

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

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	DATE <b>5/18/73</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>2/6-5/16/73</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS, aka</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 5px;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>sks</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIR - BURGLARY, LARCENY; ANTI- RIOT LAWS; IMPEDING FEDERAL OFFICERS DURING CIVIL DISORDER; ASSAULTING A FEDERAL OFFICER; POSSESSION OF UNREGISTERED FIREARMS</b>	

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REFERENCES

- Omaha letter to Minneapolis, 3/26/73;
- Bureau teletype to all SACs, 3/27/73;
- New Orleans teletype to the Bureau, 3/27/73;
- Phoenix teletype to Albuquerque, 3/29/73;
- Seattle airtel to Bureau, 3/30/73;
- Denver teletype to Bureau, 4/6/73;
- WFO teletype to Bureau, 4/6/73;
- WFO teletype to Bureau, 4/9/73;
- Minneapolis airtel to Bureau, 4/10/73;
- Minneapolis teletype to WFO, 4/10/73;
- New York teletype to Bureau, 4/11/73;
- WFO teletype to Bureau, 4/11/73;
- WFO teletype to Bureau, 4/13/73;
- Alexandria teletype to Bureau, 4/14/73;
- WFO teletype to Bureau, 4/14/73;

(REFERENCES CONTINUED ON COVER PAGE B)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 2 - Bureau (70-58411)
- 1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota (Attn: USA RICHARD D. HURD)
- ③ - Minneapolis (70-6882)

*shs*

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

70-6882-149

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

Searched \_\_\_\_\_

Serialized   D  

Indexed \_\_\_\_\_

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Minneapolis teletype to Bureau, 4/16/73;  
Minneapolis teletype to Cleveland, 4/16/73;  
Minneapolis teletype to Bureau, 4/16/73;  
Buffalo teletype to Bureau, 4/17/73;  
Cleveland teletype to Bureau, 4/18/73;  
Phoenix teletype to Bureau, 4/18/73;  
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Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 4/25/73;  
Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, 4/26/73;  
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Minneapolis airtel to Seattle, 4/26/73;  
Richmond teletype to Bureau, 4/26/73;  
Baltimore teletype to Bureau, 4/26/73;  
Cincinnati teletype to Cleveland, 4/26/73;  
Minneapolis teletype to Bureau, 4/26/73;  
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Minneapolis teletype to Bureau, 4/27/73;  
Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, 4/27/73;  
Cleveland letter to Bureau, 4/27/73;  
Richmond teletype to Bureau, 4/27/73;  
Cleveland airtel to Bureau, 4/27/73;  
Phoenix airtel to Bureau, 4/30/73;  
Los Angeles report of SA [REDACTED] 4/30/73;  
Kansas City letter to Bureau, 4/30/73;  
Boston teletype to Bureau, 5/2/73;  
Phoenix teletype to Bureau, 5/2/73;  
WFO airtel to Bureau, 5/2/73;

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REFERENCES CONTINUED ON COVER PAGE C

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Minneapolis nitel to Bureau, 5/3/73;  
Minneapolis teletype to Bureau, 5/3/73;  
Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 5/3/73;  
Omaha letter to Bureau, 5/8/73;  
Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 5/9/73.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

Leads concerning this case are not being set forth in this report, however, they will be set forth in the immediate future by separate communication.

INFORMANTS

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By communication dated March 27, 1973, New Orleans advised that [redacted] who obtained the information from [redacted] who is presently in Wounded Knee, South Dakota, provided the following information:

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DENNIS BANKS and RUSSELL MEANS, National leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM), have departed Pine Ridge Reservation, and MEANS was observed limping and with a black eye. They were en route to Rosebud Reservation by horseback and then to Cuba. CROW DOG and CHRIS, other AIM leaders will also be leaving. [redacted] Indian male, who resides near Wounded Knee and who has been arranging for ammunition to be brought to Wounded Knee, is en route to Rapid City, South Dakota, as of 11:50 p.m. It is believed that MEANS and BANKS may have left with the missing \$6,000 from the Wounded Knee Post Office.

The Indian who shot the FBI Agent was in close association with [redacted] Activist for the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) from Buffalo, New York, inside Wounded Knee. He was carrying the Red Book of Mao Tse Tung. [redacted] presently is staying in Room 243 in Howard Johnson's Motel, Rapid City.

