

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1202154-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 1
Page 31 ~ Duplicate;

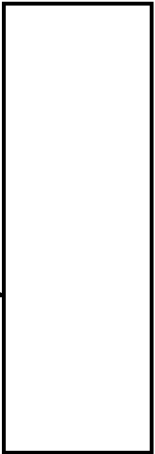
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X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



William Kunstler, Lawyer
For Russell Means and Dennis Banks
Saint Paul, Minnesota

b6
b7c

9-18469-1



Dear Sir: If you and Banks
and Means and others like
you are at all concerned about
your physical welfare, stay away
from Pine Ridge and other Reser-
vations. There are plenty of
Indians who are waiting for
the chance to pull the trigger
and no advance warning will
be given. This is not an idle
threat.

(Title) _____

(File No.) _____

Date Filed		Disposition
5/20/74	(1) ^{envelope} Threatening Letter to <u>Kunster</u> . Postmarked April 26, 1974	Sent via 5/22/74 with Return 6/19/74 sh



9-1842-1A

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAY 2 1974	
FBI - [illegible]	

Handwritten initials: *RC*

File No. 9-1842

Date Received 5-20-74

From William M. Bunteler
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
 No

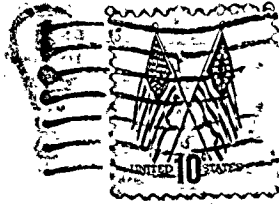
Receipt given Yes
 No

Description:

Threatening Letter⁺ envelope
to William M.
Bunteler Postmarked
April 26, 1974
sent Ben
5/22/74
whb

AD

D-740528108 Q1 ND



William Kenneth, Lawyer
For Russell Means and Dennis Banks
Saint Paul, Minnesota

D-740528108 Q2 ND
FBI
LABORATORY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-NEW)

DATE: 5/17/74

FROM : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

On May 17, 1974, in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICHOL presiding, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter was dated 26 April, 1974, and postmarked U. S. Postal Service, South Dakota, 570.

The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

If you and BANKS and MEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

*Sioux Falls AREA
Set out any Pertinent Leads Developed.*

U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to AUSA R. D. HURD who gave the envelope and letter to SA [REDACTED]

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS

AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

¹Will transmit extortion letter to FBI Laboratory.

²Conduct other appropriate extortion investigation.

*2 - Minneapolis [REDACTED] wkb
(2) wkb
Determine all persons who received letter
Those must be fingerprinted.
Check Handbook and Submit Threat Letter to Bureau via airtel*

9-1842-2
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 17 1974
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS



FBI

Date: 5/17/74

008

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT *Kitel*
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI - **LR F**
FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-NEW) (P) ¹⁸⁴²

UNSUB; WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM, EXTORTION.

~~FOR INFORMATION~~, BUREAU BEING ADVISED OF CAPTIONED
MATTER INASMUCH AS PRESS PUBLICITY MAY BE RECEIVED.

ON MAY 17, 1974, IN U. S. DISTRICT COURT, ST. PAUL,
MINN., USDJ FRED J. NICHOL PRESIDING, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER
ANNOUNCED IN OPEN COURT THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER
WHICH THREATENED HIS LIFE. LETTER, DATED APRIL 26, 1974, AND
POSTMARKED U. S. POSTAL SERVICE, SOUTH DAKOTA, 570, STATES:

"DEER SIR:

"IF YOU AND BANKS AND MEANS AND OTHERS LIKE YOU
ARE AT ALL CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL WELFARE, STAY
AWAY FROM PINE RIDGE AND OTHER RESERVATIONS. THERE
ARE PLENTH OF INDIANS WHO ARE WAITING FOR THE CHANCE
TO PULL THE TRIGGER AND NO ADVANCE WARNING WILL BE
GIVEN. THIS IS NOT AN IDLE THREAT."

① - Minneapolis
GRS:rfr
(1)

R
K

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 6:30 *P*



b6
b7c

10/2-3

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)MP 9-NEW
PAGE 2

USDJ NICHOL REFERRED MATTER TO AUSA R. D. HURD, WHO
TURNED OVER ENVELOPE AND LETTER TO FBI.

MINNEAPOLIS WILL FURNISH LETTER TO BUREAU ^{FBI} VIA AIRTEL.
INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription May 20, 1974

On May 17, 1974, in United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICHOL presiding, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter was dated 26 April, 1974, and postmarked U. S. Postal Service, South Dakota, 570.

