

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1198987-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 96

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Memorandum



DJ 175-53-NEW

JPT:LKD:RLC:kif

Subject UNSUBS, Fire and Vandalism
at Unification Church Camp,
Ulster County, New York
Interference with Exercise of
Housing Rights
CIVIL RIGHTS

Date 10
JAN 9 1981

To Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
[Redacted] Acting
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

JAN 12 1981

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On December 30, 1980, officials with the Unification Church met with Dan Rinzel and [Redacted] of this Division's Criminal Section regarding the recent (December 28) fire which destroyed the main building at the Unification Church in Ulster County, New York. Those officials alleged that the fire was the culmination of a series of incidents which began in July 1980 and included acts of vandalism, beatings and gunshots fired onto church property. In one incident, a banner was left at the church camp indicating that the Ku Klux Klan was involved in this harassment.

I have enclosed copies of the following documents provided by Unification Church officials relating to those incidents:

- a) A letter dated December 30, 1980 from [Redacted] which enclosed various incident reports, photographs and newspaper articles.
- b) A preliminary report of the Camp New Hope Hall fire dated December 28, 1980 prepared by [Redacted]
- c) A December 30, 1980 newspaper article from the Ulster County Times Herald Record regarding the fire.
- d) An incident report detailing harassment during the July-August period.
- e) A xerox copy of a photograph of the KKK banner.
- f) An incident report regarding an alleged attack on two non-Unification Church ministers who were visiting the camp on August 10.

The allegations of these Unification Church officials, if true, could constitute violations of 18 U.S.C. § 241 and 42 U.S.C. § 3631. Therefore, please conduct the following limited investigation:

6-84 FEB 9 1981

W. J. [Signature]

1. Contact both local and state law enforcement agencies regarding their investigation of the fire and other incidents. Obtain copies of any investigative reports prepared or obtained by those agencies. If charges have been brought, monitor the subsequent proceedings.

2. Contact the Ulster County Fire Marshall and obtain copies of any reports prepared regarding the December 28, 1980 fire.

3. Interview [redacted] of [redacted] Maryland (exact addresses unknown) regarding the August 10, 1980 incident in which they were allegedly attacked after leaving the church camp.

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4. Interview [redacted] and obtain names of antagonists listed in incident reports supplied by her, copies of which are attached. Determine names and addresses of all witnesses to these incidents. Interview these witnesses.

5. Interview any subjects who may be identified as a result of your investigation.

The Unification Church

UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS



December 30, 1980

Daniel F. Rinzel
Chief, Criminal Section
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Justice Department
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Rinzel,

I appreciated meeting with you and your assistant, [redacted] to discuss our grave concerns about the recent fire which destroyed the main building at the Unification Church camp in Ulster County, New York. Since there is strong suspicion of malicious arson, we felt it was necessary for three of us to fly to Washington today to personally meet with you.

I was reassured when you clearly stated that the law is not subject to different interpretation when a "controversial" group is involved. I was also very relieved to hear you reaffirm your absolute commitment; both as an individual and as the Chief Officer of a section of the Justice Department, to the rightful enforcement of the law.

As per your request I have enclosed a packet of literature outlining some background information about the situation at the camp. It includes:

- . a photograph of the building which had the fire on Sunday morning, December 28; (to be sent as soon as developed)
- . copies of the articles in local newspapers reporting the fire;
- . a summary from the caretaker of the camp who discovered the fire;
- . correspondence sent to the Justice Department in August of this year when another building at the same camp was also burned down;
- . an incident report from July and August of this year outlining all the acts of malicious violence against the camp culminating with the fire; *(more details to be sent)*
- . a photograph of the KKK banner left at the camp which is now in the possession of the New York State Police;
- . a copy of all the articles which covered the fire and other incidents of violence in August at the camp;
- . a photograph of the building which was burned down in August;
- . a copy of the photograph and article about [redacted] carrying rifle;

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- . a press release about two non-Unification Church ministers who had their van stoned by antagonists when they visited Unification Church;
- . a series of statements from religious leaders and civil rights leaders throughout the United States protesting these acts of violence;
- . information about mail theft from the camp and the very lenient sentencing for this Federal crime;
- . information about [redacted]

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Please let me know if I can provide any more information for you. I am grateful for your promise of an investigation and would appreciate being kept informed of its progress.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted] Public Affairs

encl.

cc: [redacted] Esq.

The Unification Church

UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS



Dec. 30, 1980

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF CAMP NEW HOPE DINING HALL FIRE

Sunday, Dec. 28, 1980

Camp New Hope

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At 12:30am I entered the caretakers cabin. Before I could go to sleep the watchdog began barking. As I looked out the window I could see an eerie glow and smoke in the darkness outside.

