUN 12 1961



in Alabama to continue their rousing."

Patterson said that crowds had gathered along the bus route. "In my judgment," his statement said, "it is not safe for them to travel from Birmingham to Montgomery."

"As Governor, I take full responsibility for the safety of responsible citizens visiting Alabama. But I can not accept the responsibility for the safety of a group of renegades who are here for the avowed purpose of stirring up trouble."

The Justice Department said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking into the two instances of violence that erupted Sunday to determine if there was a violation of Federal law.

A Greyhound bus with seven "freedom riders" and two reporters aboard was stoned and burned outside Anniston, Ala. Passengers suffered from smoke inhalation and one of the "freedom riders" said he was struck by a club while trying to escape.

#### Second Group Beaten

A second group was met by a gang of toughs in the Trailways bus terminal in Birmingham. An eyewitness account of the brutal beating of both whites and Negroes was furnished by Howard K. Smith, CBS chief Washington correspondent, on a special assignment in Birmingham.

Smith was alerted to watch Birmingham's bus terminals by a man who said he was close to the Ku Klux Klan. The CBS correspondent said he alternately watched the two bus stations which are a few blocks apart. A large number of heavysset men in sports shirts were loitering about

both terminals. They were identified to him as Klansmen without robes.

#### Receive Word

Late in the afternoon, the men starting drifting over to one of the terminals. Smith followed.

"They had received word, I learned, that the passengers left over from a bus which similar hoodlums set on fire outside Birmingham earlier... were about to arrive there," Smith related.

"As the bus arrived and the doors opened, about 30 of the toughs grabbed the passengers and dragged them into alleys and corridors beating them with key rings and sticks and bare fists. About 12 of the attackers knocked down one passenger at my feet and kicked and beat him until his face was a bloody red pulp."

"At that moment, a man behind me whispered in my ear, 'They have identified you from having seen you on television, they say they're hunting for you. You'd better get out.'"

"I left the terminal and stood on the street corner opposite. All of this happened near police headquarters at City Hall, near the office of the extreme segregationist Police Commissioner Eugene Connor. But no police showed up until exactly 10 minutes later, by which time the attackers had gone to waiting cars and had disappeared as if on signal from someone in the know.

"Birmingham is today," Smith declared, "as it has been described, a city of stark terror and lawlessness."

The wire service reported that the Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth, Negro leader of the Birmingham movement in

Birmingham, said that Police Commissioner Connor and Police Chief Jamie Moore had been alerted of possible trouble by telegram. Moore confirmed that the telegrams had been received.

The Associated Press quoted Connor as declaring that he had been saying for 20 years that "these out-of-town meddlers were going to cause bloodshed if they kept meddling in the South's business."

"It happened on a Sunday, Mother's Day," Connor was quoted as saying, "when we try to let off as many of our policemen as possible so they can spend Mother's Day at home with their families. We got the police to the bus station as quick as we possibly could."

#### Bus Is Ambushed

Henry Thomas of 1663 Newton st. nw., a student at Howard University, told the story by phone of the ambushing of the bus at Anniston.

Just before the bus reached the Alabama town a man boarded it and warned the driver of trouble. When the bus pulled in "a great big mob was waiting." The bus was surrounded and when the men were unable to get on they broke windows and slashed the tires. The bus pulled out with cars following. About 5 miles west of town, the tires gave way. While the driver tried to change a tire, the crowd of men worked the bus over again.

An incendiary bomb was thrown through a back window. (The Associated Press said that the bomb was believed to have been a soda drink bottle containing gasoline. The bus was engulfed in smoke. Passengers

through the smoke, and escaped before the inside of the bus burst into flames.

"As I stepped from the bus," Thomas said, "and ran away so that I could see a man hit me with a great big club."

Among those on the bus was Genevieve Hughes, 28, who is white. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Hughes of 102 Oxford st., Chevy Chase, Md. Hughes is a retired lawyer now teaching at the Georgetown University Law School.

The passengers aboard the bus were taken to the hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and later were released.

James Farmer, national director of CORE, in telegrams to the Attorney General and to President Kennedy charged that Alabama law officials "stood idly by while mobs overruled the law of the land, desecrated the face of our Nation before the world."