The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

If you and BANKS and MEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

United States District Judge FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to Assistant United States Attorney R. D. HURD, who gave the envelope and letter to Special Agent

b6
b7c

Interviewed on 5/17/74 at St. Paul, Minnesota File # MP 9-1842 *4*
by SA :wkb Date dictated 5/17/74

orig. in EE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842)

DATE: 5/20/74

FROM : SUPERVISOR

b6
b7c

SUBJECT: CHANGED
UNSUB;
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION

Title being changed to add the names of victims
DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL in chambers advised that he would prefer not to be fingerprinted for elimination fingerprint purposes and pointed out that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his application investigation in connection with his appointment as Federal Judge.

AUSA R. D. HURD, who also handled the extortion letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney.


Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

LEAD

MINNEAPOLIS

Will inform Identification Division of above location of fingerprints which should be located and utilized for elimination purposes in the event latent fingerprints located on extortion letter of victims in captioned title

② - Minneapolis
wkb
(2)
wkb

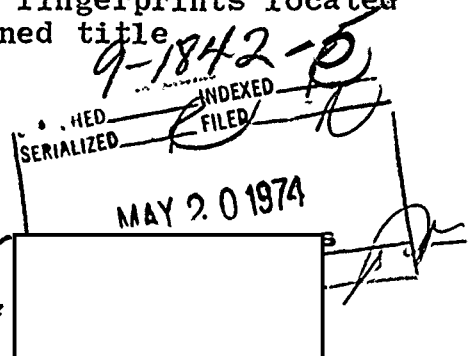


5010-108-02

*Ex parte letter to
Bureau - originate
& xerox copies
also for file*

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the

9-1842-0
INDEXED
FILED
MAY 20 1974



SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842)

5/20/74

SUPERVISOR

b6
b7c

CHANGED

UNSUB;

DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION

Title being changed to add the names of victims
DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

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in chambers advised that he would prefer not to be finger-
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that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his application
investigation in connection with his appointment as Federal
Judge.

AUSA R. D. HURD, who also handled the extortion
letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on
file in connection with his application as Assistant United
States Attorney.

Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out
that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he
was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the
U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial
Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

LEAD

MINNEAPOLIS

Will inform Identification Division of above location
of fingerprints which should be located and utilized for
elimination purposes in the event latent fingerprints located
on extortion letter of victims in captioned title

② - Minneapolis
 wkb
(2) wkb

*Why wasn't
lead sent
to Lab
for prints*

9-1842-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (9-)

DATE: 5/20/74

FROM :



b6
b7c

SUBJECT: Unsub;
Wm Knutsler-Victim
Information Concerning

On 5/20/74, Robert Decker, President, Bemidji State College, advised that his wife had received a phone call from a unknown person at 2:25 PM, 5/18/74, who threatened to shot Wm Knutsler if he spoke at the college Monday nite, 5/20/74.

[redacted] advised that at the above time and date an unknown caller called the [redacted] residence at Bemidji and stated "Is this the home of the president of the teachers college". She said "yes it is" and he said "may I speak to him". She - "He is not here, may I have him call you when he returns?" He- "Just tell him Knutsler will be shot if he speaks here Monday night". [redacted] described the caller's voice as an elderly sounding, sort of quivering voice. Also, that the ~~xxxx~~ voice reminded her of an Indian's voice, however, ~~wh~~ she could not say it was or wasn't an Indian. There was no background noise. She believed it to be a local call.

Supervisor [redacted] was advised of the above 5/20/74, AM, and SA [redacted] at the St. Paul RA for the purpose of notifying the court and the victim of the threat inasmuch as he is scheduled to speak at the Hobson Memorial Ballroom, Bemidji State College, 8:00 PM, 5/20/74.

COP [redacted], Bemidji, and Sheriff Tom Tolman, Bemidji, were both advised of the above information 5/20/74, AM.

President Decker advised that ~~sk~~ he believes the person who called and referred to Bemidji State as a teachers college is probably an ~~xxxx~~ older individual because the college has not been known as a teachers college since the 1950's.

[redacted]
(1)

9-1842-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 21 1974	
MAY 20 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	



5/22/74

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY;
JOHN C. GORDON, ROOM 2266
GENERAL CRIMES UNIT,
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

SUBJECT: CHANGED
UNSUB;
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES LEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Title changed to include additional victims LEANS
and BANKS as reflected in details of letter.

Re Minneapolis nitel to the Director, May 17, 1974.

On May 17, 1974, in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICCOL presiding, Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter, dated 26 April, 1974 and postmarked Postal Service, South Dakota, 570 reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

If you and BANKS and LEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

4 - Bureau Rrr
① - Minneapolis
ALL: pab
(9) *uekf*

Russell
J

9-1842-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1974	
MINNEAPOLIS	

127 9-1842

Judge NICHOL referred the matter to AUSA R. D. LURD who turned the original letter and envelope over to the FBI for investigation in relation to the extortion matter.

