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Malcolm X, 'American Lumumba'

By Seymour Freidin
 Executive Editor, Foreign News

LONDON.

The murder of Malcolm X, under prompt autopsy by medical experts abroad, has already produced startling portents.

Some of the more militant or suspiciously activist African regimes are passing word around through representatives at home and away that Malcolm X was an "American Lumumba."

Thus, he is being equated for martyr status in more volatile regions of Africa with the controversial, slain Patrice Lumumba. When the ousted Premier of the Congo was found murdered four years ago, African militants pointed an accusing finger at the West generally, and have since in-

vented the Lumumba image as part of folk legend.

In Western Europe, the assassination of Malcolm X is big news. Most people seem to feel a vendetta among Negroes, let alone extremists, is imminent. There has been raised also the specter that sinister white groups really masterminded the assassination.

Dead, Malcolm X has stirred more macabre interest and sparked more controversy than he could have created when alive.

This is the phase that bothers American officialdom in Europe and particularly in Africa.

When he was in Britain recently, Malcolm X made a deep impression, even on hostile interviewers. His unexpectedly careful manner of speech and decorum, even when he extolled black extremism, appeared to many to

mitigate his appeals to violence.

Dr. Martin Luther King remains, to Europeans, as the foremost personality in the Negro campaign for equality. The normal inclination on this side and on the Continent is to welcome intellectualism. Dr. King, his background, has insistence on non-violence and his recent Nobel prize give him towering stature over the extremists.

Yet few people, in Europe or Africa, are quite aware of the difference between Malcolm X and Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims. Most—and this is important—are gripped by a morbid fascination with the stories of deriding-do and armed preparations the extremist factions supposedly carried out.

For some time, Malcolm X also has been welcomed into the same tent with followers

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of Egypt's President ~~was~~. Devout Moslems have said, often enough, they are puzzled by the kind of Moham-medanism espoused by either Black Muslims or national-ists.

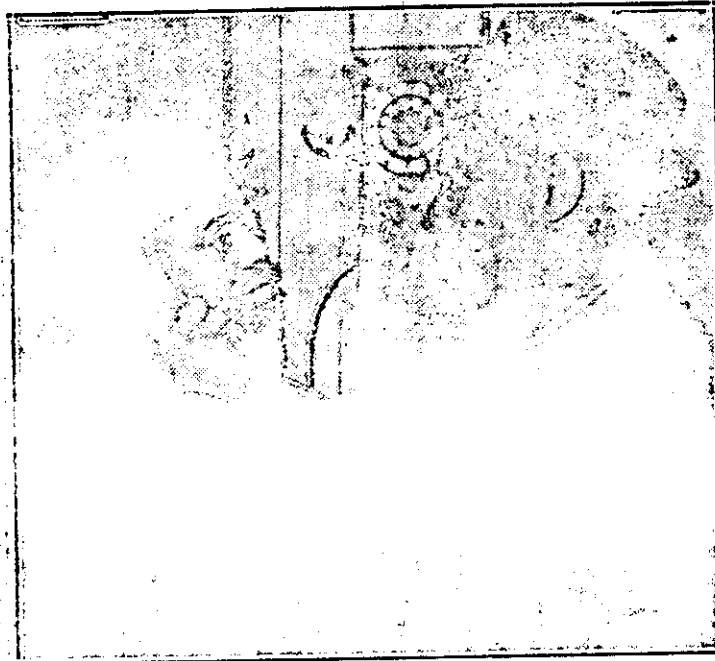
But Malcolm X made a solid impact with some of the more radical independent African regimes. His last tour took him, among other places, to Ghana, where he received a heady reception during his tour. Africans applauded his extremism.

The shocking fact is that many of the African voices hailing Malcolm X's views hold fairly similar ones. Most of the more prudent African men of state and officials condemned these views, but they are often drowned out in the clamor of the others.

The radicals among the independent Africans raised a storm France refused to permit Malcolm X to stay in Paris. He had to fly back to London immediately. Before leaving, he said he wouldn't give a plugged nickel for Gen. de Gaulle, anyway. The fuss subsided swiftly when the French took no notice.

However, notice—up to a point—has been taken in European newspapers and sociological assessments of Negro extremism in the cause of equality. Bombing of Black Muslim mosques and stories, real or fancied, of inexorable vengeance on Malcolm X's enemies are readily accepted as an essential and incompre-hensible facet of present-day America.

And the reverberation, deep-ly disturbing from parts of Africa, is that of Malcolm X as "the American Lumumba." It's a mocking image.



(NEWS foto by Alan Aaronson)
Mosque officials Joseph X (left) and Maceo X at scene of fire.

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Waiting for Malcolm

X's Legacy

FEAR, TENSION, CALL FOR PROBE

By Maurice C. Carroll
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

At the Harlem funeral home where the murdered Malcolm X lay in a \$2,100 glass-covered copper coffin there were bomb threats yesterday and long lines of silent mourners.

At the Black Muslim mosque fire-bombed in the early morning in apparent retaliation for the murder, and at potential trouble spots across the nation, there were guards and squads of investigators.

