

CV 93-2140

PAGE SIX

IN AGREEMENT WITH FBI CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS IN SOUTH,

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN ANY CONTACTS WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] REPORTEDLY HAS SUICIDAL TENDENCIES  
AND [REDACTED] IS REPORTEDLY MENTALLY ILL AND REQUIRES CONTINUOUS MEDIC-  
ATION.

76

ADMINISTRATIVE:

REPORT TO FOLLOW.

END

BJP

FBI WASH DC

The Attorney General

May 25, 1970

Director, FBI

*Reserve Office Copy*

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;

Fire Bombing of Army ROTC Building  
Kent State University (KSU)  
Kent, Ohio  
May 2, 1970

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
- 1 - Mail Room (5531 JB)
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. G. H. Benzel

SABOTAGE; SEDITION; CIVIL RIGHTS -  
FEDERALLY PROTECTED ACTIVITY;  
DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Reference is made to my letter dated May 16, 1970, which furnished you a copy of the initial report in captioned matter.

There is enclosed a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 21, 1970, at Cleveland, which contains the results of additional investigation conducted. The investigation in this case is continuing and you will be kept promptly advised.

76

A copy of the enclosed report is being furnished to Honorable John D. Ehrlichman at the White House.

MAILED 2  
MAY 26 1970  
COMM-FBI

Enclosure

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure)  
Civil Rights Division
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure)  
Criminal Division *cc-13*
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure)  
Internal Security Division

*Lot*

*16479-042*

GHM:kks  
(13)

NOTE:

See Memorandum C. D. Brennan to Mr. T. O. Sullivan dated 5/23/70. Captioned as above. Prepared by GHM:at

51 MAY 26 1970

MAIL ROOM - INTERNAL SECURITY

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>CLEVELAND</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>CLEVELAND</b>	DATE <b>5/21/70</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/2 - 19/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Firebombing of Army ROTC Building, Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, 5/2/70</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED]</b>	<b>7C</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SABOTAGE; SEDITION; DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 - INTERFERENCE WITH FEDERALLY PROTECTED FACILITY</b>	

### REFERENCE

Report of SA [REDACTED] 5-14-70, at Cleveland. **7C**

### LEADS

CLEVELAND:

AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

Will continue intensive investigation to identify persons responsible for the burning of the Army ROTC Building at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAYINGS	RECOVERIES				PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 12 - Bureau (RM)						98-46479-43		18 MAY 27 1970	
1 - USA, Cleveland						By Liaison		REC-1	
cc - Pres. Committee on Campus						unrest		STAT/SECRET	
5 - Cleveland (98-2140)						AG, DAG, AAG-CD, ACC-AAG-ISO, AAG-CR		70 JUN 24 1970	
icc - 94d, 906						Examination Record of Attached Report		Notations	
Date Recd. 5/26/70						[Signature]		[Signature]	
How Fwd. GNM-5WE						Sec's [Signature]		[Signature]	

CV 98-2140

ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted that additional copies of this report have been designated for the Cleveland Office for review and lead purposes.

Whenever possible, signed statements are being obtained from appropriate witnesses.

- B\* -  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 USA, CLEVELAND

Report of: SA [REDACTED] 7C  
Date: MAY 21, 1970

Office: CLEVELAND

Field Office File #: 98-2140

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
FIREBOMBING OF ARMY ROTC BUILDING,  
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY (KSU)  
KENT, OHIO  
MAY 2, 1970

Character:

SABOTAGE;  
SEDITION;  
DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY;  
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 -  
INTERFERENCE WITH FEDERALLY PROTECTED FACILITY

Synopsis:

7d [REDACTED] ROTC Staff, Kent State University (KSU), advised that on 5/2/70, prior to the burning of the ROTC Building, a small group of unidentified individual heckled ROTC cadets as they returned from a training exercise. [REDACTED] also advised that WILLIAM K. SCHROEDER, KSU student who was shot to death during a confrontation with the Ohio National Guard (ONG) on 5/4/70, was also an ROTC cadet. He said SCHROEDER had previously expressed doubts about the place of ROTC on campus and had considered fleeing to Canada to break his contract with ROTC.

[REDACTED], ROTC, identified faculty members opposed to ROTC on campus and indicated the following organizations have protested in the past against ROTC: Young Socialist Alliance, Black United Students, and Student Mobilization Committee.

[REDACTED] KSU student, maintained she overheard unidentified persons on campus on 5/1/70 discussing possible plans to burn ROTC Building.

