



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MOORISH TEMPLE

OF

AMERICA

PART 8 OF 8

BUFILE: 25-371604

Moorish Science Temple of America

(Noble Drew Ali)

Part 8 of 14 parts

HEADQUARTERS

25-371604

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO**

REPORT MADE AT BALTIMORE	DATE WHEN MADE 5-13-53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-5-53	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] <i>mio b7c</i>
TITLE MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA, INC.		CHARACTER OF CASE SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT OF 1948; SEDITION	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Officers of organization state they entered into an agreement with an official of the Defense Department and the Selective Service System whereby members of the organization coming up for induction should claim to be Conscientious Objectors in order to delay their induction and permit their case to pass to the "National level" where "each member's case could be individually handled and justice done". One hundred such cases, according to the Officers, are to be expected in the near future of which possibly only four or five are genuine Conscientious Objectors.

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The information set out in this report was obtained during the course of an investigation entitled: [REDACTED] and characterized Selective Service Act, 1948 - Conscientious Objector. During that investigation, the writer interviewed [REDACTED] - EL, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - EL, Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc. Statements made by these men to the writer caused the opening of instant case.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 25-371604-1	SE-11
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		MAY 18 1953	RECORDED - 11
③ - Bureau 3 - Chicago (61-293) (1 USA, Chicago) 2 - Baltimore (25-18253)			

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REFERENCE

[REDACTED] -EL. [REDACTED] advised that he is [REDACTED] of the Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc., whose main headquarters are in Chicago, Illinois. [REDACTED] EL said that the men who control the organization are [REDACTED] -EL. [REDACTED] Chicago.

[REDACTED] EL.

[REDACTED] Baltimore, [REDACTED] and himself, [REDACTED] EL.

[REDACTED] -EL continued by saying that the dominant purpose of his organization was to teach members of the colored race who joined the Temple that their true nationality was Moorish-American, their true race, the Asiatic race and their type religion, as set forth in the Holy Koran. He explained this further by saying that there are only two true races, the European race which is light skinned and the Asiatic race which is dark skinned. The dark skinned people who were brought over to the North American continent as slaves in the 18th Century were actually Moors from Morocco, Africa and were drawn from two tribes, the EL tribe and the Bey tribe. After being sold into captivity, the Moors were separated, the family groups broken up, their tribal names taken away and their captor's names forced upon them. The Moors also lost their religion and had the Christian religion forced upon them. When a man joins the Moorish Science Temple, the Divine Minister determines whether he came from the EL tribe or the Bey tribe originally and gives him back his true name, thus [REDACTED] becomes [REDACTED] -EL since his ancestors were of the EL tribe. His religion which is drawn from the Holy Koran, is likewise restored to him.

[REDACTED] EL said that in registering for the draft and in serving with the Armed Forces, some members of the Moorish Science Temple had been "classified" as negroes. This was not only incorrect since the men so described were actually Moorish-Americans but also wrong morally since the word "Negro" means slave and does not describe a man's nationality

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correctly but only indicates his condition. The word "Negro" is also used in the Armed Forces and Selective Service System in some places to describe a man's race. This also is wrong since there are only two races, the European and the Asiatic.

Due to the situations which arose during World War II and later concerning incorrect National and racial "classifications" of members of the Moorish Science Temple, frequent discussions took place as to the proper handling of the situations as they arose. In the latter part of 1951,

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██████████ EL had discussions with ██████████ Assistant to General HERSHEY, Director of Selective Service, and discussions with JAMES C. EVANS, Assistant Secretary of Defense, the latter having his office in the Pentagon Building in Washington, D.C. In these discussions, according to ██████████ EL, it was decided that, pending the passing of a law which would compel the Selective Service and the Armed Forces to correctly "classify" members of the Moorish Science Temple as Moorish-Americans and Asiatics, rather than Negroes, the members who were coming up for induction should declare themselves to be conscientious objectors. ██████████ EL said that this decision was reached as the best solution since it would delay the induction of men and thus give more time for the Defense Department and the Selective Service System "to pass laws" so that members of the Temple could be correctly described as to race and nationality. It would also pass the case up to the "National level" at Washington, D.C. where, "it was better understood".

