

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	DATE <b>11/13/73</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>2/13 - 11/8/73</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS, aka.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>b6 Rb7c</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CIR - B&amp;L; ARL - IFO; AFO; CONSPIRACY; UPOF.</b>	

REFERENCE: Minneapolis report of SA  dated 10/20/73.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Investigation contained herein consists of interviews deemed necessary to prove elements of "civil disorder" caused as a result of the 71 day seige of the Village of Wounded Knee, S.D., by members of the American Indian Movement.

Previous reports in this matter are referenced in the first paragraph of details at the request of USA WILLIAM F. CLAYTON, District of South Dakota; three copies of this report are being forwarded the USA, Sioux Falls, S.D., to be used by the USA in the event simultaneous trials are conducted in Sioux Falls, S.D., and St. Paul, Minnesota;

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

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

- COPIES MADE:
- 4 - Bureau (176-2401)
  - 3 - USA, Sioux Falls, S.D.
  - 1 - Denver (Info.)
  - 1 - Oklahoma City (Info.)
  - 1 - Phoenix (176-62) (Info.)
  - 1 - Minneapolis (70-6882)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

<b>70-6552-634</b>			

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

Notations

4  
4

MP 70-6882

only one copy of the report is being designated for Minneapolis in view of its size and in view of the fact copies will also be designated for the other leadership files.

FD-302s contained herein were previously reported in the Minneapolis case entitled, "WOUNDED KNEE", MP file 70-6832, Bufile 70-58411.

A true copy of the Oglala Sioux Court Order, dated 2/9/73; a xerox copy of which is contained herein, is kept in MP 70-6882-1A; a certified copy of the U.S. Department of Interior letter, a xerox copy of which is contained herein, is kept in MP 70-6950-1A.

Information copies of this report are being furnished to Denver, Oklahoma City and Phoenix in view of their interest in AIM leadership.

LEAD

MINNEAPOLIS

AT RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will, through, AUSA RICHARD D. HURD, District of South Dakota, follow the prosecution of RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

- B\* -

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 3 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: Minneapolis, Minnesota <sup>b6</sup>  
Date: November 13, 1973 <sup>b7c</sup>

Field Office File #: 70-6882 Bureau File #: 176-2401

Title: RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS

Character: CRIME ON AN INDIAN RESERVATION - BURGLARY & LARCENY;  
ANTI-RIOT LAWS - IMPEDING FEDERAL OFFICERS; ASSAULTING  
FEDERAL OFFICERS; CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF  
FIREARMS

Synopsis: Investigation herein consists of interviews of BIA  
officials, FBI officials, Postal officials, and Wounded  
Knee residents, regarding the civil disorder caused as  
a result of the 71 day seige of the Village of Wounded  
Knee, S.D., by members of the American Indian Movement  
(AIM). ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

DETAILS:

Reference is made to the investigative reports of  
SA [REDACTED] dated 5/18/73, and the reports of  
SA [REDACTED] dated 8/3/73, 9/19/73, and 10/20/73.

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THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COURT)  
OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE )  
PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION)

SS.

C O U R T O R D E R  
\* \* \* \* \*

WHEREAS, a petition has been filed into the Oglala Sioux Tribal Court by the Oglala Sioux Tribal President, stating that his life has been threatened by the American Indian Movement and that the American Indian Movement has threatened to remove certain Records held in safe keeping by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and that the safety of the law abiding citizens of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation may be in danger by the American Indian Movement coming to Pine Ridge as they have threatened to do. That petitioner has petitioned the Court to issue an Order requesting the presence of United States Marshalls on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation until such time as they are needed, and that the presence of other Federal Officers be made available if the need arises.

WHEREFORE: BE IT AND IT IS HEREWITH ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

THAT, the Court of the Oglala Sioux Tribe hereby grants a Court Order that the presence of United States Marshalls be requested immediately and other Federal Officers be made available as the need arises.

THAT, any person or persons may show cause why this Court Order should not stand as committed.

THAT, this Court Order shall stand as committed until otherwise changed by the entitled Court of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

THAT, failure to abide by this Court Order, any person or persons will be held for prosecution under Section 72, of the Revised Code of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, entitled, "DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LAWFUL ORDER OF THE COURT."

DONE THIS 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1973 IN THE COURT HOUSE OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE, PINE RIDGE AGENCY, STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, COUNTY OF SHANNON.

ATTEST:

BY THE COURT

*Irving H. ...*  
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

*Alfred J. ...*  
CLERK

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE SERVED THIS COURT ORDER ON THIS DAY OF 19 AS DIRECTED.