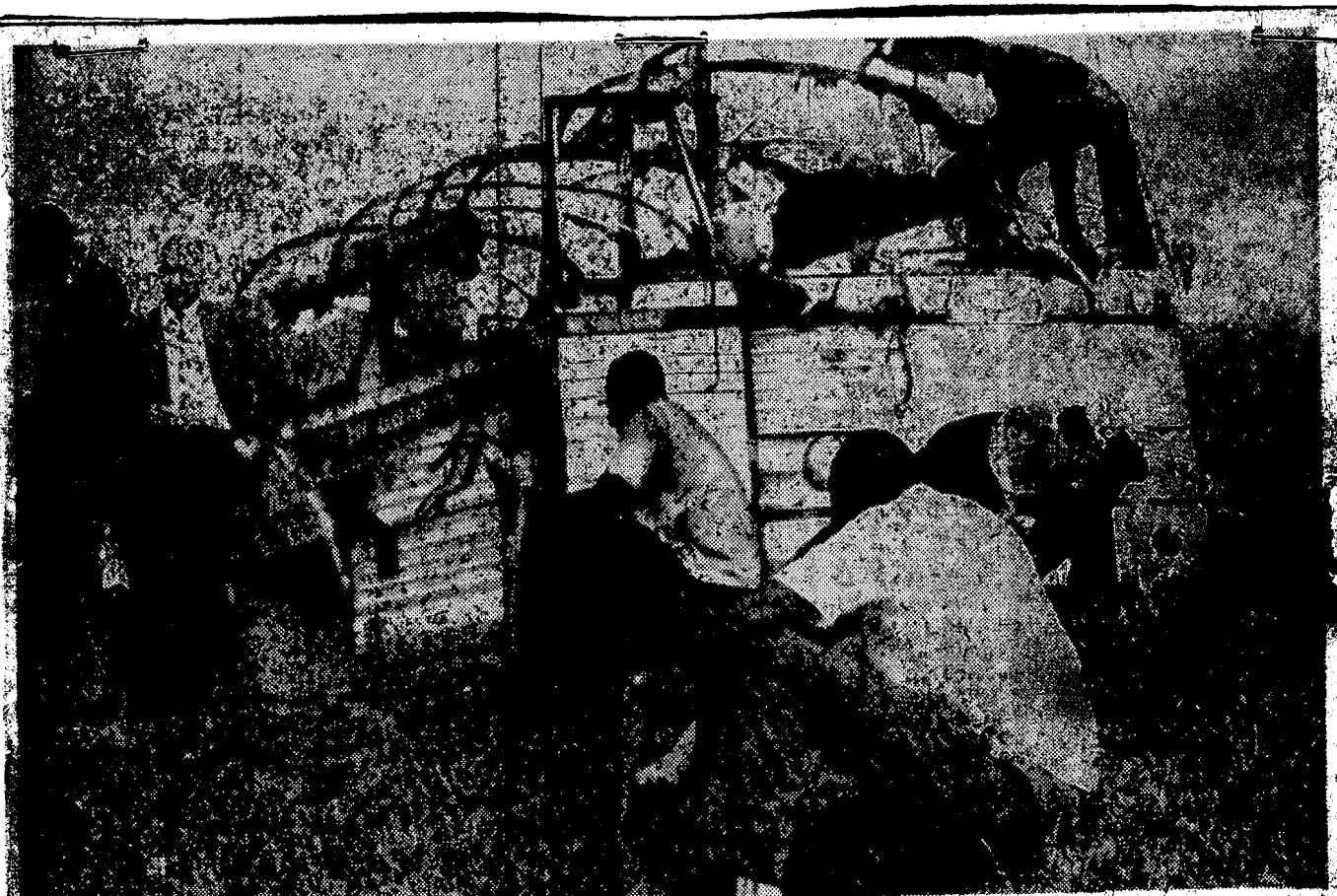
#### Justice Dept. Aid Sought

He called on the Department of Justice to "act immediately to safeguard the safety of the public highways and to protect interstate passengers."

Farmer declared that the Alabama mobs had "served notice that Negro interstate bus passengers may not travel with dignity in parts of our country except at risk of life and limb."

Farmer was with the "freedom riders" when they left Washington. He left the trip to return to Washington because of the death of his father.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also urged the FBI to investigate the assaults on passengers in



United Press International

Members of the "Freedom Riders," a group sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality, sit around the gutted wreck of their bus after it was burned by a mob Sunday near Anniston, Ala. The group had gone to Alabama for a desegregation rally in Birmingham and also sought to break racial barriers existing at bus terminals there.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/82 BY SP8 BTJ/BWJ

291,829

8-13-94 SSA 9803 RDD/CAL

100-225-272-250

ENCLOSURE



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: May 16, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: **CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
RACIAL MATTERS; DISTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES**

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Director has inquired concerning the statement in "The Washington Post Times Herald" 5-16-61 wherein the assertion was made that the Eastern Air Lines plane carrying the Freedom Riders from Birmingham, Alabama, to New Orleans, Louisiana, 5-15-61 was cleared at the request of the FBI. u

SAC, Thomas J. Jenkins has advised that there is no truth to this statement. He stated that at 6:45 p.m. (Central Standard Time) one [redacted] of Capital Airlines, Birmingham, had called the Birmingham Office and advised that he had received a telephone call concerning the false bomb report on the Eastern Air Lines plane. SAC Jenkins stated that he immediately notified a [redacted]

[redacted] advised that Eastern Air Lines already knew about the threat. [redacted] asked SAC Jenkins if the FBI would oversee the search of the baggage in order to prevent anything from being taken. He was informed that the FBI would not conduct any search or supervise the same and that the decision to ground the plane and search the plane and baggage was to be made by the Eastern Air Lines company. u

RBL:ers:vjh  
(6)

10/21/87 SP8 BT/BUT  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/8/99 BY SP-16SK/ [redacted]  
8-13-96 SSA 9803RDD/CAL

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REC-95

100-225812-251

14 MAY 23 1961

50 JUN 12 1961

UNITED STATES

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: 5/18/61

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: CONGRESS ON RACIAL EQUALITY  
FREEDOM RIDE 1961  
RACIAL MATTERS  
DESTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT OR  
MOTOR VEHICLES  
CIVIL RIGHTS

SSA 9803 RDD/CA  
8-13-96  
291,829  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/01 BY SP 1356/1011/AVI/1011  
10/21/87 SP 1356/1011/AVI/1011

Tolson ✓  
Parsons ✓  
Mohr ✓  
Belmont ✓  
Callahan ✓  
Conrad ✓  
DeLoach ✓  
Evans ✓  
Malone ✓  
Rosen ✓  
Tavel ✓  
Trotter ✓  
W.C. Sullivan ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Ingram ✓

## SYNOPSIS

John Seigenthaler returned to Birmingham from New Orleans, 5/17/61. He will contact Special Agent in Charge Jenkins, 5/18/61. *He is being treated courteously but that he is not to be taken any action. He may request without releasing with final.*  
The group of freedom riders in New Orleans is breaking up to return to their homes. u

The open meeting held in New Orleans by the freedom riders, 5/17/61, attracted over 1,000 people. There was no disorder. u

Speakers at the meeting said the freedom ride was organized to determine if the President and the Attorney General would protect them. They encouraged continuing sit-in demonstrations without violence. u

b7C [redacted] has been possibly identified as the man who threw the fire bomb into the bus on 5/14/61. u

[redacted] who is "pretty sure" [redacted] threw the bomb, is fearful and asked for a guarantee she would not be a witness. She was told no guarantee could be given but efforts will be made to locate other witnesses. u b7C