██████████ EL pointed out that certain sections of the Holy Koran, the Bible of the members of the Temple, has passages in it which would give authenticity to the members claim of being conscientious objectors. The passages referred to are from the teachings of Jesus, one of the Prophets, which teachings, according to ██████████ EL say, in essence, that all men contain the spirit of God and to harm your fellow man is to do wrong against God. ██████████ EL showed the writer some printed matter which he stated to be an extract from the Holy Koran and part of the teachings of

Jesus. This said, "It is cruelty that makes the world awry, when men have learned that when they harm a living thing, they harm themselves, they surely will not kill, nor cause a thing that Allah has made to suffer pain."

[REDACTED] EL said that the claim by members of the Moorish Science Temple to be conscientious objectors was merely a device to delay their induction, that members of the Temple are not pacifists and if correctly described as Moorish-Americans would be glad to serve in the Armed Forces.

[REDACTED] EL was asked by the writer how he could reconcile the pacifist teachings of the Prophet Jesus with the alleged willingness of the members of the Moorish Science Temple to serve in the Armed Forces if "correctly" designated as to nationality and race. [REDACTED] EL replied that "Jesus means Justice" and that if justice were done and the men "Rightly classified" as Moorish-Americans and Asiatics, the teachings of Jesus would be "satisfied" and the men could serve.

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Following the alleged agreement between [REDACTED] EL and [REDACTED] and between [REDACTED] EL and Mr. EVANS, a meeting of the Adept Chamber of the Moorish Science Temple was held at 1221 Myrtle Street on January 4, 1952. Three of the four "Heads" of the Temple were present, the only one absent being [REDACTED] EL. In that meeting the Adept Chamber, which consists of the "Heads of the Moorish Science Temple", assented to the "agreement" and [REDACTED] EL was told to notify the young men coming up for induction to put in a claim as conscientious objectors.

Following the above meeting of the Adept Chamber, [REDACTED] EL sent letters to [REDACTED] and Mr. EVANS setting forth the results of the meeting and thus confirming the "agreement".

[REDACTED] EL recalled, in further reference to this "agreement", that on April 23, 1952, he had a telephone conversation with Mr. EVANS concerning proper description of the members of the Temple so far as race and nationality were concerned. Mr. EVANS said, "Don't you think the men

would make better time if they applied as conscientious objectors?" [REDACTED] EL then reminded him that they had already come to that conclusion through discussion and Mr. EVANS replied that he did recall it and had "at hand" [REDACTED] EL's letter setting forth the results of the January 4, 1952, meeting of the Adept Chamber of the Temple.

[REDACTED] EL explained Mr. EVANS' remark "make better time" by saying that pending the passing of a law which would correctly "classify" the members of the Temple as Moorish-Americans and Asiatics, it would be more "practical" to keep them out of the hands of the Armed Forces and within the structure of the Selective Service. As their cases were turned down by Local Board, members would appeal to State Headquarters. After being turned down by the State Board the members would appeal to the National Board. There, "on the National level each member's case could be individually handled and justice done". [REDACTED] EL said that at the top level of Selective Service in Washington, the peculiar problems of the Moorish-American are understood and by getting his selective service case to Washington, D.C., a member of the Temple can be assured of assistance in being correctly "classified" as an Asiatic and Moorish-American in the Armed Forces.

[REDACTED] EL said, in closing, that as soon as members of the Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc., were recognized as Moorish-Americans and Asiatics by both Selective Service and the Armed Forces, the Heads of the Temple would direct the young men in their organization to withdraw their claim as conscientious objectors and to go forth and serve in the Armed Forces.

Following the interview with [REDACTED] EL, the writer contacted [REDACTED] EL, [REDACTED] who stated that he is the [REDACTED] of the Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc., [REDACTED] of that organization. He repeated the statements of [REDACTED] EL that the dominant purpose of

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the organization was to teach members of the colored race who joined the Temple that they are Moorish-Americans and Asiatics and that their true religion is drawn from the Koran. He said that he and ██████████-EL attended numerous meetings in Washington, D.C., prior to 1952, in which they discussed the problem of the "Moorish-American" with people from the Department of Justice, Selective Service and Department of Defense. He specifically recalled meetings with Mr. JAMES EVANS of the Defense Department and ██████████ of Selective Service. He recalled that as a result of "agreements" with the two latter individuals which were made on an individual basis with each, it was decided that members of the Temple who were coming up for induction, should plead as conscientious objectors as a "means of deferring their induction". As a result of this arrangement, each member's case would be appealed finally to National Headquarters of Selective Service where the situation of the "Moorish-American" was understood and "justice done". He emphasized that it was expected that Local and State Appeal Boards would turn down the claims of the members that they were conscientious objectors.