Amid the indications that the vendetta would be fought in the Negro fringe world that spawned it there were tow pleas. From a respected civil rights leader came an appeal for a White House investigation. From the man who heads the murder inquiry came an appeal for cooperation from silent Negro witnesses.

Out of fear or shock, the Black Nationalists who saw their leader assassinated were not talking to police, complained Assistant Chief Inspector Joseph W. Coyle. Only those wounded during the Sunday tumult ~~of~~

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statements of Malcolm's sect...

James Farmer, national director of CORE, said for a Federal...

Harlem, stunned by... and yesterday's...

There was an ominous spread of the trouble and the...

was little made public... the investigations...

...fear that the trouble would spread further...

"We don't know who did it," said Joseph X. an official...

...There are those who used to be with us and...

...talked with reporters in the office of the...

...who knew the truth said, could be...

was only a small hook on the fire door, he said; fire rules prohibited locking it.

"You must remember," he said, "we are dealing with second-story men."

But he did not say directly that he thought followers of Malcolm X were responsible for the fire bombing, which occurred despite hundreds of police reinforcements that had poured into Harlem.

He did say, as his leader Elijah Muhammad had said in Chicago the day before, that the Black Muslims had nothing to do with the public execution of their most famous dissident. "Our hands are clean," said Joseph X.

But hundreds of police, including more than 100 brawny members of the Tactical Force, stood by in Harlem, and hundreds of others were poised to join them. Within minutes after yesterday morning's five alarm 320 extra police from Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx were speeding to Manhattan's Negro ghetto.

One focal point of their worries was the Unity Funeral Home, 237 6th Ave., at 126th St., where Malcolm's body will lie in state Saturday. The announcement board listed "Al Hall" as the funeral director. Police set on wooden barricades outside, they searched all persons entering there, they inspected all floral wreaths for possible devices and they investigated a series of bomb threats yesterday.

One caller gave what he said

was his name—funeral director Joseph E. Hall said he recognized the name as that of a man he had buried some time ago—and said that "Malcolm won't be buried... he'll be cremated."

No end was in sight, it seemed clear, to the violence and retaliatory violence among Negro extremist groups that began Sunday with the gangland-style execution of Malcolm X.

There was a pale echo in San Francisco of the furious fire that destroyed the main Black Muslim mosque in New York. Someone threw kerosene on the door of the Muslim meeting place in San Francisco and lit it, but two patrolling policemen spotted the blaze quickly and damage was slight.

In Boston a man who broke with the Muslim movement said that heavy-weight champion Cassius Clay, who was recruited into the Muslims by Malcolm X, remained after Malcolm's death in danger from Malcolm's followers. "They will try to get back at Clay in some way to express their impression, with some kind of equal of Malcolm's national stature," said Aubrey Burnette. "Clay has that stature."

In Chicago police maintained a massive guard around the 19-room mansion of Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad. Alerted by reports that some of Malcolm's followers were

bound for Chicago to avenge their leader's assassination, police began guarding the Coliseum where some 7,000 Muslims are to gather Friday for a week-end convention at which Elijah is to speak.

In New York uniformed police and detectives watched potential trouble spots including other Muslim mosques at 105-05 Northern Blvd., Corona, and 119-09 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, both Queens.

Authorities braced to halt an escalation, in gangland or Tong War style, of the retaliatory violence apparently signaled by the mosque fire.

There had been a meeting in the mosque Monday but it ended before midnight and the four-story building stood dark and padlocked when the four-member police guard changed at 2 a. m. The mosque was one of the places where police stood by in fear that the murder of Malcolm X would start a bloody vendetta among Negro fringe groups.

"We came on at 2 a. m. and we checked all the doors," said Patrolman John L. Waterman of the 123d St. station. "At about 2:15 a. m. I heard a multiple explosion followed by glass falling on me. About 10 minutes later the flames broke out from the roof."

The corner of Lenox and 116th never really quieted and even in the icy early morning cold, spectators poured out from the nearby tenements and bars and restaurants.

The manager of the Holly-

... and Grill, 105 W. 113th St., said he and his partners heard a "vroom" sound. "We rushed to the scene," he said. "We saw glass coming down and flames shoot up."

As the flames towered above the blaz- ing building. At 2:30 the fire came in. Half an hour later the front wall collapsed, sending bricks onto a hook and ladder truck. Knocked down a ladder by the toppling wall through Siegfried Newman, was taken to Harlem Hospital, where he was listed in critical condition. Four other women suffered minor injuries.

At the newstand at the intersection, Melvin Shelton, 349 W. 85th St., was buying a newspaper when a brick struck him in the head. A thick wooden hood splintered about him against the wall, saved him from serious injury.

The fire was under control by 3:30 p. m. but firemen were still pouring water into the gutted bulk of the building all day afternoon.

The water cascading into the MTA station at Lenox and 113th forced closing of the station for much of the day. Full service was not restored until 3:40 p. m.

Even while the flames roared it became clear that this was no accident but the very retaliatory violence that police had feared.

Police found a paper bag

with traces of "some oily substance" on the roof of the building at 113 Lenox Ave., next door to the mosque.