[redacted] who lay in front of the bus to prevent its leaving Anniston, 5/14/61, states he lay down because he is an epileptic and was dizzy. u b7C

Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Imperial Wizard, Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., allegedly remains in Birmingham and is expecting calls from the Governor's office. u

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Evans  
WLM:aeo  
(9)

REC-4  
100-225892-200  
MAY 24 1961  
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VA

67 MAY 24 1961

100-225892



Memorandum to Mr. Parsons

has been arrested by the Birmingham police on a charge of disorderly conduct after being identified from the newspaper photograph taken of the disorder at Trailways bus depot, 5/14/61. u

b7C

ACTION

A memorandum is being prepared for the information of the Attorney General. u

*Am*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

NOTE: Details begin on page 3

Memorandum to Mr. Parsons

DETAILS

John Seigenthaler departed New Orleans 5/17/61 and returned to Birmingham. He said that he will contact SAC Jenkins at Birmingham on 5/18/61. *u*

The group of freedom riders in New Orleans is breaking up. Two of them departed 5/16/61 for New York, and several others have reservations to various destinations for 5/18/61. *u*

[redacted] who are connected with the New Zion Baptist Church advised on 5/17/61 that during the past two days they have received anonymous telephone calls saying that the caller was going to "drop a pineapple on the church and blow them up." The caller used vile language. It was at this church that the CORE group held an open meeting on the evening of 5/17/61. *u* b7C

The meeting of the freedom riders at the New Zion Baptist Church was attended by over 1,000 people and many others were unable to enter because of the crowd. The area was well protected by New Orleans police and no incidents were noted. Speakers at the meeting encouraged the audience to continue sit-in demonstrations but it was stressed that no violence should be caused and the demonstrators should be prepared to take whatever trouble they encountered. It was stated that the purpose of the freedom riders' trip was to see if the President and the Attorney General would protect them. The meeting was orderly and ended at 10:00 p.m. with the demonstrators being instructed to return to their respective homes. *u*

[redacted] has stated that she is "pretty sure" [redacted] is the man who threw the fire bomb into the bus on 5/14/61. This statement was made after she made a possible identification from photographs and then observed him personally. [redacted] has declined to submit to interview until he has obtained counsel. *u* b7C

[redacted] is a reluctant witness who is fearful for her life. When first asked to observe [redacted] personally she stated she would do so if the FBI could guarantee that she would not be used as a witness. [redacted] was informed that the FBI cannot make such a guarantee but that every effort will be made to locate other witnesses. *u* b7C



Memorandum to Mr. Parsons

MA [redacted] and an investigator for the state, has also observed [redacted] and advised that he is positive [redacted] was very active during the demonstration when the bus was burned. [redacted] said that he feels that it was [redacted] who placed the bomb on the bus. u

[redacted] states that he observed [redacted] at the depot beside the bus on 5/14/61. He looked away, heard a crash, immediately looked up and saw [redacted] walking from a broken bus window with a short length of logging chain in his hand. u

[redacted] advised that he heard a crash and looked up to see a man stepping back from the emergency door of the bus with an arm raised and holding a chain which was still in motion. [redacted] advised that [redacted] bears a close resemblance to this individual. u

[redacted] has been identified as the individual who lay in front of the bus to prevent it from leaving the Anniston terminal on 5/14/61. Upon interview, he alleged that he is subject to epileptic seizures and that he lay down in front of the bus because he felt dizzy and as if he were about to fall. He stated that within the next few minutes he was assisted to a taxicab and taken home where he remained for the rest of the day. [redacted] refused to identify the taxi driver. u

[redacted] of the Trailways bus on 5/14/61, stated that the trip was without incident until he reached Anniston where he found the bus station closed. At Anniston he learned of the burning of the Greyhound bus and was instructed not to proceed unless a police escort was furnished. An unidentified police officer requested that he advise the passengers concerning the burning of the Greyhound bus and ask their cooperation in observing segregated seating. [redacted] did so but the freedom riders did not change their seats. The unidentified policeman made a similar request, but said he would not force them to move. Several white male passengers then tried to move the Negroes by force and a fight ensued. u

Memorandum to Mr. Parsons

[ ] left the bus to treat an hysterical woman passenger and when he returned, the Negroes were in the back of the bus and the whites were in the front. b7C  
The Chief of Police told him he could continue to Birmingham. u

It has been alleged that Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Imperial Wizard, Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., is remaining in Birmingham and expects several calls from the Governor's office. u

[ ] has been arrested by the Birmingham Police Department on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was identified from the newspaper photograph as being involved in the disorder at the Trailways bus depot on 5/14/61. He claimed he had merely used the men's room in the depot and was assaulted when he left the men's room. u b7C

*Rpm*  
*CLM*  
*WJ*  
*LS*



10/21/87 Sp8 Rg/Rug  
 8-13-96  
 SSA 9803 RDD/CL  
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100-225892-253, 254, 255

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100-225892-4-9  
 100-225892-53-10, 9

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100-225892-256,257  
258,259

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-18,21,28,30

JUN 7 1961

BC/VMC

10/21/87  
8-13-96  
SPR/Brw  
SSA9803RDD/COL  
291.829

C



UNITED STATES

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: May 16, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen

Time of Call 11:15 a. m.