PETER CHARLES BLYEK, KSU student, attended rally on campus prior to burning and stated that unidentified leaders at rally urged students to "Get ROTC Building". [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] KSU student, noted 30 to 40 individuals wearing red headbands in crowd at fire. [REDACTED] KSU student, claimed unidentified white male wearing red and white striped bellbottom pants was actively engaged in setting ROTC fire. [REDACTED] student, orally admitted to FBI Agents that he threw rocks at ROTC Building.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both KSU faculty members, were of the opinion that [REDACTED] also a member of KSU faculty, was involved in burning the building. When interviewed, [REDACTED] stated his only participation at the burning was that of a faculty deputy. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] KSU, indicated he observed 5 to 10 persons in crowd at fire attempting to keep mob stirred up and that these individuals did not appear to be KSU students.

[REDACTED] advised he received information from a confidential source indicating that students [REDACTED] had something to do with burning the ROTC Building.

The residence of [REDACTED] 230 East Main Street, Kent, Ohio, was searched by FBI Agents on 5/10/70, subsequent to issuance of search warrant authorized by United States District Judge. Clothing and miscellaneous items were seized and submitted to FBI Laboratory for examination. No traces of smoke particles, flammable liquids, or oxidizing chemicals were found on clothing.

[REDACTED] was interviewed and denied involvement in throwing rocks at ROTC Building or setting it on fire. [REDACTED] acknowledged affiliation with Students for a Democratic Society and participation in various anti-war demonstrations in the past. He also indicated he was friend of JEFFREY MILLER, KSU student shot to death in confrontation with ONG on KSU campus, 5/4/70. Other occupants at above address were also interviewed and denied involvement in ROTC fire.

Attempts were made to locate and interview [REDACTED] [REDACTED] previously identified in photograph by eyewitness.

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is one who started ROTC fire. [REDACTED] father indicated [REDACTED] left area about 5/11/70 and indicated he was going to California. He also indicated that [REDACTED]'s friend, [REDACTED] had gone to New York on 5/11/70. [REDACTED] father further advised that [REDACTED] has suicidal tendencies and has attempted suicide on one occasion. He also advised that [REDACTED] an associate of [REDACTED] is mentally ill and requires medication on a continuous basis.

DOUGLAS CORMACK orally admitted to FBI Agents that he hindered firemen who were attempting to put out ROTC fire and that he threw rocks at the ONG. [REDACTED] student, refused to discuss his activities on 5/2/70, and stated he desired to consult an attorney.

Various faculty members have been identified with "Kent Free University", "23 Concerned Faculty", and the "New University Conference", groups on KSU campus which have been characterized by University sources as fomenting dissent and disrupting the University community. Prominent mentioned among this group was Associate Professor THOMAS LOUGH, KSU Sociology Department. A former student of LOUGH's, [REDACTED] advised LOUGH has distributed literature to students containing instructions on how to assemble a "Molotov cocktail".

LOUGH refused to be interviewed advising he was not in agreement with FBI civil rights investigations in the South.

**CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN ANY CONTACTS WITH [REDACTED] OR [REDACTED] REPORTEDLY HAS SUICIDAL TENDENCIES AND [REDACTED] IS REPORTEDLY MENTALLY ILL AND REQUIRES CONTINUOUS MEDICATION.**

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CV 88-2140

I. PRE-INCIDENT ACTIVITIES

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/14/70

(1)

[redacted] Ohio, advised she is a junior, 3rd year student, Kent State University (KSU), with residence at Kent, Ohio, 814 So Depeyster Street. She advised she was not on the Kent campus on May 2, 1970, and could provide no information with regard to the burning of the ROTC building, nor did she attend any rallies prior to that date. She advised on Thursday, April 2, 1970, while walking on Summit Street between Lincoln Street, the first street west of Lincoln in Kent, Ohio, she observed COLLIN NEIBERGER, a former Kent student, and [redacted] walking in a westerly direction on Summit Street. She advised she spoke briefly to NEIBERGER as she had known him personally on campus having met him over a year ago when he was dating a friend of hers. She stated she is not personally acquainted with [redacted] however, knows him to see him as she has seen him on campus at Kent, Ohio previously. She stated the conversation consisted of NEIBERGER asking her how she was and as she was in a hurry she did not stop to talk with him. She advised she has no additional information pertaining to these individuals and she is not acquainted with a former student by the name of [redacted].