There are presently no more than 100 people left inside Wounded Knee. It is rumored that an airplane departed Denver, Colorado, this evening with firearms for Wounded Knee. With the departure of MEANS from Pine Ridge [redacted] will be taking over the leadership of AIM. [redacted] is presently staying at the Avanti Motel in Rapid City and he has indicated that if the judge does not "pull out the Indian blockade", he will "go through it with an armed group".

By communication dated April 9, 1973, Washington Field Office advised that [redacted] advised that a group called the D.C. Wounded Knee Defense Committee held a meeting at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church at 16th and K Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. The meeting was attended by about 100 persons, of which approximately ten were Indian, approximately ten blacks, and the remainder white. The meeting started at 2:30 p.m. and lasted until about 4:45 p.m.

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The organizers of the meeting were a [redacted] who claims affiliation with the National Office of AIM, and [redacted] of the Valley Green Defense Committee (VGDC). The VGDC is a local civic organization primarily concerned with the welfare of residents in the Valley Green section of Washington, D.C. The chairman of the meeting was [redacted] former activist in the Black Panther Party in Washington, D.C., and the main speakers were RUSSELL MEANS, and an individual who was identified as an Indian spiritual leader, and an unidentified female who was described as the secretary of AIM.

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RUSSELL MEANS was the main speaker and spoke in general of the seige of Wounded Knee. MEANS reportedly stated AIM was not honoring the agreement signed on April 3, 1973, by the dissident Indians and the United States Government because the Government has since interpreted some of the terms in the treaty differently from the Indians. MEANS also was very critical of the press, claiming they did not give the people an accurate account of the happenings at Wounded Knee. MEANS also claimed that a United States Marshal, not an Indian, shot the FBI Agent at Wounded Knee and that the United States Marshal who was shot was done so by a non-Indian. MEANS stated he plans to return to Wounded Knee on April 10, 1973.

The above source advised that a collection was being made, supposedly to help supply food and medical supplies for those at Wounded Knee. The meeting ended without incident.

By communication dated April 11, 1973, New York advised that on April 11, 1973, [redacted] determined that RUSSELL MEANS arrived in New York City from Washington, D.C. at approximately 10:00 a.m. on April 10, 1973. MEANS went to the office of Attorney [redacted] where a press conference was held. The source stated that MEANS planned to stay overnight in New York City with an unknown female at an unknown address, however, he became extremely nervous and changed plans some time during the evening of the above date and returned to Washington, D.C. by an unknown mode of transport.

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By communication dated April 14, 1973, Washington Field Office advised that Mr [REDACTED] Statler Hilton Hotel, advised that RUSSELL MEANS and his entourage departed the Statler Hilton Hotel, 16th and Case Streets North, Washington, D.C. at approximately 1:00 p m on the above date, leaving no forwarding address or destination.

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By communication dated April 18, 1973, Cleveland, Ohio, advised that on the above date [REDACTED] attended City Club Meeting and advised that MEANS spoke for one-half hour concerning Wounded Knee, stating that AIM had been invited to Wounded Knee by occupants, and AIM was in Wounded Knee to protest the fact that the United States Government had broken past treaties with the Indians. MEANS stated that either the United States Government would negotiate or there would be another massacre at Wounded Knee. If the Government did not learn now, it would be very sorry.

By communication dated April 18, 1973, Phoenix, Arizona, advised that on the above date at 5:50 p.m., [REDACTED] received a telephone call at his residence, Phoenix, Arizona, from [REDACTED] calling from Rapid City, South Dakota, who advised that he intends to fly to Phoenix on April 19, 1973, to join above source and three or four unidentified Indians from Phoenix to proceed by car to San Francisco "bay area" to purchase firearms for Wounded Knee. [REDACTED] requested that the above source arrange for rental of a U-Haul type truck to be driven by [REDACTED] and others from Phoenix to the bay area for arms pick-up and then to Rapid City, South Dakota, for delivery.