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
 "FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
 RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
 AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

291.829 8-13-96  
 SSA 9803 RDD/CAL  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 5/8/79 BY SP-7 GSK/BW  
 10/21/87 SP-8 Bury

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SAC T. J. Jenkins of the Birmingham Office advised that the Birmingham newspapers were featuring pictures of individuals who were at the bus station on Sunday, 5/14/61. There was a picture of individuals engaged in the fight at the bus station. This has been enlarged by the paper and the pictures of various individuals have been separated and appear in the paper under the caption "Do you know them?" As a result of this the Birmingham Office is receiving a number of calls from private citizens. Jenkins was instructed that Agents should contact the individuals and ascertain if they can identify the persons and what they know about the incident which occurred on Sunday, 5/14/61. u

Birmingham Office is continuing its investigation of the incidents at Anniston, Alabama and Birmingham bus stations. u

ACTION:

Jenkins was instructed to have the New Orleans Office interview members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) group who were on the Trailways bus which arrived in Birmingham on 5/14/61. It is noted that the CORE group will be in New Orleans for at least two days as a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night. Jenkins was also instructed to forward photographs of suspects to New Orleans Office so these could be exhibited to members of the CORE group to determine if they could identify any of the suspects. u

Jenkins was further instructed to contact [redacted] or [redacted] or some other Negro leader who might be acquainted with the individuals involved in the fight between Negroes and Klansmen in back of the bus station in an effort to identify the Negro who was reportedly taken away from there by four Klansmen in a black automobile. u

b7C

CLM:ers  
 (8)

Copies made by [redacted]  
 for review by Rowe Task Force  
 Date 4/4/79

MAY 24 1961

REC-76

62 MAY 26 1961

100 - 225892 - 3

100-225892

SIX

Re: Congress of Racial Equality  
Racial Matters

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADVANCE, An Organization of ~~APPENDIX~~ sive Youth

A confidential source advised on February 18, 1960, that Advance was organized at a Founding Convention held in New York City on February 13 - 14, 1960. *u*

Another confidential source advised on March 2, 1960, that the Declaration of Principles, adopted at the Founding Convention of Advance, included the following pertinent points: a stand for peace and total disarmament; equal rights; anti-discrimination; struggles against forces of opposition to the Bill of Rights; an organized approach to Marxist theory; inform prospective applicants of the group's Declaration of Principles. This source stated that the Declaration of Principles was believed by the CP, USA Secretariat to be essentially the line of the National CP leadership. *u*

"The Worker," an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper, dated February 28, 1960, carried an article on page 14, entitled "New York City Marxist Youth Group Formed." This article lists four of the top officers of Advance, including JAKE ROSEN, MARVIN MARKMAN as Vice-Presidents, and MIKE STEIN as Educational Director. *u*



b7C

b7D

The first confidential source advised on March 8, 1960, that Advance maintains a headquarters in Room 636, at 799 Broadway, New York City, and is currently engaged in the formation of clubs in all boroughs of New York City. *u*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



b2

b7C

FBI

b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-13-96 BY SSA9803RDD/CAL

Date: 5/16/61

Transmit the following in 291,829 PLAIN  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-225892)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-79303)

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
RACIAL MATTERS

Classified by SP8 BT/BUT/2  
Declassify on: ADR  
10/2/87

Enclosed are the original and 7 copies of a letterhead memorandum. u

The confidential sources mentioned in enclosed letterhead memorandum are identified as follows: X

The confidential sources used in the characterization of Advance in the order of their use are: X

Information concerning picketing of Greyhound Bus Terminal by CORE on 5/17/61, was furnished to Detective [redacted], [redacted] on 5/16/61. u

- 3 - Bureau (100-225892) (Encl. 3) (RM)  
1 - NY (100-117708)  
1 - NY (100-120054)  
1 - NY (100-79303)  
JDB:mc  
(7)

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EXTENDED BY SA 16SK/KR 5/16/81  
REASON FOR EXTENSION  
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR  
CLASSIFICATION 5/16/81  
(414)

AGENCY

REQ. REC'D

DATE FORW.

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by

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EX-113  
CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: [signature]

Special Agent in Charge.

55 MAY 29 1961

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION  
ENCLOSED

UNITED STATES

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen *RW*

DATE: 5-22-61

FROM :

b7C

SUBJECT: FREEBUS *CORE*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*st*  
*ll*  
 of b7C  
 Staff, G-2, Department of the Army, called at 11 p.m., 5-22-61,  
 and inquired as to the present developments in Alabama. *U*

He was informed about the arrests of the four men  
 for the bus burning incident at Anniston, Alabama, on 5-14-61  
 and he stated that he was aware of this incident. He was  
 furnished the information that the latest reports from Alabama  
 indicated everything was peaceful. *U*

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*SP825/lowy*

10/21/87  
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 DATE 5/5/79 BY SP-PSK/  
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*Van*

REC-76

100 - 225892 -

5 MAY 24 1961

RBL:ljg  
 (5)

62 MAY 26 1961



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: May 16, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

8-13-96

SSA9803 RDD/CAL

291,829

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/8/09 BY SP-16SK/SA

10/2/10

SP-16SK/SA

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

With further reference to the activities of the Freedom Riders, SAC Bromwell of the New Orleans Office has advised that there were no incidents during the night. Members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) group stayed at Xavier University, a Negro school, and at private residences in the city. Bromwell advised that the New Orleans Police Department afforded the group very close coverage at the airport and has been giving protection to the members of the group during the day. New Orleans Police have indicated that they fully intend to afford protection to the members while they are in New Orleans. U

The CORE group has a closed meeting scheduled for today. The New Orleans Office does not have any information regarding any planned activity of demonstrations by the group for today. A large open meeting by CORE is scheduled for Wednesday night at the new Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans. U

The Greater New Orleans Citizens Council has a meeting scheduled at the New Orleans auditorium tonight 5/16/61. This meeting will be covered by the New Orleans Office through informants and Agents. New Orleans was previously instructed to cover meetings of the white citizens council by the Bureau in connection with integration of public schools of Orleans Parish. U

It is noted that the

\_\_\_\_\_ has previously stated to the newspapers that the CORE group "has come too far South. Violence and possible death can come because of this." U

b7C

## ACTION:

EX-114  
REC-76

New Orleans Office has been instructed to closely follow activities in New Orleans and to keep the Bureau fully advised of pertinent developments. U

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

5 MAY 24 1961

CLM:ers  
(11)

SIX

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INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/80 BY SP508/BJP  
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100-225892-264,265