Then in mid-morning, while ice crusted the gutted mosque building and made a slithery sheet out of the busy intersection, police searchers found an empty five-gallon tin that had contained gasoline or kerosene on the 113 Lenox Ave. roof.

The mosque building itself, smoky, shaky, choked with ice and rubble, defied early search efforts. A police team including a bomb squad member could not get above the first floor during a morning inspection.

This had been Malcolm's headquarters in the days when, as Elijah Muhammad's representative, he headed the Black Muslim movement in New York.

The fourth floor was used for meetings, the third as a temple. The second floor was vacant, the first occupied by five storefronts on 116th St. and three on Lenox Ave. One of the Lenox Ave. stores housed the clean and quiet little luncheonette where Muslims gathered.

The wide sidewalk in front of the luncheonette was the scene of the last public clash between the Muslims and the dissidents who followed Malcolm X after he broke with the organization in early 1964.

The break was ostensibly caused by Elijah Muhammad's silencing of Malcolm after the fiery New York leader made his "chickens coming home to roost" comment after the assassination of President Kennedy. But it was seen by some as an attempt to curb Malcolm, whose public eloquence and personal charm and availability had earned him the public attention that escaped the elusive and hard-to-meet Elijah Muhammad.

Outside the Muslim restaurant last June there had been a gunpoint confrontation between Malcolm's dissidents and the New York Muslims then headed by Minister James K.

Malcolm claimed then that his life was in danger.

It was a claim he made repeatedly and on Sunday, as he stood to address some 400 persons in the Audubon Ballroom, 166th St. and Broadway, it was borne out.

In what police called a "well planned maneuver," there was a diversionary scuffle and then bullets from at least two pistols and pellets from both barrels of a sawed-off shotgun were fired at the tall, bearded man on the two-foot-high stage. He toppled backward. His resonant voice, which moments before had uttered the Arabic words of greeting, "A salaam aleikom," was stilled forever.

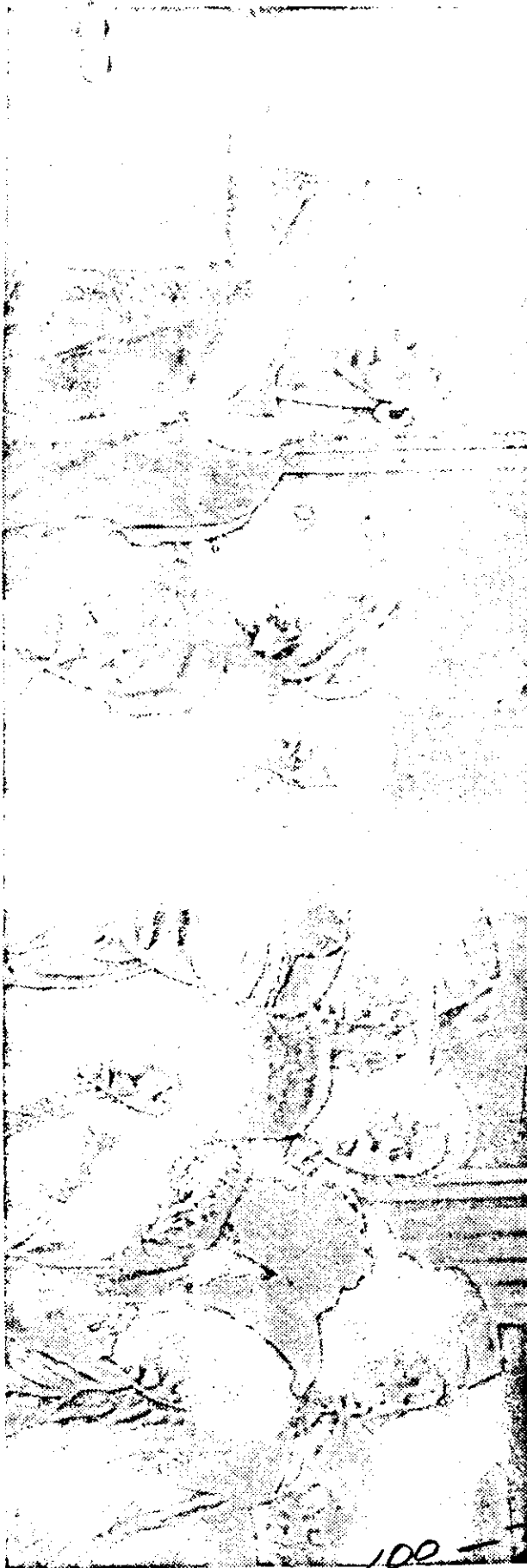
Only a week before the modest Elmhurst home where he lived with his wife and their four small children was burned by fire bombs.

Malcolm said repeatedly that the Muslims wanted him dead before their convention this coming weekend. There were rumors that he intended to read at the meeting where he was murdered the names of those he said planned to kill him.

His lawyer, State Assemblyman Percy Sutton, said later that he knew of the list. "I know who was on the list," said Mr. Sutton, "and so do the police."

HIS FOLLOWERS—These people waited in yesterday's bitter cold, they waited in silence, patient and brooding, to view the body of the slain Malcolm X.

Herald Tribune photo by JILL KREMPER/TX



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