*This is a true copy of the tribal Court order*

8-31-73

*Irving H. ...*



1  
MP 89-146  
[redacted] crv

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

On August 6, 1973 and September 17, 1973, SA [redacted] contacted FRANKLIN E. VANDEGRIFT, Deputy Director, Special Operations Group, U.S. Marshals Service (USMS). Mr. VANDEGRIFT advised a communication dated February 13, 1973, from Secretary of the Interior to the Attorney General was the only communication received by the USMS. Mr. REIS R. KASH, Associate Director of Operations, USMS, further advised that all orders and directives given by WAYNE B. COLBURN, Director, USMS, were maintained by log or journal, the original of which was forwarded U.S. Attorney WILLIAM F. CLAYTON.

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On September 20, 1973, SA [redacted] contacted RAYMOND BUTLER, Director, Office of Indian Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. Mr. BUTLER advised he inquired throughout BIA and determined prior to the March 19, 1973 letter from Oglala Sioux, no written communication could be located requesting the presence of U.S. Marshals.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription March 7, 1973

On February 27, 1973, the following took place:

At approximately 9:00 p.m., while at a motel room in Rushville, Nebraska, I received a telephone call from a news service who advised that AARON DESERNA had in turn advised him that there would be a confrontation at Wounded Knee that night.

Upon receipt of the above information, I telephoned the U. S. Marshal's Office at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Building in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and furnished the above information to them. They advised me that they had received the same information and that, in fact, Indians were then at Wounded Knee and had burglarized a store and taken a considerable amount of weapons and had obtained several hostages. Allegedly one of the hostages, a Mrs. GILDERSLEWE, was on the phone to the Police Department advising them of this situation.

I immediately left the motel room, assembled all available Agents, and we proceeded to the Pine Ridge area and from there to Wounded Knee Road. I was advised by radio that the BIA law enforcement officers in the area had been fired upon when they attempted to enter the town site. They had retreated to a place on Wounded Knee Road further south and were standing by.

At approximately 10:00 p.m., I rendezvoused with the BIA Police Officers and ascertained that they had been fired upon and that some of their units were attempting to establish a roadblock north of town. I suggested to the BIA Police that they reinforce their units on the north end of town, as well as on the east and west side, and the FBI would handle the roadblock on the south end of Wounded Knee Road where it meets Highway 18.

At about this time, a fast-moving car sped by the area and proceeded south on Wounded Knee Road at a high rate of speed. I ordered that we give immediate chase and use the siren to compel the vehicle ahead of us to stop. The car I was in was then being driven by Special Agent [redacted]. Several miles down the road, the car stopped and the driver

Interviewed on 2/27/73 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 70-6832

SAC JOSEPH H. TRIBACII:wkb

Date dictated 3/5/73

MP 70-6832  
(2)

identified himself as [redacted] Oglala Sioux Legal Services. [redacted] advised that he had come from Wounded Knee. He further related the following:

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He was in no way involved in the takeover of the town site and, in fact, he was shocked at this conduct. He knew many of the American Indian Movement (AIM) people and was frequently with them and thought that they were going to go to Wounded Knee to have a pow-wow.

When he found out that they were taking over the town and burglarizing the store, he decided to get out as soon as he could. [redacted] was told that if we developed any information that he was involved in this incident he would be under arrest. He voluntarily opened the trunk of his car to show that he had no items taken from the burglary. He was requested to proceed to the BIA Building in Pine Ridge for detailed interview.

On my instructions, FBI Agents stopped all cars exiting from Wounded Knee and if the occupants had articles in their possession indicating they may have been taken from the burglary, I instructed that the occupants be arrested. I further advised that unless the occupants could explain why they were coming out of Wounded Knee at this time, such as a tourist who might have been caught up in the middle of this situation, that the occupants of any such cars would be subject to arrest. It should be noted that these instructions were issued immediately after the roadblock was put up on the Wounded Knee Road and Highway 18.

The second or third car to arrive at the roadblock was a car driven by [redacted] U. S. Department of Justice, [redacted] I went up to him and said, "Mr. [redacted] to work with those people is one thing, but if I find that you have participated in a burglary with them, I will have to arrest you."

MP 70-6832

(S)

Mr. [redacted] replied that he was at Wounded Knee when the burglary and subsequent takeover occurred. He said he wanted to leave but they told him they wanted him to wait while they made their demands. I asked him what demands he was referring to, at which time he gave me two pieces of paper which state as follows:

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"DEMANDS

"I. Senator WILLIAM FULLBRIGHT to convene Senate Foreign Relations Committee immediately for hearings on treaties made with American Indian Nations and ratified by the Congress of the U.S.

"II. Senator EDWARD KENNEDY to convene Senate Sub-Committee on Administrative Practices and Procedures for immediate, full-scale investigation and exposure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior from the Agency, reservation offices, to the area offices, to the central office in Washington, D.C.

"III. Senator JAMES ABOURIZK to convene the Senate Sub-Committee on Indian Affairs for a complete investigation on all Sioux Reservations in South Dakota.