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-34,22

JUN 7 1961

BC/vmc

✓



DATE: MAY 18 1967

BM:JLM:11h

SUBJECT: Unknown Subjects;  
[REDACTED] Victims  
Civil Rights

b7C

This will confirm telephoned request of [redacted] to Special Agent [redacted] for an investigation to determine the basis upon which [redacted] two of the so-called "freedom riders," were arrested and removed from a Greyhound Bus at North Birmingham, Alabama, on May 17, 1961. If charges were placed against them please determine their nature, and advise me of further developments in connection with the arrest of b7C

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-13-96 BY SSA9803RDD/ccl  
291.829

Turner & Ryan  
in memo 5/19/61  
C/M: RTE

REC- 22

100-225892-264

15 MAY 19 1961

EX-112

62 MAY 26 1961

100-225892

IN BIRMINGHAM THE [REDACTED] OF FREEDOM RIDERS WERE [REDACTED] MAIN ATTACKED DOCKED  
BY A MOB AND AT LEAST ONE FREEDOM RIDER HOSPITALIZED WITH SEVERE  
INJURIES.

ALABAMA MOB ACTION SEEKS BY VIOLENCE TO OBSTRUCT ENFORCEMENT  
OF THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THE IRENE MORGAN CASE OF 1946  
AND THE BOYNTON CASE OF 1960.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTERVENTION URGENTLY REQUIRED  
WE DEMAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ACT IMMEDIATELY TO  
SAFE GUARD THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC HIGHWAYS AND TO PROTECT  
INTERSTATE PASSENGERS INVESTIGATION OF ALABAMA VIOLENCE MUST  
BE MADE, AND ADEQUATE STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT OBSTRUCTIONS  
PREVENT OBSTRUCTION BY  
VIOLENCE OF THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THE MORGAN AND BOYNTON  
CASES.

REQUEST EARLY MEETING WITH YOU TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE MATTER

947A EDT MAY 15 61



8-13-96 SSA 9803 RDD/col  
291.829  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8 BTJ/BWJ

100-225892-267

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-29

JUN 7 1961

BC/vmc

C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen *Rosen*

DATE: May 18, 1961

FROM : [REDACTED]

b7C

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SF  
 LL

SUBJECT: FREEDOM RIDE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,  
 MAY 17, 1961, NATIONAL NON-VIOLENT FREEDOM  
 COMMITTEE; RACIAL MATTERS *CORE*

At 9:20 p.m., 5/18/61, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] telephoned this office and requested if any of the CORE group had criminal records. [REDACTED] said he was making this inquiry upon the request of Attorney General Kennedy. [REDACTED] advised that he was interested in the group of "Freedom Riders" that had been involved in the incident of 5/14/61. At 9:35 p.m., [REDACTED] was advised that [REDACTED] were possibility identical with two individuals of the same name that had been convicted to a six months Federal jail term for violation of a Federal Court injunction in that they sailed their ship into an Atomic bomb testing area in the Pacific Ocean. He was further advised that [REDACTED] was possibly identical with a [REDACTED] that had received a three year Federal sentence for failure to report for induction in New York City in approximately 1943. *u*

b7C

ACTION:

Mr. Rosen, Mr. Malley, [REDACTED] advised.  
 The above information furnished to [REDACTED] was received from Mr. Lavin *ML*

b7C

*107-2187 Sprague*  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE *9/8/79* BY *SP/RSK/...*  
*8-13-96 SSA9803RDD*

JJH:jlt  
 (6)

EX-112

REC-22

291,829

*100-225892*  
*S1*

MAY 24 1961

56 MAY 26 1961 *FBI*

100-225892



10/2/87 Spent/Buy  
8-13.96 SSA 9803 RDD/CHL  
291,829

100-225892-269,270

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-35,19

JUN 7 1961  
BC/vmc

C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen *R*

DATE: May 21, 1961

FROM :

b7C

SUBJECT: FREEDOM RIDERS, 1961

RACIAL MATTERS

DESTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT OR

MOTOR VEHICLES

CIVIL RIGHTS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

291,829

8-13-96  
SSA 9803 RDD/CAL  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

COR DATE 5/8/99 BY SP10CK/SP  
10/21/07 SP028/bw

William A. Geoghegan, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, appeared at the Bureau at 3:15 p.m., on May 21, 1961. Geoghegan said that the Attorney General had decided that the Government had made a strong show of force in Alabama and that now it was time to follow this up with arrests. He was desirous of obtaining the names of as many people as possible who could be arrested immediately in connection with the incidents in the State of Alabama.

Mr. Geoghegan was advised that the investigation being conducted by the Bureau had not been completed; therefore, full information regarding the participants was not available. He was advised that the Bureau would review the information available and furnish to the Department details which could be reviewed for a determination by the Department as to whether or not they desired to initiate any criminal action.

ACTION:

This request was brought to the attention of Messrs. Malley, Evans and Parsons. Mr. Rosen at Montgomery, Alabama, was telephonically advised of the Department's request and asked to furnish information developed by the offices. Information was also requested from SAC Jenkins in the Birmingham Office as to the current information which had been developed by that office and its investigations at Birmingham and Anniston.