Running to the dining hall complex (consisting of three buildings attached to each other) I discovered a fire blazing in the north end of the kitchen section nearest the road. Desperate to call the fire department I ran to the porch where the phone was located, but discovered smoke already pouring out.

The closest neighbor's house (a self-avowed enemy of our church) was dark and locked up. I dashed to the pay phone that was nearest to the scene which was still at least 100 yards away. For some reason it turned out to be inoperable. At this point I was frantic because a quick phone call might have at least saved the dining hall and two-story lodge.

The first call was made by passersby in a pickup truck, but it was already taking too long. In a relatively short period of time the dining room roof began to cave in. At this same time our neighbors just happened along in time to be spectators claiming that they had been playing cards in the area.

The firemen arrived only to confront a roaring blaze that was already out of control. They battled the blaze throughout the night, and although they could not save the three section complex, their valiant efforts did save the surrounding buildings.



The Unification Church

4 West 43rd Street ◊ New York, N.Y. 10036
UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS ◊ (212)997-0050

CONTACT: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PUBLIC AFFAIRS
[REDACTED]

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INCIDENT REPORT FROM BEGINNING OF JULY 1980 TO AUGUST 8, 1980

CAMP NEW HOPE

METTACHAHONTS ROAD, ACCORD, NEW YORK

- July 1980 Several tires found slashed on many vans.
- July 10, 1980 Left front wheel of one van was found to have all the lug nuts loosened to the end. Wheel almost fell off when driving; fortunately no accident occurred.
- July 9, 1980 Burnt cross was tossed onto our property near the field and woods across from barn area.
- July 12, 1980. Skull and snake image was put on road near camp.
- Beginning of July Neighbor put a sign on his property "We are 'not' Moonies". Sign has been sitting there since and was freshly painted in August.
- July 1980 Neighbor had continuously played his stereo loud late at night even until two or three in the morning.
- July-Aug. Neighbors sitting near by have constantly harassed us over the past few months through verbal insults.
- July 19, 1980 Neighbor seen for the first time with a shotgun.
- July 20, 1980 Car passed by house. First time threw out fire crackers. Second pass gun shots were fired sounding like 22 calibre rifle. Upon investigation, second story window of infirmary shot out and also the lamp outside of the welcome station. Sheriff was notified and police arrived at the scene. Sheriff ignored our call and told the police to forget it. Finally in the morning an investigation was made by State Police. We called and reported it in the morning.
- July 21, 1980 A young man entered the property from the road. He went by the infirmary toward the bunkhouse and then we lost track of him. Later he was seen by the vans and when we spotted him, he ran away.
- July 21, 1980 Neighbor threatened to shoot members with a shotgun. Three neighbors joined in verbal assault.
- July 23 Vehicles began driving right onto our property .
- July 24 Car drove by with a colt AR 15 rifle seen. Also neighbor seen on porch with rifle.
- July 25 Our vans began being followed when leaving property.

100-5683-1
ENCLOSURE



The Unification Church

4 West 43rd Street ◇ New York, N.Y. 10036
 UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS ◇ (212) 997-0050

CONTACT: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 [REDACTED]

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INCIDENT REPORT FROM BEGINNING OF JULY 1980 to AUGUST 8, 1980

- July 28 Spotted car near kitchen and gunshots fired again. Reported. Sheriff arrived and we reported that neighbors had threatened to shoot members if seen alone.
- July 29 Police came by in answer to a complaint from someone that we were shining a flashlight on their property. Our gate keeper was arrested on charges of assault and found not guilty.
- July 28 Neighbors tried to start a fight with our gatekeeper.
- July 28 While surveying our property, the surveyors were constantly harassed.
- July 30 Vehicle drove by kitchen and threw rock in kitchen window. No one hurt. Police notified.
- July 31, 1980 Vehicle drove onto our property and tried to hit people down. Caught the driver. No charges were pressed.
- August 1 Tried to go to our pump house. Previous permission to use access road was granted in June. But now neighbors stopped us and three councilmembers supported them claiming we are not allowed to enter. There is no other access to our pumphouse.
- August 2 Trucks from neighbors houses turned toward our property with all lights turned on in the middle of the night.
- August 2 Two neighbors trespassed on our property attempted to assault one of our church members. One of our church members were pushed and charges were pressed
- August 4 Rocks were thrown at our property and antagonists promised a "bloodbath".
- August 4 Vehicle drove onto our property and crashed into fence on our front porch. Pictures were taken.
- August 5 People seen tearing down our damn which has been done consistently all summer. They admitted it.
- August 3 Three times antagonist tried to drive one of our members off the road by driving straight toward him and keeping the bright lights on. Flood lights also used and driving in left lane.
- August 6 Five of our canoes reported stolen to both the police and the sheriff. No investigation made that we know of.