Enclosed herewith for the Laboratory is the original letter and envelope and one Xerox copy of the letter and envelope.

On May 20, 1974, U. D. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL, in chambers, advised that he preferred not to be fingerprinted for elimination purposes, pointing out that his fingerprints are on file as a result of his application in connection with his appointment as a Federal Judge. Judge Nichol is described as white male, date of birth 3/19/12.

AUSA R. D. LURD who also handled the extortion letter made the same comments, stating his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney. He is described as white male, date of birth 3/5/41.

Defense attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he too preferred to not be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

The Laboratory is requested to expedite comparison of the handwriting on the letter and envelope with the anonymous letter file and cause a latent fingerprint examination to be conducted, noting the above individuals are known to have handled both the envelope and the letter.

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS

AT PIERRE AND RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will display copy of above referred to letter and envelope to officers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Rosebud and Pine Reservations in an effort to determine if the handwriting appearing thereon appears familiar to them as being identical to the handwriting of anyone known to them.

MP 9-1842

AT PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will contact postal authorities in an effort to further identify the location at which this letter may have been mailed.

J

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kunstler sent letter threat

U.S. District Judge Fred Nichol today asked the FBI to investigate a threat mailed to William Kunstler, a defense attorney at the Wounded Knee trial in St. Paul. Kunstler told the judge

this morning that he received the unsigned letter yesterday. It also threatens co-defendants Dennis Banks and Russell Means. The letter, mailed from South Dakota and carrying an April 26 postmark,

warns them to "stay away from Pine Ridge and other reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given...."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4A Minneapolis Star
Minneapolis, MN.

Date: May 17, 1974
Edition: Evening
Author:
Editor: Robert C. King
Title: William Knustler:
Extortion

Character:
or
Classification: 9-1842 - 8
Submitting Office Minneapolis
 Being Investigated

*Orig sent B.
5/29/74
[Signature]*

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
MAY 21 1974
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

Date: May 30, 1974

Re: UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

FBI File No.

Lab. No.

D-740528108 ND

Specimens received 5/28/74

- Q1 Envelope postmarked "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SD 570 PM 26 APR 1974," bearing the handwritten address "William Kunstler, Lawyer For Russell Means and Dennis Banks Saint Paul, Minnesota"
- Q2 Sheet of lined paper bearing handwritten message beginning "Dear Sir: If you and Banks and Means"

Result of examination:

The questioned specimens were not identified in the Anonymous Letter File. Appropriate copies have been added thereto.

No watermarks or indented writing of value, was found on the questioned specimens.

Q1 and Q2 were photographed and will be returned separately.

9-1842-9



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

Date: May 30, 1974

From: Director, FBI

Re: UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;
EXTORTION
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

FBI File No.

Lab. No. D-740528108 ND

Examination requested by: Minneapolis

Reference: Airtel 5/22/74

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

Q1 and Q2 will be returned with the results
of the fingerprint examination.

9-1842-10

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 3 1974	
MINNAPOLIS	

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

**DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE
PAGE (S) INFORMATION IN
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

b6
b7c

F B I

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel _____ (Precedence)

6-3-74
(Date)

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

✓ From: Director, FBI

UNSUB.;
 DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM
 WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM
 RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM
 EXTORTION
 WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Reurairtel 5-22-74, submitting envelope, Q1, and one-
 page letter, Q2, for laboratory and latent print examinations.

Q1 and Q2 further described in separate Laboratory
 report.

No latent prints of value developed on enclosed specimens.

Enc. (2)

This line for LEFT MARGIN.

Do not type BEYOND THIS MARGIN.

(Do not type below this line.)

9-1842-11

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
1974	
MINNEAPOLIS	

[Handwritten Signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA),
 subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent
 furnished the following information:

b6
b7c

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent
 alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul,
 Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this
 letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this
 letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated
 he had no information concerning this letter which would assist
 the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842 - 12
 by SA [redacted] JR. :klk Date dictated 6/5/74

orig. in EE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Agency Special Officer, subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

b6
b7c

[redacted] advised she was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to her. [redacted] in addition stated she had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-13
by SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

orig. in EE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Criminal Investigator, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information: b6
b7c

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-14
 by SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

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.

orig. in ee

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

JOSEPH JACOBS, Chief of Police, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

JACOBS advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, JACOBS stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. JACOBS in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-15

by SA JR. klk Date dictated 6/5/74 b6
b7c

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orig. in EE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Criminal Investigator, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

b6
b7c

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-110

by SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

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.

orig. in ee