CLM:bwd

(5)

REC-9

EX-114

100-225892-27

MAY 24 1961

XEROX  
JUN 6 1961

66 MAY 29 1961

file 100-225892

1684  
149  
149



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: May 21, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: FREEBUS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b7C

In response to a request from the Counter Intelligence Analysis Section, G-2, Department of the Army, [redacted]

Department of the Army, was telephonically contacted at the Pentagon and was furnished a brief run-down on occurrences which have taken place since May 4, 1961. U

He was furnished generally background concerning the bus burning incident at Anniston, Alabama, the Trailways mob scene action at Birmingham, Alabama, and the subsequent racial disturbance at Montgomery, Alabama. U

[redacted] was particularly interested in knowing whether or not there was any indication that the Communist Party was in any way behind the "Freedom Riders." He was advised that to date the Bureau has no information that the Communist Party in any way instigated or was behind the scenes in the racial disturbance. U

[redacted] was most appreciative of the information. U

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - [redacted]

RBL:mal:mcl  
 (11)

b7C

REC-9

100-225872-272

MAY 26 1961

XEROX

JUN 6 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 5/8/74 BY SP-105/H/SP

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**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-13

JUN 7 1961

BC/unc

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8BJ/bury  
8-13-96 SSA9803RAD/col  
291,829

C



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: May 20, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: FREEDOM RIDE 1961

RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES; CIVIL RIGHTS8-13-96  
SSA 9803 RDD/CAL 291 829

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/5/99 BY SP-10SK/K

SYNOPSIS

Tolson ☒  
 Parsons ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 Belmont ☒  
 Callahan ☒  
 Conrad ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Evans ☒  
 Malone ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Tavel ☒  
 Trotter ☒  
 W.C. Sullivan ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Ingram ☒  
 Gandy ☒

In connection with the Bureau's investigation of the two situations in Alabama involving the freedom riders, current developments reflect that investigation is developing witnesses who may possibly be in a position to substantiate the two violations involved. U

The first violation under investigation pertains to the burning of the bus at Anniston, Alabama, since this is a possible violation of Title 18, Section 33, which makes it a violation to interfere with any vehicle moving in interstate commerce. The second violation under investigation arising out of the same freedom ride is the possible civil rights violation at Birmingham, Alabama, which involves the violence at the Trailways station in Birmingham where certain of the group were beaten up. U

Current developments indicate that at Anniston a special squad of Agents assigned to this investigation have talked to radio station owner, one of the passengers on the bus and other persons who are in a position to furnish information concerning the destruction of the bus. U

At Birmingham the details will reflect that certain witnesses are available to identify participants in the violence which took place at the Trailways bus station. U

Investigation with reference to these two items is going forward on a most preferred basis. A special squad has been sent to the Birmingham Office to assist in running out this investigation as quickly as possible. U

The above relates to the group which initiated their freedom ride in Washington, D. C. They have been dispersed having reached their destination in New Orleans and are no longer involved in any freedom ride activity. U EX-116

A separate memorandum has been prepared pertaining to the current group which left Birmingham, Alabama, and who today proceeded U

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

AR:ers (9)

57 MAY 31 1961

XEROX Copies made by Wink  
 for review by Rowe Task Force  
 JUN 6 1961 Date 4/4/79 W  
 MAY 24 1961

COPY TO MR. TOLSON 100-225892

Memorandum for Mr. Parsons

to Montgomery, Alabama.

This is the group which initiated their so-called freedom ride out of Nashville, Tennessee on 5/17/61 which was, of course, subsequent to the initial group which started out in Washington, D. C., on 5/4/61. *u*

Details follow. *u*

*oh* *Jam* *d* *V. Key RE*

Copies made by  
for review by Rowe Task Force  
Date



Memorandum for Mr. Parsons  
Re: FREEDOM RIDE 1961

DETAILS

AT ANNISTON, ALABAMA

[redacted] radio station WDNG, Anniston, Alabama, identified the person in a photograph taken at the bus depot who was sitting on the pavement in front of the bus as the same individual who pounded on windows with his fists and shouted obscene remarks to the passengers. [redacted] stated that the same individual is one who beat upon and shattered bus windows with an object resembling a crowbar at the scene of the burning. It is believed this person is [redacted] and [redacted] is certain he could identify him if seen in person. *ala* b7C

[redacted] observed [redacted] *ala* a passenger, as he was struck on the head with a heavy log chain as [redacted] left the burning bus. He could not identify the wielder of the chain. [redacted] overheard some unknown person say, "Watch it now. We're going to have a smoke bomb in there." *u* b7C

*added in case file*  
[redacted] Alabama, has advised that he is the owner of a 1961 Ford, light blue pickup truck bearing Alabama license [redacted] admitted going to the Greyhound bus station at Anniston on May 14, but denied that he struck the bus. He admitted driving his truck in front of the bus for part of the distance from Anniston to the point where the bus burned but he denied impeding or obstructing bus. *u* b7C

[redacted] of the Greyhound Bus Company, Atlanta, has furnished information that a 1960 or 1961 pickup truck possibly a green Ford with Alabama license [redacted] cut in front of the bus, slammed on its brakes and obstructed the bus. *u* b7C

[redacted] a member of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) has positively identified the photograph of [redacted] as the person she observed smashing windows of the bus. *u* b7C

The Anniston Klavern of the Alabama Knights of the KKK held a meeting on 5-18-61 [redacted] At the start of the meeting as the password was given [redacted] by every person present, [redacted] whispered in reply, "Do not discuss Sunday." *u* b7C

Memorandum for Mr. Parsons  
Re: FREEDOM RIDE 1961

There were approximately 65 - 70 persons present at the meeting and Jack Brown, Grand Wizard of Dixie Klans, Chattanooga, Tennessee, spoke and complimented those present on their enthusiasm and size of the group. However, no mention was made of the 5-14-61 incidents at Anniston or Birmingham. Another visitor at the meeting also from Chattanooga was the Grand Dragon of Tennessee. A description of this individual is similar to an unidentified individual in a photograph in the bus depot Anniston, an individual who was carrying a chain in his right hand. Attempts are being made to identify this individual.

AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

[redacted] Birmingham News, believes that he can identify two persons he saw at the Trailways bus station on 5-14-61. U

b7C

[redacted] Birmingham News, states that he noted [redacted] City Cab Company, present at the Trailways bus station at Birmingham on 5-14-61 and that [redacted] is very close to [redacted] identified a tall thin white male who seemed to be directing the mob. [redacted] took three pictures of the mob beating reporter [redacted] and the tall thin man directed some of the men to demand the film of him. U

b7C

A 71 year old Negro, Johnnie Ayers who was struck about the face and eyes while standing on the street a block or two from the Trailways bus station, identified a photograph which appeared in the Birmingham News as [redacted] U

b7C

[redacted] of the Trailways Bus Terminal, both advised that no police officers arrived until about 4:25 or 4:30 p.m. when the mob action had ceased. Neither could identify any members of the mob. U

b7C



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/20 BY SSA 9803 RDD/CL

10/21/20 Sp8 RJ/Bury  
8-13-96 291,829

100-225892-275

**CHANGED TO**

100-225892-33-18

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107-1185 *Spry/Bury*  
8-13-96 SSAT803 RDD/CL  
291,829

100-225892-276, 277, 278, 279

## CHANGED TO

149-1684-31, 23  
100-225892-25-1  
149-1684-24

JUN 7 1961

*BAJ/mc*

NOV 14 1966

*mt-RD*



UNITED STATES (

## Memora

TO : Mr. Parsons

SSA 9803 RDD/coc  
8-13-96

DATE: May 18, 1961

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT:

6  
 CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
 "FREEDOM RIDE 1961"  
 RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
 AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLES

Parsons  
 Mohr  
 Belmont  
 Callahan  
 Conrad  
 DeLoach  
 Evans  
 Malone  
 Rosen  
 Tavel  
 Trotter  
 W.C. Sullivan  
 Tele. Room  
 Ingram  
 Gandy

291829 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/8/79 BY SP10SK/fm

10/21/87

SP8K/Bury

The Director has inquired concerning a school operated by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in Miami which teaches delegates the technique of creating situations similar to those presently going on in Alabama. The Director desired to know if the Bureau had any knowledge concerning this school. u

The school, known as CORE's Interracial Action Institute, was established in Miami in August, 1960. Classes were conducted at the Sir John Hotel, 276 Northwest Sixth Street, Miami. The school was established as a leadership school to train young Negroes who would return to their own communities to teach the tactics of fighting segregation. The curriculum consisted of teaching the students how to conduct sit-in demonstrations and actual practice was conducted in having them control their reflexes and to take abuse without any retaliatory action. Approximately thirty students attended this Institute which lasted for three weeks. Some white students also attended the Institute. u

One [redacted] of the Miami Chapter of the CORE is quoted as predicting that sit-ins would be staged during the session of the Institute. Sit-ins were conducted and various students from the Institute were jailed when the sit-in demonstrations were attempted in Miami. u

b7C

This information was furnished to the Department and interested intelligence agencies by memorandum 8/19/60. u

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

RBL:ers  
 (9)

REC-75

EX-116

MAY 25 1961

63 MAY 31 1961

100-225872

The Grayhound members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), while proceeding from Atlanta, Ga., to Birmingham, Alabama, 5/14/61, was halted by a group of men at Anniston, Alabama, and burned. A Trailways bus containing other members of CORE arrived at Birmingham, 5/14/61, and members of CORE were severely beaten at the bus station.

Birmingham and Anniston police authorities had been fully apprised of anticipated violence prior to the arrival of the above buses. The requested investigation is already being vigorously pursued by the Bureau.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8BJ/BW

DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8BJ/BW



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen *10/21/87 SP8 B. J. H.* DATE: May 16, 1961FROM :  *b7C* ALL INFORMATION CONTAINEDSUBJECT: *0* CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

"FREEDOM RIDE 1961"

RACIAL MATTERS; DESTRUCTION OF  
AIRCRAFT OR MOTOR VEHICLESDATE *5/18/79* BY *SP-10 KFL*

SSA 9803200/60

8-13.96

291.829

Tolson	_____
Parsons	_____
Mohr	_____
Belmont	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Malone	_____
Rosen	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

With reference to the activities of the Freedom Riders, SAC Bromwell of the New Orleans Office has advised that John Seigenthaler, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, had contacted the New Orleans Office. Mr. Seigenthaler furnished the identities of the fourteen members of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) who flew to New Orleans last night from Birmingham, Alabama. He identified these individuals as follows: *u*

White

Colored

--	--

Mr. Seigenthaler further advised that three representatives from the press also accompanied the above individuals on the flight to New Orleans. *u*

SAC Bromwell stated that Mr. Seigenthaler advised that he had proceeded to Birmingham on the specific instructions of the Attorney General because the Attorney General felt that additional violence in Birmingham was likely and that the presence of his personal representative on the scene might deter further violence. Seigenthaler plans to remain in New Orleans until members of the CORE group leave the city. He is presently staying in Room 609 of the Jung Hotel. *u*

SAC Bromwell advised that Agents of the New Orleans Office are interviewing those individuals who were aboard the Trailways bus in the Freedom. *u*

JGK:ers *ers*  
(10)

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Evans

REC- 25

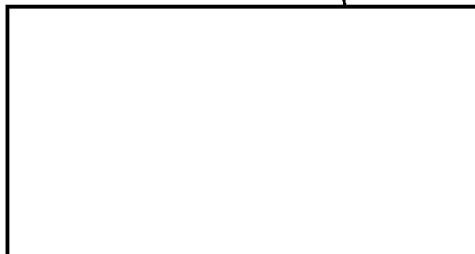
10 MAY 24 1961

58 JUN 1 1961

100-225892

Memorandum for Mr. Rosen

Ride 1961 and who were not previously interviewed by the Birmingham Office. These individuals include u



b7C

A press conference by members of CORE was to be held today at St. Michael's Dormitory, Xavier University, New Orleans. The large open meeting by CORE is still scheduled to be held Wednesday night at the new Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans. No demonstrations by members of the CORE group are planned in New Orleans at this time. u

According to SAC Bromwell Mr. Seigenthaler advised that [redacted] [redacted] Negro, a member of the CORE group participating in the Freedom Ride 1961, had been scheduled to fly with other members of the group to New Orleans on the evening of 5/15/61. [redacted] became ill at the airport awaiting passage on the plane, however, and consequently remained in Birmingham where he is temporarily staying at the residence of [redacted] [redacted] Birmingham Negro leader. u

b7C

ADDENDUM: (JGK:ers 5/16/61)