On April 18, 1973, at 7:05 p m the Phoenix source received a telephone call from RON PETITE, reportedly calling from Rapid City, who confirmed information by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and the arms to be delivered to the CRCW DOG ranch near Rapid City, telephone number [REDACTED]

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The source also stated that RUSSELL MEANS and CAMEL BELLECOURT vacated the Wounded Knee demonstration, leaving the leadership in the hands of DENNIS BANKS, PETITE, and [REDACTED]

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A telephone call to Special Agent [REDACTED] Pine Ridge, South Dakota, on the above date indicated that [REDACTED] may be identical with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are looking to the above Phoenix source for funds for arms, but disclosed that [REDACTED] will be carrying some money for the arms purchase. [REDACTED] is to telephone the above Phoenix source to confirm the arrival in Phoenix on April 19, 1973.

By communication dated April 21, 1973, Cleveland, Ohio, advised that on the above date [REDACTED] advised that RUSSELL MEANS addressed a mixed group of 80 to 100 individuals at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, on the evening of April 20, 1973. MEANS was participating in a lecture series, and he discussed the background leading up to Wounded Knee because of the number of Indian treaties that had been broken by the United States Government. MEANS discussed the present situation at Wounded Knee and stated that AIM was being assisted at Wounded Knee by members of the Viet Nam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). MEANS discussed an underground system which AIM has set up with the aid of VVAW wherein 6 to 16 men teams were going out of Wounded Knee to gather food and supplies and were returning successfully within a matter of hours. MEANS also related that the VVAW at Wounded Knee was assisting AIM in monitoring police radios.

MEANS advised the audience that he was told one hour and one-half hours before his speech to make the following announcement:

AIM had shifted its course of action and was now going to repossess the western half of South Dakota with Custer, South Dakota as a target city. No time frame was mentioned. MEANS asked for volunteer freedom fighters from all over the country and the western hemisphere to rally behind AIM and come to Custer, South Dakota, to assist AIM in its fight.

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A collection raised approximately \$200 in contributions for the Wounded Knee Legal Defense Fund.

By communication dated April 23, 1973, Washington Field Office advised that [redacted] advised on April 23, 1973, that on Sunday, April 22, 1973, RUSSELL MEANS, VERNON EARL [redacted], DENNIS BANKS, and CARTER CAMP reportedly arrived in Pawnee, Oklahoma, in order to be present for the Pawnee Tribal elections which are scheduled for the week of April 20, 1973. The above source advised that MEANS has mentioned sending approximately five Indians from those present in Pawnee to Wounded Knee as reinforcements for the present position held by the Indians at Wounded Knee.

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By communication dated April 25, 1973, Oklahoma City advised that [redacted] Stillwater Postal Employee, [redacted] Oklahoma advised that as of April 24, 1973, RUSSELL MEANS is at the residence of [redacted] graduate student, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. [redacted] resides at [redacted] above address where the above source lives. While there, MEANS indicated that he would be in Wounded Knee by Saturday, April 28, 1973, or Sunday, April 29, 1973, at the latest.

The above source also advised that MEANS plans speeches in California beginning on May 6, 1973, for which he is insistent upon receiving \$600 to \$1,500 per speech.

By communication dated April 21, 1973, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised that [redacted] advised on April 21, 1973, that the AIM Convention scheduled for Pawnee, Oklahoma, will be postponed until mid May, 1973, since RUSSELL MEANS, National AIM Leader, and CLYDE BELLECOURT, National AIM Coordinator, would be unable to attend on the original date. RUSSELL MEANS also requested that all AIM members in the [redacted] Oklahoma, area be contacted in order to travel to Wounded Knee for reinforcements on Easter Sunday, April 22, 1973. [redacted] requested that the news media be told that the AIM Convention is to be held as scheduled on May 27, 1973, but actually [redacted] information was false since MEANS also requested AIM Chap[redacted]

MP 70-6832.

throughout the United States be contacted so that additional reinforcements could be sent to Wounded Knee. The above could not exactly describe how the reinforcements would enter Wounded Knee, but believed the militant occupants of Wounded Knee would commence firing on law enforcement personnel as a diversionary measure allowing the reinforcements to enter.

