WASHINGTON--CARL J. ROWAN, HEAD OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, SAID TODAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN "A HOST OF AFRICAN REACTIONS" TO THE SLAYING OF MALCOLM X THAT HAVE BEEN BASED ON "MISINFORMATION AND MISREPRESENTATIONS OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED."


ROWAN DECLARED THAT "THIS WILL COME AS RATHER STARTLING NEWS TO THOSE NEGRO LEADERS WHO KNOW THAT MALCOLM X AND HIS FOLLOWERS PREACHED NOT INTEGRATION, BUT BLACK SUPREMACY AND THE SEPARATION OF THE NEGRO."

THE USIA DIRECTOR, A NEGRO HIMSELF, DISCUSSED THE EFFORTS OF HIS AGENCY TO PRESENT THE FACTS SURROUNDING SUNDAY'S KILLING OF THE 39-YEAR-OLD MILITANT BLACK NATIONALIST, WHO SPOKE BEFORE THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION HERE.

ROWAN SAID "WHEN FIRST I HEARD OF MALCOLM X'S DEATH, I KNEW THAT THERE WAS REAL DANGER OF IT BEING GROSSLY MISCONSTRUED IN COUNTRIES WHERE THERE WAS A LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY HAD TAKEN PLACE, WHAT MALCOLM X WAS, WHAT HE STOOD FOR, OR WHAT WAS BEING ESPoused BY THOSE NEGROES WITH WHOM MALCOLM X WAS IN CONFLICT."

"THUS I ASKED MY COLLEAGUES IN THE AGENCY TO DO AN EXTRA-ZEALOUS JOB OF GETTING OUT THE FACTS, OF INFORMING THE WORLD IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT MINIMIZE DAMAGING REACTIONS BASED ON EMOTION, PREJUDICE AND MISINFORMATION."

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A ZEALOUS JOB WAS DONE "IT WAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH TO PREVENT A HOST OF AFRICAN REACTIONS BASED ON MISINFORMATION AND MISREPRESENTATIONS OF ISSUES INVOLVED."

"MIND YOU," HE SAID, "HERE WAS A NEGRO WHO PREACHED SEGREGATION AND RACE HATRED, KILLED BY ANOTHER NEGRO, PRESUMABLY FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION THAT PREACHES SEGREGATION AND RACE HATRED--AND NEITHER OF THEM REPRESENTATIVE OF MORE THAN A TINY MINORITY OF THE NEGRO POPULATION OF AMERICA."

HE QUOTED THE DAILY TIMES OF LAGOS, NIGERIA, AS SAYING "MALCOLM I WAS FOUGHT AND DIED FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE RIGHT. HE WILL HAVE A PLACE IN THE PALACE OF THE MARTYRED."