She stated she was on campus May 4, 1970, however, worked in the cafeteria at the Tri Towers Dormitory from 11:00 AM until 2:30 PM and she has no knowledge of the confrontation between the Kent students and the Ohio National Guard.

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on 5/13/70 at Alliance, Ohio File # Cleveland 98-21

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 5/14/70

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[redacted]  
after being furnished the identities of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information concerning the demonstration at Kent State University on May 1 through May 3, 1970.

[redacted] advised that on May 1 at the noon rally the group gathered around the Victory Bell on the Commons and on a tree nearby was a homemade sign attached to the tree which in red letters at the bottom of the sign said "Why is the ROTC building still standing". He said he did not recall the other wording but the sign was made from a white cloth which was about four feet high. He said later this sign was removed from the tree and placed over the top of the sign which advertised another activity on the campus. He said he did not see the sign put on the tree and had no idea where it came from.

PL

[redacted] said he was nearby when this rally was taking place and there were approximately two speakers, in particular, RALPH DEVILBANK and STEVE SHAROFF. [redacted] said previously there was a sign posted around the campus to the effect that the noon rallies for the purpose of burying the constitution. He said this poster was sponsored by a group called the World Historians Opposed to Racism and Exploitation (WHORE). He explained that this was not a recognized organization on campus and not allowed to post activities so therefore it was sponsored by the Student Religious League (SRL). This was also contained on the poster.

During the rally SHAROFF made a statement to the crowd that as he sees the constitution as a piece of paper that it is dead as far as constituting the people it represents and should be buried. [redacted] said at this point a student went to the loud speaker and asked the crowd if they were going to allow the constitution to be buried and as SHAROFF placed the constitution in the small hole which he had made with the shovel, this student attempted to remove the constitution from the hole and SHAROFF shoved him to the ground. [redacted] said at first he felt that this was a serious attempt on the part of the student to not allow the constitution to be buried but now he feels that this was strictly an act in an attempt to rile the crowd. [redacted] said SHAROFF stated that it was his

On 5/15/70 at Kent, Ohio File # Cleveland 93-210

by SA [redacted] JTB/bsj Date dictated 5/15/70

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right under the constitution to bury the constitution. [redacted] said that posters were placed around the campus advertising a rally at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, 1970. He said he was in the area of the Commons around 8:00 p.m. when a group began marching through the campus attempting to get followers. He said the group accumulated approximately 200 to 300 people and converged on the ROTC building. He said unlike other demonstrations in which the group gathers, speeches are made and then they decide what action is to be taken, this group came directly to the ROTC building that no speeches were made and immediately began breaking the windows. This was about 8:30 p.m. and two male individuals began breaking the windows in the ROTC building with what appeared to be long sticks or two by fours and after these windows were broken they moved out of the immediate area and seemed to disappear while others threw flares and what appeared to be Molotov cocktails in the building. He described these individuals as follows:

#1, approximately 6' tall, 170 to 175 pounds, shoulder length brown hair with band around his head, color unknown. He said the individual had a beard and wore stripped pants.

#2, [redacted] said this person was shorter and more stocky than #1, had long brown hair, a jacket which he could not describe and a beard.

[redacted] reviewed photographs in the possession of FBI and could not identify any of the people he observed at the time of the burning of the ROTC building in these photographs. [redacted] said he believes he could recognize the two individuals in particular if he observed them again and stated that he did not see them in these photographs.

With regard to the burning of the ROTC building, [redacted] said one flare that was thrown on the inside burned for a short time and went out. He said a Molotov cocktail was thrown into a window and he observed that apparently the bottle broke on the inside because the flames scattered.

[redacted] said at one point [redacted] very excitedly rushed up to him and explained that the building was burning.

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██████████ said he did not observe any of the activities on Sunday or Monday May 3 and 4, 1970.

██████████ after being exhibited the photographs in possession of the FBI identified the following:

Photograph A-1, Individual #4

██████████  
Kent State University

Photograph A-1, Individual #5

Unknown individual, Kent State University faculty member - possibly in Psychology

Photograph A-33, Individual #1

STEVE SHAROFF, Graduate Student former member of Concerned Citizens for the Kent State University Community (CCC)

Photograph A-40, Individual #5

██████████ Kent State University student

Photograph A-65, Individual #2

Unknown individual, also known as "Fargo", Negro male, spoke at 3:00 p.m. rally May 1, 1970, Kent State University student, member of the Black United Students (BUS)

Photograph A-69, Individual #8

CRAIG MORGAN, Student senator, accused Kent State University administration of over-reacting. Went to Washington, D. C. to organize a memorial service attended by CORETTA KING, wife of MARTIN LUTHER KING and TED KENNEDY

Photograph A-75, Individual #1

WILLIAM A. RESCH, President, Graduate Student Council

Photograph A-80, Individual #4

Unknown individual believed not to be a student who arrived on campus just before weekend of violence.