The writer asked ██████████-EL whether there were any members of the Temple who were in fact true pacifists and who did not want to injure their fellow men because of religious training and belief and who did not want to serve in the Armed Forces either as combatant or non-combatant. ██████████-EL replied that there might be a few who took the teachings of the Prophet Jesus completely to heart and who did not want to serve in the Armed Forces because of belief in the teachings of Jesus. He continued, however, by saying that the agreement entered into with EVANS and ██████████ did not concern such individuals and only applied to members who wanted to be "correctly described" as Moorish-Americans while serving in the Armed Forces. He said that in Chicago, Illinois, some members had succeeded in getting papers from Morocco in Africa which stated that the ancestors of these members were Moors. On the basis of these papers, the men received correct classification as "Moorish-Americans" and submitted to induction into the Armed Forces without demur.

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It is noted that at the conclusion of the interview, between [REDACTED] EL and the writer, [REDACTED] EL appeared. The writer asked a question of the two men as to how many conscientious objector cases could be expected in the near future from members of the Temple coming up for induction. [REDACTED] EL said about one hundred could be expected in the near future of which possibly only four or five were genuine conscientious objectors, the rest putting in the claim merely to delay their induction. This figure was assented to by [REDACTED] EL.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Chicago is being designated as Office of Origin in view of the fact that Chicago is the National Headquarters of the Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc., and in view of the additional fact that last reports on this organization under similar characterizations indicated Chicago to be the office of origin.

In accordance with the directions given in the Manual of Instructions, Part III, Section 90 F (6) (a) no active investigation will be conducted by the Baltimore Office on this matter pending authorization by the Bureau.

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The information set out in this report, as has been previously stated, was obtained during the course of an investigation entitled: [REDACTED] characterized Selective Service Act, 1948 - Conscientious Objector, Baltimore File [REDACTED]. The pertinent report is by SA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] dated April 30, 1953, at Baltimore.

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

5/27/53

AIRTEL AIR MAIL

Transmit the following message to:

SAC, CHICAGO

MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA, INC., [REDACTED] DASH EL, [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] DASH EL, [REDACTED] DASH EL, SSA FORTY EIGHT, SEDITION.
 REREP SA [REDACTED] BALTIMORE, MAY THIRTEEN, FIFTY THREE. REVIEW
 THE REPORTS IN THE CASE OF [REDACTED] SSA FORTY EIGHT,
 CO, AND SUBMIT A SUMMARY REPORT CONTAINING ALL FACTS RE POSSIBLE CRIMINAL
 VIOLATION IN INSTANT CASE. YOU HAVE ALL PERTINENT REPORTS. DO NOT
 INCLUDE INFORMATION IN REFERENCED REPORT. UPON THE RECEIPT OF THIS SUMMARY
 REPORT THIS MATTER WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE
 DEPT. TO DETERMINE IF THEY DESIRE ANY FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

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BOOVER

CC - 1-BALTIMORE (MAIL) (INFO)
 1-SAVANNAH (MAIL) (INFO)
 1-WASHINGTON FIELD (BSM)

RECORDED - 103

25-371604-1

[REDACTED] pm 3:21

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- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

MAILED 2
 MAY 27 1953
 COMM-FBI

63 JUN 2 1953

RECEIVED
 FBI
 RECEIVED MAY 27 1953

[REDACTED]
 b7c
 [REDACTED]

SENT VIA _____ M Per _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-25889)

DATE: May 29, 1953

FROM : SAC, Chicago (61-293)

SUBJECT: MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA, INC.,
[redacted] - EL; [redacted] - EL;
[redacted] EL
SSA, 1948; SEDITION

ReBuairtel May 27, 1953.