ASAC Joseph Sylvester of the New Orleans Office advised that United Press and Associated Press had contacted the New Orleans Office and stated that members of CORE had issued a statement to the press indicating that the FBI was conducting investigation into the incidents of violence in Alabama and members of CORE being interviewed by Bureau agents. ASAC Sylvester stated that any inquiries from the press in this connection would be answered by stating that certain inquiries were being conducted by the FBI to determine if a Federal violation had occurred in connection with the incidents in the State of Alabama. ASAC was referred to Mr. Kemper in Mr. DeLoach's office who approved this procedure in answering press inquiries concerning the matter. u



# TELEGRAM SPECIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/8/79 BY SP-1 GSK/HM

DOCKETED

MAY 15 1961

CVJUT252 WUB205 WA475

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 291.829 BY SSA 9803RDD/CL  
291.829

(TL DJ) LONG NL PD WASHINGTON DC 14

ROBERT KENNEDY

#7807

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

TODAY, MAY 14, ALABAMA MOB DEFIED THE SUPREME COURT IN THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION, AND SERVED NOTICE THAT NEGRO INTERSTATE BUS PASSENGERS MAY NOT TRAVEL WITH DIGNITY IN PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY EXCEPT AT RISK OF LIFE AND LIMB. ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS STOOD IDLY BY WHILE MOB OVER RULED THE LAW OF THE LAND AND DESSICATED THE FACE OF OUR NATION BEFORE THE WORLD.

TODAY, A GREYHOUND BUS TRAVELING FROM ATLANTA TO BIRMINGHAM WAS AMBUSHED OUTSIDE OF ANNISTON ALABAMA BY FIFTY WHITE MEN, ITS TIRES SLASHED, WINDOWS SMASHED, TEAR GAS HURLED INSIDE, AND THE BUS FINALLY SET AFIRE AND GUTTED BY FLAMES. AMONG THE PASSENGERS WERE SEVEN FREEDOM RIDERS, NEGRO AND WHITE, TRAVELING INTERSTATE TO THE SOUTH UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, NON-VIOLENTLY SEEKING UNSEGREGATED USE OF ALL FACILITIES CONNECTED WITH INTERSTATE BUS TRAVEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOYNTON CASE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT. ALL SEVEN FREEDOM RIDERS REQUIRED HOSPITALIZATION.

ONE HOUR LATER, SEVEN OTHER INTERSTATE FREEDOM RIDERS ON A TRAILWAYS BUS ALSO AT ANNISTON ALABAMA, WERE SEVERELY BEATEN BY EIGHT HOODLUMS INSIDE THE BUS AFTER NEGRO PASSENGERS FAILED TO MOVE TO REAR SEATS WHEN ORDERED TO DO SO BY THE BUS DRIVER IN VIOLATION OF THE 1946 SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THE IRENE MORGAN CASE POLICE ONCE AGAIN STOOD IDLY BY ARRIVING

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ADMIN. RECORDS BRANCH  
TELEGRAPH OFFICE

1961 MAY 15 AM 10:00

MAY 16 1961

GEN. LIT. SEC.

MAY 16 1961

ENCLOSURE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Director  
TO : Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

7M FROM : Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

BM:JLM:11h

144-1-554

SUBJECT: Congress of Racial Equality  
"Freedom Ride, 1961"  
Racial Matters; Destruction of  
Aircraft and Motor Vehicles

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-13-96 BY SSA 9803RDD/ccl  
291,829

I wish to refer to your memoranda of May 15 and 16, 1961, relating to this subject and to my discussions with Mr. Rosen concerning it. I understand that an investigation is under way and the purpose of this memorandum is to advise you of the nature and extent of this Division's interest in the matter.

In view of the racial characteristic of the incidents involved, this Division will assume jurisdiction over all possible violations of federal law growing out of the acts of those persons who impeded the members of the CORE delegation in the pursuit of their right to travel in interstate commerce, including the violation of 18 U.S.C. 33 involved in the destruction of the Greyhound bus at Anniston, Alabama. I also desire to have both the destruction of the Greyhound bus, above referred to, and the incident involving the fight on May 14 in the Trailways Bus Station at Birmingham, Alabama, completely investigated for possible violations of 18 U.S.C. 241 and 242. Such investigation should explore the possibility that law enforcement officers either participated in the acts of violence at Anniston and Birmingham or, although aware of the imminence or actuality of the unlawful acts of the mobs calculated to deprive the CORE members of their right to travel freely in interstate commerce, failed or refused to take prompt and effective action within their power to protect the victims in the free exercise and enjoyment of such right.

I am also attaching a copy of a telegram addressed to the Attorney General by [redacted] of CORE. As you will note, [redacted] alleges that Negro passengers were ordered to move to rear seats by a bus driver. This incident, since it appears to have been an integral part of the activities of the groups seeking to impede the CORE members in their journey, should also be included in the investigation.

XEROX  
JUN 6 1961  
VPS

ENCLOSURE  
33 MAY 31 1961

5/19/61 to BH  
RBL/JLT

REC-22

MAY 19 1961

7/1/61 100-225892

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 144-1684



This Division intends to file criminal informations promptly and to proceed at once to trial in the event your investigation establishes any violation of federal law and the identity of any of the violators.

The prompt cooperation I have received in this matter and the expeditious institution of the investigation are deeply appreciated.

*J*

4-520

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/21/87 BY SP8BJ/BWG

291,929  
8-13-96

SSA 9803RDD/col

100-225892-283

**CHANGED TO**

149-1684-25

JUN 7 1961

BC/vmc.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 4

Page 94 ~ Duplicate

Page 95 ~ Duplicate

Page 96 ~ Duplicate

Page 97 ~ Duplicate