Photograph A-88, Individual #1

Possibly [REDACTED]

Photograph F-3, Individual #3

[REDACTED]  
Freshman student

Arrested 1969 in Canton, Ohio, for possession of marijuana, received one to ten years sentence, was paroled after four months.

Photograph F-6, Individual #2

[REDACTED], involved in SDS last year, was leader of sit-in when Oakland, California Police Department had recruiters on campus.

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II. BURNING OF THE ROTC BUILDING

19

CV 98-2140

II. BURNING OF THE ROTC BUILDING

A. INTERVIEWS WITH ROTC  
OFFICIALS AND CADETS

Date May 19, 1970

[redacted] ROTC Unit, Kent State University (KSU), was interviewed while [redacted], ROTC Staff, KSU, was also present concerning organizations and individuals on the KSU campus of an anti-ROTC nature.

[redacted] advised that he has been present on KSU campus since July, 1969, and has actually been in command of the ROTC Unit since September, 1969. He advised that he kept a 3 x 5 card file which was begun in October, 1969, on individuals, organizations, and incidents on the KSU campus which were anti-ROTC by nature. He advised that he had approximately eight names of individuals in the KSU faculty who have shown by their actions that they were vehemently anti-ROTC. [redacted] advised that his 3 x 5 card file was destroyed in the fire which destroyed the ROTC building; and he, therefore, could not provide the names from that file.

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[redacted] advised that the following academic departments on the KSU campus were observed by him from their actions during faculty meetings to be anti-ROTC: Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, and English Departments.

[redacted] also specifically named the following individuals who have attempted to have ROTC "thrown off" of the KSU campus in the past:

Dr. EDWARD H. FRIEDEN, Professor of Chemistry; *of*

Dr. HERON J. MAJINE, Dean of Honors College; *of*

Dr. DENIS D. FRANKLIN, Associate Professor of English, President of American Association of University Professors; *of*

Dr. ROBERT BERTHOFF, Assistant Professor of English; *of*

Dr. GERALD KATZ, Professor of French, Romance Languages and Classics; *of*

BOB FRANKLIN, Graduate Assistant, Chemistry Department

5/19/70 Kent, Ohio File # CV 98-2140

by SA [redacted] slk Date dictated 5/19/70

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[redacted] advised that of the above-mentioned individuals, Dr. GERALD KAMBER was probably the individual on the KSU campus who has done the most to try and have ROTC dropped from the campus. He stated that KAMBER, while attending a meeting on the KSU campus during the week of May 11, 1970, to May 17, 1970, spoke out against ROTC, and also condemned all the present Officials of the United States Government concerning their political view points, and the manner in which the Administration is carrying out its policies. [redacted] also mentioned that the aforementioned Dr. DORIS E. FRANKLIN, Assistant Professor of English, was in charge and took it upon herself to write up a referendum to censor the Ohio State Officials for their policies and interference in the incidents which took place at KSU campus.

[redacted] advised that this referendum has not been drawn up and passed by the faculty at this time. [redacted] stated that he could not be sure of the following information, but it was provided to him by a reliable source that campus [redacted] was permitting SDS members to distribute literature in the corridors of the [redacted] House. [redacted] also advised that his son recently informed him that the son of [redacted] is presently distributing SDS literature on the high school level at Roosevelt High School in Kent, Ohio.

[redacted] could not provide the names of the faculty who permitted SDS on the KSU campus on November 5, 1970, when SDS speaker, MARK RUD, was permitted to come on the campus to speak, and then hold a rally at which time individuals from SDS marched around the ROTC building.

[redacted] advised he still knows of no other anti-ROTC organizations on KSU campus other than Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), Black United Students (BUS), Student Mobilization Committee, and Moratorium Committee.

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Date 5/11/70

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[redacted] Staff ROTC Unit, Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, was interviewed concerning the burning of the ROTC building on KSU campus on May 2, 1970. [redacted] advised that there had been several demonstrations on campus earlier in the week and he recalls that on Thursday, April 30, 1970, individuals were handing out leaflets at the cafeteria on campus concerning demonstrations to take place on campus that week. One of the persons handing out leaflets was identified as being [redacted] whom [redacted] now has been barred from campus under penalty of arrest. Upon realizing who this individual was [redacted] went back to see [redacted] and [redacted] had left the cafeteria and was nowhere around.