By communication dated April 26, 1973, Los Angeles, California, advised that [redacted] advised on the date that RUSSELL MEANS, National Leader of AIM, addressed a crowd of between 200 to 250 ethnically mixed students at the Steps Free Speech Area on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). MEANS' speech was loud and contained no inflammatory remarks. MEANS stated that he was aware of a possible bond revocation hearing tomorrow and did not indicate his plans of attendance. MEANS stated, "A few of us came from Wounded Knee facing 85 years in the Federal Penitentiary. Tomorrow they are revoking my bond of \$50,000. Tomorrow at 9:00 a.m., so I go to prison. So what, another Indian, who cares!"

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On the above date, [redacted] advised that RUSSELL MEANS scheduled a press conference for AIM Headquarters, Los Angeles, California, at the Indian Center, 600 South New Hampshire, Los Angeles.

On the above date, [redacted] (PROB) advised that RUSSELL MEANS plans to hold a press conference at the Indian Center, 600 South New Hampshire, at 11:00 a.m. on April 27, 1973, in an attempt to make himself out a martyr, and be arrested utilizing press coverage of personal engraving.

By communication dated April 26, 1973, Baltimore, Maryland, advised that [redacted] advised on April 26, 1973, that RUSSELL MEANS of the American Indian Movement (AIM) did not appear at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, on the above date as previously scheduled. Instead of MEANS, JEROME ROBERTS

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an AIM member from Minneapolis, Minnesota, spoke at the University of Maryland, Student Union Building, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., on the above date. Approximately 300 individuals attended ROY's speech, sponsored by the University of Minnesota Student Government Association, Speaker Series.

ROY discussed the plight, the situation at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and urged non-Indians to stand with Wounded Knee.

By communication dated April 27, 1973, Los Angeles, California, advised that [redacted] advised that [redacted] attended a news conference held by MEANS just prior to his arrest at the AIM Headquarters in Los Angeles and indicated that [redacted] had offered to assist MEANS in avoiding arrest. According to the above source, upon signal by MEANS ran from the AIM Office into a vehicle occupied by [redacted]

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By communication dated May 2, 1973, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised that on the above date a confidential source advised that [redacted] on the above date, stated that she is departing Stillwater, Oklahoma, on May 3, 1973, on airlines to visit RUSSELL MEANS. MEANS telephonically contacted [redacted] during the a.m. hours from jail at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and it is presumed that she will be traveling to Sioux Falls. She plans to return to Stillwater, Oklahoma, by May 6, 1973.

[redacted] advised FBI Agents on May 1, 1973, that regarding MEANS recent visit with her, her association with him is strictly personal and she is not involved in AIM in any manner. [redacted] considers MEANS to be confused and she stated that she can help him.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
(Attention: USA, RICHARD D. HURD)

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Report of: [REDACTED]

Office: Minneapolis,  
Minnesota

Date: May 18, 1973

Field Office File #: 70-6882

Bureau File #: 70-58411

Title: RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS

Character: CRIME ON INDIAN RESERVATION - BURGLARY, LARCENY; ANTI-RIOT LAWS; IMPEDING FEDERAL OFFICERS DURING CIVIL DISORDER; ASSAULTING A FEDERAL OFFICER; POSSESSION OF UNREGISTERED FIREARMS.

Synopsis: On 2/27/73 armed members of AIM forcibly entered Wounded Knee, South Dakota, taking hostages and looting establishments of the town, at which time RUSSELL MEANS, FBI Number 877 277 C, Indian male, dob 11/10/39, identified as principal leader. On 3/3/73, SA [REDACTED] FBI, fired upon by above Indian while on duty at Government Roadblock 3. On 3/20/73 FGJ, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, indicted MEANS charging violation of Title 18, Section 1153 and S.D.C.L., 22-32-9; 1153 and 661, 231 (a)(3), 111 and 1114; 371 and 26; 5861(d) and 5871; U.S.C. arrest warrant W.D.S.D., 3/28/73 and bond recommended at \$50,000 surety. On 4/5/73 MEANS surrendered to USM, Rapid City, South Dakota, and released on \$25,000 surety bond. On 4/16/73 MEANS entered not guilty plea USDC, Pierre, South Dakota. On 4/27/73 U.S. Judge, USDC, Deadwood, South Dakota, revoked MEANS' bond and issued Bench Warrant. On 4/27/73 MEANS arrested by FBI Agents, Los Angeles, California. On 5/1/73 MEANS returned to Minnehaha County Jail, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. On 5/2/73 FGJ, Phoenix, Arizona, indicted MEANS violation Title 18, Section 371, U.S.C. Bench Warrant for MEANS issued above date USDC, Phoenix, Arizona, by U.S. Judge, recommending bond set at \$25,000 cash surety. MEANS identified by numerous witnesses leading takeover of Wounded Knee, looting of Wounded Knee establishments, taking of hostages in Wounded Knee, and carrying firearms. On 2/27/73, SA CURTIS A. FITZGERALD, FBI, wounded by gunfire from Indians who took over Wounded Knee. On 3/26/73 USM [REDACTED] seriously wounded at Marshal Roadblock "Apple" by above Indians. On 4/10/73 FGJ, Sioux Falls, indicted MEANS for AFO, two counts re FITZGERALD and [REDACTED] Title 18, Section 111 and 1114, U.S.C. Investigation continuing..