It is assumed from re Bu airtel that the Bureau desires the summary report to be submitted bearing the above caption and to be confined to the information contained in reports and other correspondence appearing in the case entitled [redacted] SSN [redacted] SSA, 1948 - CO, in which Savannah is origin.

Therefore UACB, this report will be submitted as above indicated.

[redacted] MRS

lcc: Savannah [redacted]

RECORDED - 110

25-371604-2

JUN 1 1953

b7c [redacted]

JUN 8 1953

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO**

FILE NO. **67c**

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE 7/17/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/4, 7/53	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] cjr
TITLE MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA, INC., [REDACTED] - EL; [REDACTED] - EL;			CHARACTER OF CASE SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT OF 1948; SEDITION

NON-PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA INC - SUMMARY
 SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **ILL.**

[REDACTED] registered at Manning, South Carolina, was classified **1-A**, and found physically acceptable for service. He requested **1-W** classification on **12/5/52**, claiming to be **CO** as member of Moorish Science Temple of America. **[REDACTED] - EL** advised he does not know what agreement was reached between other leaders of the Temple and Army officers. **[REDACTED]** advised he does not teach members to be **COs**. Signed statements of **[REDACTED]** and **[REDACTED]** outlining teachings and advice of Moorish Science Temple officers, were obtained and set forth.

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Investigation at the Savannah Division indicates that **[REDACTED]** registered with Selective Service Board Number **14**, Manning, South Carolina. He was classified **1-A** on **[REDACTED]** 1951, **4-F** on **[REDACTED]** 1951, and **1-A** again on **[REDACTED]** 1952. He was found acceptable by the Armed Forces Induction Station at Columbia, South Carolina, on **[REDACTED]** 1952. On **[REDACTED]** 1952, he requested **1-W** classification, advising his Selective Service Board that he is a member of the Moorish Science Temple of America and as such is a conscientious objector to war. **[REDACTED]** at this time that the officers of the Moorish Science Temple are as follows:

[REDACTED] - EL, [REDACTED] Baltimore, Maryland, [REDACTED]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	25-37464-3	RECORDED - 90
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CG 61-293

[redacted] EL, [redacted] Baltimore, Maryland, National Business Manager.

[redacted] - EL, [redacted] Chicago, Illinois, National Chairman and Divine Minister.

[redacted] - EL, who claims to be [redacted] the Moorish Science Temple of America, and who resides at [redacted] Chicago, was interviewed on May 5, 1953, by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] and he advised that he knew [redacted] - EL had carried on discussions with [redacted] regarding "proper" classification of Moorish Science Temple of America members, but he was of the opinion that nothing definite had been agreed upon in the meetings. [redacted] EL was also questioned regarding the teachings in connection with conscientious objection to war and he stated that as far as he was concerned he did not teach anything about conscientious objection to war. He explained that he reads passages from the Divine Constitution and Bylaws of Moorish Americans and from a book called the Koran, which was written by the founder of the Temple. He continued that he does not explain what he reads but lets the members listen and draw their own conclusions.

[redacted] and [redacted] both friends of [redacted] were interviewed by SA [redacted] at Greelyville, South Carolina. [redacted] was interviewed on March 30 and [redacted] on April 17, 1953. They both furnished information which was reduced to the following signed statements.

"3/30/53
Greelyville, S. C.

"I [redacted] do make the following statement to [redacted] whom I know to be a Special Agent of the FBI. I know that I don't have to make a statement unless I desire to.

[redacted]
[redacted] I am in the 11th grade at school.

"I went to Baltimore, Md about June 6, 1952 with [redacted] and [redacted] We went to work in [redacted]

Baltimore. On July 23, 1952 we then united with Moorish Science Temple of America and attended meetings twice a week. We became connected through our contact with [REDACTED] El [REDACTED] was a member. We stayed in Baltimore until October, 1952 and attended meetings during our stay. During these meetings [REDACTED] El was in charge of meeting and we discussed many things, including serving in the Armed Services.

"Sometime on Sunday afternoons [REDACTED] El would visit with us and we discussed the services. He told us when we registered for the Local Draft Board to say we were a conscientious objector due to being a member of the Moorish Science Temple. He didn't say this would keep us out. But according to the laws of the Moorish Temple it says we can't fight and not supposed to kill.