[redacted] recalls that Friday night, May 1, 1970, students and demonstrators had broken windows downtown and several windows in the ROTC Headquarters building had been broken. These windows were on the west and north sides of the building.

On Saturday, May 2, 1970, [redacted] was scheduled to take a ROTC class to the high velocity rifle ranges and [redacted] had told [redacted] that he, [redacted] had received a call from a cadet at 3:00 AM that morning indicating that some or some group was planning to move to stop the class from going to the ranges or was planning to disrupt operations of the class. As the class was preparing to leave for the ranges, three or four students appeared in the driveway near the Student Union building and these persons watched the class load onto Army vehicles. [redacted] noted that these persons were fairly well dressed, more well dressed than the average KSU student would be, and was unusual to [redacted]. The class proceeded to the ranges and returned in the afternoon at approximately 2:30 when they were stopped prior to arriving on campus by [redacted].

[redacted] told [redacted] that there might possibly be trouble on campus if the class returned in the military vehicles and therefore, the class went to the National Guard Armory. They transferred to University buses in which they returned to campus.

5/5/70 Kent, Ohio File # Cleveland 98-211  
SA [redacted]  
[redacted] Date dictated 5/7/70

As the bus arrived at the ROTC building for unload approximately eight to twelve individuals again appeared in area of the Student Union building. Four or five of these came down the driveway to the bus and as the class unloaded began heckling the cadets. They attempted to talk to each although they were unsuccessful in gaining the attention of. In particular, the hecklers made it a point to ask each of three Negro cadets their reason for being in uniform and to them they had no reason to fight in a country where they had freedom themselves.

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After the class entered the building, [redacted] made several trips from the front of the building to the Administrative Offices in the rear and the walk around the north side of the building. On one occasion, as he walked the rear of the building, one of the hecklers walked along him and told him "This would be a good place for you and your men to be tonight because it is going to burn," or a statement similar in context to that. [redacted] recalls replying to him "Why not now?" This person was a white male, 18-20 years of age, 5'8" tall, medium slender build, clean shaven, fairly long (not quite shoulder length), wearing a shirt and pants coat in colors. This incident took place at approximately 3:15 the cadets were all inside cleaning weapons.

[redacted] paid little attention to this person's statements as he had heard similar ones five or six previous times. Several of these persons hung around the building but all of them were gone when the building was closed at approximately 5:30 PM by [redacted]

[redacted] indicates that the following Cadet may have knowledge as to the identity of some of the hecklers

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

CV 44-703  
(3)

7d [redacted] advised that on the evening of May 2, 1970, he was telephonically contacted and advised that the ROTC Headquarters building was burned. He went to the vicinity of the building and firemen were putting the fire out at that time and there were several students standing by watching the fire, although [redacted] could not recall or identify them. He indicated that Cadets [redacted] may have possibly been present when the fire was started.

7c He also noted that Cadet [redacted] indicated to him that he had seen an individual with a torch starting fire in the building.

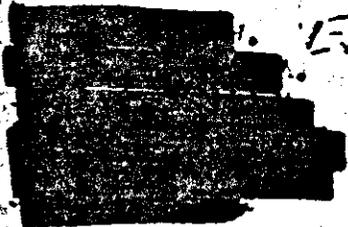
[redacted] furnished a list of the ROTC Junior class that went to the ranges and that list is attached with the members of the class who were not present indicated.

JTC ROSTER

JTC Route 1 NS III & IV Cadets

FIRST PLATOON

1st SQUAD



*Edward*  
*Edward*

7C

2nd SQUAD



*Allen*

3rd SQUAD



7C

4th SQUAD



*12/1*

SECOND PLATOON

1st SQUAD



*Edward*

7C

2nd SQUAD



*Allen*

3rd SQUAD



7C

4th SQUAD



JTC Route 1 NS III & IV Cadets

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

May 19, 1970

Date

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[redacted] ROTC Staff, Kent State University (KSU), advised that he had been assigned to the ROTC Staff at KSU for approximately two years. He advised that he heard first-hand information concerning faculty members who would be against ROTC as his Commanding Officer, [redacted], would be, the individual who would have direct contact with these people during the faculty conferences. He stated that he was aware of one individual, [redacted], who is well-known on the KSU campus as an agitator and an individual who is very much against ROTC.