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MP 70-6882

I. PREDICATION

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DETAILS: PREDICATION

Investigation concerning this matter was instituted as a result of violent activities of the American Indian Movement (AIM) in South Dakota, of which RUSSELL MEANS has been identified as a leader, and the armed takeover of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, by the above group on March 27, 1973.

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MP 70-6882

II. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS CONCERNING ACTIVITIES  
OF RUSSELL MEANS

- (A) Activities prior to February 27, 1973.
- (B) Activities Beginning February 27, 1973.

MP 70-6882

II. (A) ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO  
FEBRUARY 27, 1973

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 2/15/73

Special Agent [redacted] and Agent [redacted] [redacted] South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, took 107 photographs of the confrontation involving approximately 200 members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) at Custer, South Dakota, on February 6 and 7, 1973. The photographs were taken between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on February 6, 1973, and during the morning hours of February 7, 1973. The vantage point for the photographs depicting the arrival of the Indians in Custer and of the actual fighting in the courthouse and in front of the courthouse was the right front window on the second floor of the Custer County Court House. The vantage points for the photographs depicting the burning of the Chamber of Commerce building and of the damage to other buildings caused by the rioting were in the vicinity of the courthouse. The photos depicting the damage caused by the rioting were taken at approximately 10 a.m. February 7, 1973, by Agent [redacted]

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Special Agent [redacted] used a Top Con 35 millimeter reflex camera using a small telephoto lens. The exposed film taken by both Special Agent [redacted] and Agent [redacted] was turned over to [redacted] South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, for developing on February 7, 1973.

Of the 107 photos taken, 27 photos have been selected as those depicting the events of the confrontation in the most detailed manner. These 27 photos follow in sequential order. The first photo was taken at approximately 1:45 p.m., February 6, 1973. Photos 1 through 6 depict the arrival of the Indians at the Custer County Court House. Photo number 7 depicts RUSSELL MEANS motioning towards the courthouse moments before a fight broke out in the courthouse hall. This took place at approximately 2:10 p.m. Photos 8 and 9 depict Indians forming for the second time on the courthouse steps immediately after MEANS motioned them there in order to storm through the front door of the courthouse. Photo number 10 depicts the scene in the courthouse hall just after the initial

Interviewed on 2/6 and 7/73 at Custer, South Dakota File # MP 176-87

by SA [redacted] :sks Date dictated 2/9/73

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MP 176-87

fight in the hall. Photos 11 through 14 depict the fight between Indians and members of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. This took place at approximately 2:25 p.m. Photos 15 and 16 depict the scene on the courthouse steps moments after the fight between the patrolmen and the Indians at approximately 2:30 p.m. Photo 17 depicts the Chamber of Commerce building burning at approximately 2:50 p.m. The remaining photos were taken the morning of February 7, 1973. Photos 18 through 20 depict the courthouse that next morning. Photo 21 depicts a can of charcoal lighter fluid the contents of which were used to fuel the fire in the courthouse. Photo 22 depicts the burned Chamber of Commerce building. Photos 23 through 25 depict the Texaco Station which was partially damaged. Photos 26 and 27 depict the Custer County Sheriff vehicles, which were severely damaged. Photos 1 through 9 were taken by Special Agent [redacted] and photos 10 through 27 were taken by [redacted]

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