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"When we then left Baltimore, [REDACTED] El, put [REDACTED] in charge of our organization at home and he instructed us to have meetings. We now have meetings twice a week at [REDACTED] home. We invite other people in to the meetings - at the meetings we read the Holy Koran and Moorish literature and explains the Moorish questionnaire. We also practice singing. We do not as yet have any new members. This connection with the Moorish Temple permits us to go to Church anywhere we want to.

"Since we got home [REDACTED] has been to see us twice. On his last trip he told me how to fill out my questionnaire when I got it from the L.B. He also told [REDACTED] what to do. He told [REDACTED] to tell the L.B. about his beliefs cause [REDACTED] already been examined.

"I have already registered with the L. B. in Kingston and claimed to be a C.O.

"The above is true and correct to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED] El.

"Greeleyville, S.C.
April 17, 1953

"I [redacted] (Bey) do make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be a Special Agent of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made to me to get this information.

"I went to Baltimore on June 7, 1952 with [redacted] and [redacted] to work. While in Baltimore we joined up with the Moorish Science Temple and attended meetings there three times a week. We three returned to Greeleyville, S. C. about middle of September, 1952. While in Baltimore [redacted] had the word "El" added to his name by [redacted] of Moorish Science Temple. [redacted] had "El" added to his name. I had "Bey" added to my name.

"While in Baltimore, [redacted] of Moorish Science Temple, talked to all three of us about what to do when we had to register for the Selective Service. He said to us to put down our full name, nationality, & race, and add our Moorish Temple name, either "El" or "Bey". He said do nothing further until we passed the physical examination and then to state we were Conscientious objectors because the Bible states "Thou shalt not kill". When we returned from Baltimore we got [redacted] to come with us. He came and stayed a couple of days and went to the Local Board at Manning and talked about [redacted]. He was back on a visit about November, 1952 and I saw him again. I am now only [redacted] years of age, will be [redacted] and intend to register for the Selective Service at that time and comply with instructions of [redacted].

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"We have meetings two times per Wk now at [redacted] home. [redacted] reads the Holy Koran to us. We pay 50¢ per month and are going to send the money to the temple. The above is true and correct to the best of my recollection.

/s/ [redacted] Bey

WITNESSED:

[redacted] SA, FBI
Savannah, Ga."

[redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted] at Greelyville, South Carolina on May 4, 1953 and furnished information which was reduced to the following signed statement:

"Greelyville, S.C.
May 4, 1953

"I, [redacted] EL do make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be a Special Agent of the FBI. No threats or promises have been made to me in order to get this information. I am aware that this information can be used in a Court of Law or an official hearing concerning me.

"I am [redacted] yrs. of age, born [redacted] I now live at Greelyville, S.C. and attend the Williamsburg County Training School at Greelyville, S.C.

"I registered under the Selective Service and Training act at Manning, S.C. on [redacted] 50 as [redacted] At that time I said nothing about my objections to war. Later I got my questionnaire, I executed it and said nothing about my objection to war.

"Sometime in June, 1952 I went to Baltimore, Maryland to work. I met brother [redacted] EL at Baltimore [redacted]

He asked me and other members of the quartet to attend the Moorish Science Temple of America which is located at 1221 Myrtle Ave. in Baltimore. The presiding [redacted] at the temple was brother [redacted]

EL, the [redacted] EL. I joined the temple and was given four cards, the four cards cost \$1.25. I attended services at the temple during my stay in Baltimore. I returned to Greelyville, S. C. in Sept. 1952. The teachings in the temple were to the effect that we were not members of the negro race, but of the Asiatic race, further that if we were Asiatics we would get more rights as a Citizen than if we were classed as being of the negro race. We were also taught from the temple's Bible which is the Holy Koran which teaches love, truth, peace, freedom and justice, also the 40th chapter of the Holy Koran says men and birds, beast or the like made flesh idea that you kill anything.

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"Both [redacted] and [redacted] EL instructed the member who had registered and those who were to register for the Selective Service and training act to be examined and then upon receiving a 1A classification card to then file with the Local Board a claim of being a Conscientious Objector on the grounds of the teaching of the Holy Koran.