The Unification Church

4 West 43rd Street ◇ New York, N.Y. 10036
UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS ◇ (212) 997-0050

CONTACT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PUBLIC AFFAIRS [REDACTED]

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INCIDENT REPORT FROM JULY 1980 TO AUGUST 8, 1980

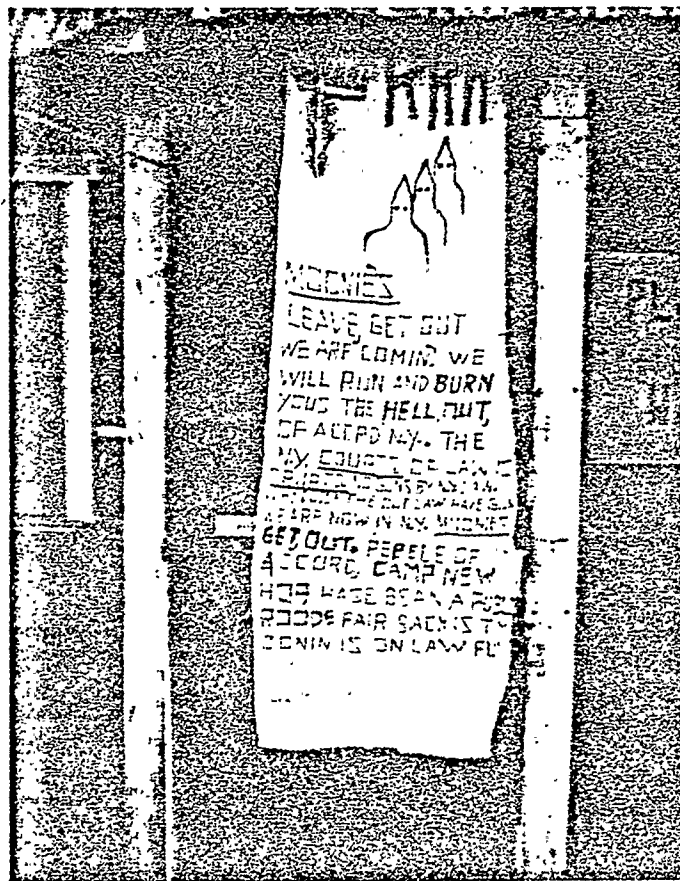
August 6 38 caliber bullet pulled out of the wall of our social hall.

August 8, Fire spotted at white house up the road. Upon arrival, suspects seen driving away. Voice shouted out, "We got one; we'll get the rest."

Wherever it says a neighbor or an antagonist we actually have names, descriptions, addresses, and phone numbers.

Wherever it says a vehicle we have vehicle descriptions, license plate numbers.

Original account (handwritten) also available. Incidents more extensive. Several per day of the same type, so not all listed to avoid repetition. Especially the occurrence of gunshots more than several times daily.



177-5083-1
ENCLOSURE

August 11, 1980 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: NADINE HACK
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
997-0050



The Unification Church

4 West 43rd Street ◊ New York, N.Y. 10036
UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS ◊ (212) 997-0050

TWO NON UNIFICATION CHURCH MINISTERS WHO WERE VISITING A UNIFICATION CHURCH CAMP WERE ATTACKED BY ANTI-UNIFICATION CHURCH ANTAGONISTS ON SUNDAY NIGHT AUGUST 10.

While leaving the Unification Church camp in Ulster County, New York, after a weekend visit, two ministers had their van stoned. This act of violence was very possibly committed by the same people who burned down a two story building at the same camp two days earlier, Friday, August, 8.

Church leaders allege this is all part of a well-planned anti-religious hate movement directed against members of the Unification Church and other minority groups.

Reverend Dr. Jacoba Quinn of Wheaton Maryland says:

"We were attending the Unification Church camp this weekend and had a lovely two days. When we were leaving the property on Sunday night four men jumped out on the road; one in front, one on each side, and one in the rear. They began throwing rocks at the van from all directions.

I'm a believer in prayer and I prayed for protection, but these people were mad; they tried to kill us. They were hollering, "We're going to kill you".

It was planned terrorism. This is a disgrace for the United States when this happens to you for teaching the Word of God. I have known the members of the Unification Church for four years now. Personally I can say how good these young people are. They are teaching morality and decency. I have never said much before, but now I am willing to go out all the way."