"A. Oglala Sioux Civil Rights Organization:  
President VERN LONG  
Vice-President PEDRO BYSSONETTE  
Secretary [redacted]

"B. American Indian Movement:  
Leader RUSSELL MURANS

"People we will negotiate with:

- "1. Mr. ERILICIAN of the White House.
2. Senator's KENNEDY, ABOUREZK, and FULLERIGHT - or their top aides.
3. The Commissioner of the B.I.A. and the Secty. of Interior.

"The action and seizure of Wounded Knee, South Dakota on February 27, 1973 at 8:30 p.m. by the Oglala Lakota with the support and technical assistance of the American Indian Movement is taken because of the complete tyranny and suppression of the Oglala and all American Indian people.

"The Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for the tyranny because of rampant graft, corruption and outright dictatorship of Indian people.

"The only two options open to the United States of America are:

- "1. They wipe out all the old people, women, children and men, by shooting & attacking us.
- "2. They negotiate our demands.

"Before we took action this day we asked for and received complete direction and support of medicine men and chiefs of the Oglala Nation!

- "1. FRANK FOOLS CROW
2.
3.
4.

5.
6.
7. SEVERT YOUNG BEAR
8.

b6  
b7c

MP 70-6832 :

(5)

[redacted] also mentioned that he was told to write the following information down and present it in the form exactly as shown below. He then referred to some notes and said, "Communicate this demand to whoever is in charge. We are operating under the Provisions of the 1868 Sioux Treaty. This is an act of war initiated by the United States. We are only demanding our country."

I asked [redacted] who gave him this demand and he replied that it was given to him by RUSSELL MEANS.

Based on the assurance of Mr. [redacted] that he was not personally involved in the burglary or the takeover, I permitted him to proceed out of the roadblock area. I told him that I would see to it that the information he supplied would be furnished to the appropriate authorities.

Supervisor [redacted] was placed in charge of this roadblock and I then proceeded to the Command Post in order to handle the placement of additional personnel as they arrived from Rapid City, South Dakota.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 3/12/73

On the morning of February 28, 1973, I was requested by SAC JOSEPH H. TRIMBACH to drive him in CG 102 to the village of Wounded Knee for a conference with AIM leaders. I left the Command Post with Trimbach at 1:30 PM February 28, 1973, and arrived at Roadblock #1 at 1:50 PM. We proceeded through the roadblock toward Wounded Knee on Wounded Knee Road and stopped approximately 50 yards from the AIM roadblock located south of the Wounded Knee Church. SAC TRIMBACH exited from the car and walked, unarmed to the area in front of the roadblock. I observed that he was met by two unidentified males. He conversed with these men for approximately 15 minutes, during which time he was joined by a few additional males. I remained in the Bureau car and observed that approximately 12 males were located behind the AIM roadblock. Most of these persons were armed with shoulder weapons. The roadblock consisted of what appeared to be junked pickup trucks placed across the highway.

SAC TRIMBACH returned to the car at 2:20 PM February 28, 1973, at which time we proceeded south on Wounded Knee Road and returned to the Command Post.

Interviewed on 2/28/73 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 70-6832

by SA 

mjt

Date dictated 3/11/73b6  
b7c

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.

(1)

Date of transcription March 8, 1973

On the morning of March 1, 1973, I was requested by Mr. [redacted] Attorney General, to see if I could arrange a meeting place for Senators MC GOVERN and ABCUREZK to meet with the Indians, if the Senators desired to have such a meeting.

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In accordance with this request, I proceeded to Wounded Knee and after passing our roadblock, followed the procedure that I had followed the day before. This involves putting a white flag on the car antenna and slowly driving into the town site. About 100 yards from where the Indians had constructed a barrier of two burned cars, I exited from the Bureau car and walked approximately 100 feet. I was met by RUSSELL MEANS.

I told RUSSELL MEANS that the Senators had arrived and that I desired to arrange a meeting place if, in fact, the Senators were going to meet with the Indians. I recommended a location two miles north of Wounded Knee Road on Route 13.

RUSSELL MEANS said that the Senators should come into Wounded Knee. I told him I did not think the Senators would want to do that but I would relay his request. He said that the Indians owned this land and, therefore, they would dictate where they would meet the Senators.

I thereupon returned to the office and after briefing the Senators, it was decided that they would not meet with the Indians unless the hostages were released first. Following the procedure mentioned above, I again met with RUSSELL MEANS. I told him that the Senators would not meet with him until the hostages were released.

At this point numerous persons with the news media came to the area and with them were three persons, who MEANS said were on the hostage list. These individuals stated that they were no longer hostages and were free to come and go as they pleased. MEANS said that the other eight hostages were also free to come and go as they wished but that none of the hostages wished to leave. I told him I would bring this message to the Senators.