"When I received my 1A classification card from LB #14 at Manning, S.C. I then went to the LB and told the man in charge that I came to make an appeal on being a Conscientious Objector. He said he would furnish me a form to make my claim. He did and I submitted it.

[redacted] EL has visited me once since I left Baltimore and discussed with me my Selective Service matter.

"If the Local Board classed me as a member of the Asiatic race I would have to discuss the matter with Brother [redacted] EL before I could decide what to do.

"My only objection to going into the Armed Service is on the grounds of the teaching of the Holy Koran.

"The questionnaire of the Holy Koran furnishes answers for members of the Moorish Science Temple to give when asked about the Asiatic race.

[redacted] EL has discussed with me and others what we should say when interviewed or questioned on Selective Service matters. It is my understanding in being a member of the Moorish Science Temple of America that I can not make a decision on the Selective Service matter until I receive instructions from the temple. This is not a part of the teaching but a part of my agreement when I joined up.

"Since I returned to Greelyville, S.C. I have weekly had 2 meetings at my home of the temple and used the Holy Koran. I also instruct prospective members who sometimes attend that we are not members of the negro race, but are members of the Asiatic race. I further tell them that we would get more benefit as a Citizen in being

Asiatics than in being negroes. These benefits would be that the Government would recognize us more and the people of the country would recognize us more. [redacted] also said that if we claimed ourselves to be Asiatics it would keep us from having to fight in the war, where if we claimed to be a negro we would have to fight. He said if we were Asiatics we would not have to go to war. [redacted] told us to wear our jewelry (ring-button & Fez in meetings) to show we were Asiatics and not negroes.

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"As to whether I object to joining the armed services I can not answer this question until I get some advice from [redacted] EL. Everything that the Local Board does concerning my registration I have instructions to advise [redacted] EL. I get my instructions from the temple and am not free to make my own decision.

"The above 5 and portion pages have been read by me. The information is true and correct to the best of my recollection.

/s/ [redacted] EL.

Witnessed:

[redacted] SA, FBI.
Savannah, Ga.

CG 61-293

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Letter from Savannah to Baltimore dated March 24, 1953.
Report of SA [REDACTED] dated April 14, 1953, at
Chicago. *15-3106-1*
b7c Report of [REDACTED] dated April 30, 1953, at
Savannah. *15-3106-1*
Report of [REDACTED] dated May 8, 1953, at
Savannah. *15-3106-1*
Bureau Airtel to Chicago dated May 27, 1953. *15-371604-1*

25-3714 3

RECORDED 188

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III
Criminal Division

July 29, 1953

Director, FBI

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MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA, INC.,
[REDACTED] - EL; [REDACTED] - EL;
SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT, 1948;
SEDITION

b7c

I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of
Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 12, 1953, at Chicago,
and report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 13, 1953,
at Baltimore. Also enclosed is a report of [REDACTED] dated
May 12, 1953, at Washington, D. C., entitled [REDACTED]
Aka [REDACTED] EL, SSN [REDACTED]
SSA #48, C.O.

Please advise if prosecution authorized or further
investigation desired.

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Harbo _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Laughlin _____
- Nease _____
- Tate _____
- Tele. Rm. _____
- Holloman _____

Enclosure COMM - FBI
JUL 29 1953
MAILED 30

AUG 24 1953 312

[REDACTED]

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: September 21 1953

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA, INC.

SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT, 1948
SEDITION

25-20-294
25-23-2533

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

This refers to your memorandum of July 29, 1953 requesting an opinion from this Division as to whether prosecution of the above subjects will be authorized or whether further investigation is desired.

The investigative reports which you submitted have been reviewed and it is the opinion of this Division that prosecution for violation of the Universal Military Training and Service Act is not warranted at this time. This opinion is based on the fact that the subjects while instructing members of the Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc. to claim to be conscientious objectors did not counsel them to evade service other than by the exercise of a right granted under the provisions of this Act. Neither does it appear that there has been a violation of the sedition statutes, since subjects' activities were not directed toward members of the military or naval forces of the United States, as defined by the statute.

If, however, during the course of any subsequent investigation additional information should come to your attention indicating a possible violation of the statutes on the part of the subjects the Criminal Division will be glad to re-examine this matter in the light of such development.

b6,
b7c
(CRIMINAL
DIV, DOJ.)