Reverend Lance Antos, also of Wheaton, Maryland says:

"This was a premeditated assault. We were ready to come home and these men just jumped out of the darkne and assaulted the van with rocks, blasphemies, and and physical demonstration that they were going to harm us. We were in a no man's land for a few minutes. One rock ricocheted off the back window. It was a frightening sound.

We had had a tremendous weekend. We met Dr. Mose Durst, President of the Unification Church. It was a full and rich weekend. My opinion of the camp is 'a workable idealism'. It was beautiful.

I think that the Lord's work is being done there. I think it is an evil force that hates it. It's just a hate thing. One man walked up to the gate after we had driven back onto the property for safety and shouted, 'If you get out of the car, we're going to kill you'."

The Unification Church is calling for a full conspiracy probe by the United States Department of Justice. Civil rights and religious leaders in New York, Atlanta, California, Washington D.C., and Maryland will be joining in protest tomorrow making appeals to their constituency and to their elected officials.

177-5683-1

'Moonies' want FBI probe of camp fire

By PETER C. KUTSCHERA
Ulster Bureau Chief

KERHONKSON — The Unification Church is renewing its call for an FBI probe of civil rights violations at Camp New Hope near Kerhonkson in the wake of a fire early Sunday that destroyed the retreat's main building.

Matthew Morrison, a church director in New York City, estimated the loss at between \$70,000 and \$100,000. But, at least part of the building and its contents were insured, "and we expect to continue to operate the camp" he said.

"We feel the fire was definitely arson-related," he said. "It was a direct outgrowth, in our view, of the hate meetings which were condoned and sanctioned by the Town of Rochester board this past summer. The people were roused at those meetings to the point of violence and this is what has resulted," Morrison said.

Meanwhile, the Ulster Sheriff's Department, aided by state police, was continuing an investigation of the fire that swept through the wood frame main building shortly after midnight Saturday. The fire badly damaged the main camp dining room, two kitchens, a gymnasium and offices.

"It was the most important building on the campgrounds and whoever did it knew that," Morrison said.

Lt. Michael LaPaglia, chief of detectives for the sheriff's department, said there is a "suspicion of arson. There is a very active investigation in progress and a number of persons familiar with the camp's operation, neighbors and whatever are being interviewed" he said.

The church originally sought an FBI probe last August, when a fire of undetermined origin swept through a two-story, vacant wood-frame house about 100 yards south of the main building off Mettacahtons Road. That fire was called "definitely suspicious" by LaPaglia.

At the time, Mose Durst, the president of the Unification Church of America, called for an FBI probe of the possibility that Ku Klux Klan operatives may have set fire to the building.

Nadine Heck, a church spokesman in Manhattan, said "Moonie" officials would seek a meeting with FBI officials later this week. She said the Civil Rights Division of the FBI "has apparently been quietly looking into the earlier allegations all along." FBI officials in Washington and New York could not be reached for comment Monday.

"There is no way that fire could have started on its own," Morrison said. He said the only occupant of the camp, caretaker Caleb Thomson, passed by the main building about 12:15 a.m. Sunday after he left a bungalow used as a prayer room.

"He went right past there and nothing was wrong," Thomson said. "Then, 15 minutes later, he heard a dog frantically barking, looked outside, and the place was rolling in flames."

"I attribute it to the totally irresponsible meetings that were conducted this past summer by the Town Board," Morrison said. "What they did was unforgivable."

The meetings were conducted in July to hear public comment on what could be done to oust the Moonies from the 60-acre camp property they purchased the month before. When the sessions became too large to hold at the small Town Hall at Accord, they were moved to the main gymnasium at Rondout Valley Central School.

But town officials immediately scoffed at Morrison's claims.

"At this point I don't think anybody knows what caused



Record photo by Mike Carey

Det. Robert McCrindle, with notebook, and Deputy William Slover, both of the Ulster County Sheriff's Department, and Caleb Thomson, the

caretaker of Camp New Hope near Kerhonkson, walk amid the rubble of the camp's main building Monday. Arson is suspected in the blaze.

the blaze," said Rochester Supervisor Vincent Dunn.

"We operate in this town under the democratic process, under the proviso that everyone has rights," Dunn said. "That's a two-way street. I did my utmost at the time to control the passion of the crowd."

He added that "supposition is one thing, and proof is another."

LaPaglia said that fire investigators Monday used a geiger counter-like device known as a "sniffer" to determine if any hydro-carbon accelerants, such as gasoline, were used to start the fire. Specimens of debris were collected

and forwarded to the state police laboratory in Albany for examination.

"We expect some kind of definite word on this in about two weeks or so," LaPaglia said.

Late Sunday, the Unification Church issued a written statement deploring the New Hope fire.