Interviewed on 3/1/73 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 70-6892

by SAC JOSEPH H. TRIASCHI: wtb Date dictated 3/6/73



MP 70-6832

(2)

It was then decided by the Senators that they would come to the roadblock area. I thereupon drove Senators MC GOVERN and ABOUREZK and the aides to Senators KENNEDY and LANSFIELD to the roadblock on Wounded Knee Road. I had no further contact with the personnel on the other side of the roadblock on this date.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription March 6, 1973

During the late morning and early afternoon of March 1, 1973, Special Agent [redacted] accompanied Special Agent in Charge JOSEPH H. TRIMBACH to the FBI roadblock on Wounded Knee Road, south of Wounded Knee. Special Agent in Charge TRIMBACH and Special Agent [redacted] proceeded from the FBI roadblock northerly to a point approximately 100 yards south of a roadblock established by the Indians.

At the Indian roadblock, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) TRIMBACH got out of the car, which he had been driving, and was met by two Indian males each carrying a rifle. Special Agent [redacted] remained in the vehicle to maintain radio contact. Both SAC TRIMBACH and SA [redacted] were unarmed.

After SAC TRIMBACH exited the vehicle, an automobile was observed parked on a hill to the left. On and around the vehicle, four or five Indian males were observed armed with rifles. One Indian male had a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight which he kept aimed at SA [redacted] and SAC TRIMBACH during the entire time of the conference between SAC TRIMBACH and the Indians. At one point, an unidentified Indian male came running down the hill waving a rifle and yelling that the FBI and United States Marshals were advancing. SAC TRIMBACH assured the Indians this was not true. Many threatening gestures were made during this time by the armed Indians.

Simultaneously, approximately six Indian males armed with rifles approached the FBI vehicle from both sides to within a distance of 100 feet at the closest point. Also, approximately four vehicles approached from the north carrying approximately 15 armed Indian males. Other armed Indian males were observed in the surrounding fields.

After discussions were completed, a second meeting was held at the same site, attended by RUSSELL MEANS. After several minutes of conversation between SAC TRIMBACH and MEANS, approximately 20 members of the news media surrounded SAC TRIMBACH and MEANS and monitored the balance of the conversations. When the meeting was concluded, SAC TRIMBACH returned to the car and then to the FBI roadblock.

viewed on 3/1/73 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 70-5832

SA [redacted]

[redacted] lj

Date dictated

3/2/73

2  
LP 70-6332

During the second meeting, SA [redacted] observed a U-Haul, white over orange van, drive up beside the Indian roadblock and unload what appeared to be an automatic weapon equipped with a bipod or tripod on the front of the weapon. The weapon was later returned to the van without being set up.

No shots were fired by the Indians. No conversations between SAC TRIBEACH and RUSSELL MEANS were overheard by SA [redacted]

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## BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3/9/73

Date of transcription

At 5:15 p.m. I received information over the radio that FBI personnel who were at Roadblock 3 conducting interviews were under fire and were requesting immediate assistance.

In response to the above, I ordered all available units to proceed to Roadblock 3. I proceeded to the scene immediately and obtained direct radio contact with Roadblock 3 at approximately 6:00 p.m. Upon arriving at the area, I could hear numerous shots being fired. After deploying the agents to cover the flanks and the rear, I proceeded to the Armed Personnel Carriers at Roadblock 3 and rendezvoused with our personnel there and with the United States Marshals. I was unable to observe any of the individuals who were firing at us and after about one hour of firing, the shooting stopped.

Interviewed on 3/8/73 at Wounded Knee, South Dakota File # MP 70-6832  
 by SAC JOSEPH H. TREMBACH/ajt Date dictated 3/9/73

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.

March 11, 1973

Date of transcription

On March 10, 1973, at 1:45 PM, I accompanied WAYNE COBURN, Director of United States Marshal Service and Special Agent in Charge ROBERT W. EVANS in a bus, which was driven by a Community Relations Service employee, to a point about midway between the AIM roadblock and the roadblock manned by United States Marshals. We pulled off into a parking area and an individual, who identified himself as STANLEY HOLDER, came aboard the bus. He said he was chief of security for AIM. He proposed that AIM remove their roadblocks, and that in return the Marshals should remove their roadblocks. He said this would mean that anyone would have free access into Wounded Knee. Marshal COBURN said he was agreeable to removing his roadblocks in accordance with this provision. I informed HOLDER that the FBI would continue its investigation and that sooner or later he and all of his associates would be arrested.

The man who identified himself as HOLDER was dressed in a blue flowered shirt, had a mustache, black hair, a ring on the little finger of his left hand, and a ring on the ring finger of his left hand.

Interviewed on 3/10/73 at Wounded Knee, South Dakota File # MP 70-6832  
 by SAC JOSEPH H. TRIMBACH:jlj Date dictated 3/11/73