9/25/53
acc - Chicago
0125 - for info
1/6/54

RECORDED-57

EX - 122

25-37404-4

SEP 26 1953

50 OCT 5 1953

372



RECEIVED PROCESSING
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HEADQUARTERS
66-2542-3-9

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F B I

Date: 3/29/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-8441)
FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-2377) (C)
SUBJECT: ~~CHANGED~~
~~MORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA;~~
[REDACTED]
RM [REDACTED]
OO: CHICAGO

112480 SP-16 SKW

b7c

Title is marked changed to reflect true name of organization.

Re Chicago airtel and LHM captioned [REDACTED] dated 12/19/67 and Chicago airtel dated 3/5/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM suitable for dissemination.

A copy of this LHM is being furnished to USA, Chicago, Secret Service, Chicago, and Region 1, 113th MI Group, Evanston, Illinois.

b7d The confidential source is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 11)
- 4 - Chicago (1-157-413)
- (1- [REDACTED])

ENCLOSURE MCT-39

REC-110 ADD. DISSEMINATION.

157-8441-3

APR 1 1968

AGENCY: ACSI, NIC, OSI, SEC. SERV.

DEPT: ISD, ORD, RAO, I, DEU

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

HOW FORW: [REDACTED]
DATE FORW: 4-16-68
BY: [REDACTED] Sent [REDACTED] Per [REDACTED]

RACIA [REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois

March 29, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 157-2377

11/24/80

SP-16SK/jk

MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE
OF AMERICA;

b7c

[REDACTED]

Reference is made to Chicago memorandum dated
December 19, 1967, captioned [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

Charles Kirkman Bey, Supreme Grand Adviser, and Moderator, Moorish Science Temple of America (MSTA), 1042 North Franklin Street, formerly located 1104 North Sedgwick and 1032 North Orleans, Chicago, was interviewed on February 5, 1957. Kirkman Bey stated he is the leader of the MSTA, a religious group; also that the MSTA is a religious corporation incorporated on July 20, 1928, in Illinois, and is a religious society and sect, adhering to and deriving its authority and power from the Great Koran of Mohammed and teaching and propagating that faith and extending the learning and the truth of the Great Prophet Ali in America, appointing and consecrating missionaries of the Prophet and establishing the faith of Mohammed in America. He stated the Constitution of the National organization of the MSTA provides that its members shall comply with the laws of the United States. He related that this organization has branches throughout the United States, each one chartered in the state where located, which adhere to the same beliefs.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

157-8441-3

MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE
OF AMERICA;

b7c [REDACTED]

He further stated that all members are instructed to register for Selective Service and obey the laws of the United States. According to Kirkman Bey he himself was registered with Selective Service during World War II and his son served in the Navy and fought at the battle of Midway.

b7c Kirkman Bey related ^{ll} there were two organizations on the South Side of Chicago using the same name, MSTA, one under the leadership of [REDACTED] El, and the other under the leadership of [REDACTED] El. He stated these organizations, which also have branches around the country, have no connection whatsoever with his group. He stated he went to court several years ago claiming infringement by these two organizations and obtained a judgment against them. He stated one of these groups formerly had a branch in Philadelphia known as the MSTA, Temple Number 11, John Givens branch.

Kirkman Bey also advised that his group is in no way affiliated with the Nation of Islam formerly known as the Muslim Cult of Islam.

b7c [REDACTED]

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**MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE
OF AMERICA;
HENRY ANDERSON**

The following agencies are being furnished a copy of the memorandum:

United States Attorney, Chicago, Illinois.

United States Secret Service, Chicago, Illinois.

Region 1, 113th Military Intelligence Group,
Evanston, Illinois.

A characterization of the Nation of Islam is attached as an appendix hereto.

1.

APPENDIX

NATION OF ISLAM, Formerly referred to as the Muslim Cult of Islam, also known as Muhammad's Temples of Islam

In January, 1957, a source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On May 5, 1967, a second source advised ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960 MUHAMMAD and other NOI officials, when referring to MUHAMMAD's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. MUHAMMAD claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following MUHAMMAD's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including MUHAMMAD, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised MUHAMMAD had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 2, 1966, a third source advised MUHAMMAD had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to MUHAMMAD, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.