"We are religious people and seek only to live our lives in faith," the statement read.

"We are non-violent and law abiding citizens and will never return violence for violence," it said.

AIRTEL

1/15/81

Director, FBI

SAC, New York

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LEADS;
FIRE AND VANDALISM AT UNIFICATION
CHURCH CAMP, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK;
DIN - INTERFERENCE
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: NEW YORK

1 -

PH

Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory Departmental letter, along with its enclosures, dated January 9, 1981.

Complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 177, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines, and surap within 21 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

State in the first paragraph of the details of your report that it contains the results of a limited investigation and underscore the word limited.

Advise all persons interviewed and appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Enc. 6

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JAN 21 1981

- Exec AD-Inv. _____
- Exec AD Adm. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

KLP
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FEB 2 1981

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MAIL ROOM

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 1/23/81

2/17

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Albany (177B-32) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
FIRE AND VANDALISM AT UNIFICATION
CHURCH CAMP, ULSTER COUNTY,
NEW YORK;
 DIH - INTERFERENCE
 CIVIL RIGHTS
 (OO: Albany)

10

NY
②

Re FBIHQ airtel to New York dated 1/15/81 and New Rochelle airtel to Albany dated 1/22/81.

Enclosed for Baltimore and New York are two copies of the following documents:

1. FBIHQ airtel to New York dated 1/15/81.
2. Department of Justice letter to Director, FBI dated 1/9/81, with enclosures.

Baltimore and New York are requested to conduct the investigation as set forth on page 2 of the Departmental letter.

LEADS

BALTIMORE

AT WHEATON, MARYLAND

177-5613-3

Conduct investigation as requested in items 3 and 5.

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

17 JAN 28 1981

Interview [redacted] telephone [redacted] as requested in item 4. If applicable, conduct investigation in item 5.

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SIX

2 - Bureau
2 - Baltimore - Encs. (4)

2 - New York - Encs. (4)
2 - Albany

WES/smf

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted (8) (Number)

(Time)

Per _____

69 FEB 19 1981

1- copy - Rip / [unclear]

x Airtel

1/22/81

TO: ALBANY
FROM: SAC, NEW ROCHELLE
SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
FIRE AND VANDALISM AT UNIFICATION
CHURCH CAMP, ULSTER COUNTY,
NEW YORK;
DIH-INTERFERENCE
CIVIL RIGHTS
(OO:AL)

Attached for Albany is a self explanatory airtel with enclosures from the Bureau. For the Bureau's information Ulster County is covered by the Albany Division.

2-Albany
①-Bureau
RAN:elt
(4)
1-SSRA (NR-9)

177-5683-

1-11-81

NOT RECORDED
17 JAN 26 1981

66 FEB 11 1981

SLA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AIRTEL

DATE: 2/17/81

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : ADIC, NEW YORK (177B-399) (P) (M-13)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS: Fire and Vandalism at Unification Church Camp,
Ulster County, New York;
DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING-INTERFERENCE CIVIL RIGHTS
(OO:AL)

ReALairtel to Bureau, dated 1/23/81 (no copy to Detroit, New Rochelle MRA, Philadelphia or WFO).

Enclosed for FBIHQ are the original and three copies of a self-explanatory letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination to the United States Department of Justice.

Enclosed for Albany are four copies of the aforementioned LHM.

Enclosed for all other recipients are one copy each of aforementioned LHM and one copy of a self-explanatory Departmental letter dated 1/9/81.

ADMINISTRATIVE

As advised in Bureau airtel, dated 1/15/81 recipient offices should state in the first paragraph of the details of report that report contains the results of a limited investigation.

Advise all persons interviewed and appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the United States Department of Justice.

- ① - Bureau (Encls. 4)
 - 2 - Albany (177B-32) (Encls. 4)
 - 2 - Detroit (Encls. 2)
 - 2 - New Rochelle MRA (Encls. 2)
 - 2 - Philadelphia (Encls. 2)
 - 2 - Washington Field Office (Encls. 2)
 - 1 - New York
- JRB:rlg (14)

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NY 177B-399

For the information of Albany, witness [] in incident of 8/2/80, 7:00 pm is [] who is presently at the Unification Church Camp in Ulster Count, New York.

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For the information of WFO, listed witness, [] is allegedly knowledgeable concerning an incident which took place on 8/10/80, which involved the stoning of a van which was occupied by himself and two ministers of the Unification Church as the van was leaving the Unification Church Camp in Ulster County, New York.

Recipients are requested to conduct appropriate investigation regarding individuals within their respective territory as set forth in enclosed Departmental letter, dated 1/9/81.

Investigation continuing at New York.