[redacted] advised that the student groups on campus who were anti-ROTC were Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), Black United Students (BUS), Student Mobilization Committee, and Moratorium Committee. He also advised that two new organizations on the campus were New University Conference (NUC), and Student Religious League (SRL), but that these organizations had not made their policies toward ROTC known to date.

5/19/70

Kent, Ohio

File # CV 98-2140

by SA [redacted]

ilks

Date dictated 5/19/70

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Date 5/15/70

(1)

Cadet [redacted] a sophomore at Kent State University (KSU), presently residing at 123 Crane Street, Kent, Ohio, advised he could furnish no information regarding persons responsible for the burning of the ROTC building, although he is interested in helping identify these persons in any way possible.

[redacted] stated on Saturday evening after the fire had started, he had seen the flames from the burning building and [redacted] to campus where he talked for a while with [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] talked with several other staff officers names unrecalled, that evening and although there was a crowd standing around watching the fire, [redacted] cannot recall the names of any of the persons. One individual, who was talking with [redacted] was standing in the Air Force ROTC offices and this person [redacted] works on campus and is a student. He is a young white male with light brown hair and although [redacted] does not know his name, possibly some officers in the Air Force ROTC may know them.

[redacted] recalls that one of the individuals on the [redacted] was a Negro male, who is a football player and is a sophomore or junior and he was taunting the firemen and National Guardsmen Saturday night. Another person who was in the crowd was an individual who is an officer for the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) and this person is approximately 5'6" - 5'8", white male, short slender build (140 lbs.), bushy hair, full beard, glasses and always wears a fatigue cap and a brown jacket. There is a Mexican student who is also in the YSA who was present Saturday night and [redacted] does not recall his name either.

7d 7c

5/6/70

Kent, Ohio

File # Cleveland 98-211

SA [redacted]  
SA [redacted]

7c

5/11/70

Date dictated

(1) 7d 7c

Date 5/14/70

[redacted] staff ROTC, Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, advised that he was not on campus on Saturday as his wife was in the hospital, although on Saturday evening he was visiting [redacted] at [redacted] residence, when at approximately 7:45 PM, [redacted] received a call from [redacted] regarding the fire at the ROTC building. [redacted] and [redacted] went to KSU campus and arrived there at approximately 8:45 PM and when they arrived either no fire trucks had yet arrived or one had been present and had been driven off by students.

[redacted] is not sure of the above as he heard all kinds of rumors that evening.

[redacted] recalls that there was a white male dressed in bluejeans, a plaid jacket and a white armband, who had black hair standing around the Air Force ROTC building that evening and [redacted] and other members of the ROTC staff briefly talked with this individual. He mentioned several comments regarding activities on campus within the last several days and possibly was present when the fire was started. [redacted] advised that this individual works for the University, possibly in the Maintenance Department and he is 19 or 20 years old, over 6' tall, slender build, light complexion, and is probably also a student.

[redacted] believes that possibly [redacted] may know the identity of the above individual as [redacted] was around the area of the ROTC building talking with [redacted] that evening.

[redacted] was also around that evening and may have seen the fire started. [redacted] talked to him occasionally although he could not recall if [redacted] mentioned seeing the fire started.

[redacted] could furnish no names of individuals whom he saw standing around the building as the fire was burning.

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SA [redacted]  
SA [redacted]

Date dictated 5/11/70

Date 5/14/70

(1)

[REDACTED] ROTC, Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, furnished the following information concerning activities around the ROTC building on Saturday, May 2, 1970:

In the early morning of May 2, 1970, a ROTC class boarded a bus and went to the high velocity rifle ranges and returned from the ranges in the early afternoon approximately 2:30 PM. At the time the class arrived back at the ROTC building they were in an University bus, having transferred from an Army Reserve vehicle which they originally left the campus in. He advised they had transferred in the University bus in view of the fact there were rumors on campus that the National Guard was being moved in.

At the time the bus arrived, [REDACTED] noticed several individuals standing on the driveway by the Student Union building and approximately four of these students were at the bus as the class was departing. [REDACTED] stated these individuals were hecklers and they were attempting to talk to members of the class as they came off the bus. [REDACTED] cannot recall the names of any of these individuals although he does recall that one of the persons was a white who was wearing a headband and had long hair. Another individual and a girl were walking around the ROTC building toward the Commons and [REDACTED] heard the boy make a comment to an unknown person and the comment was "You better keep guarding that bus boy that place will burn good."

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] possibly knows one of these hecklers or might of heard the above comment.

[REDACTED] also advised that one heckler was talking to a black student cadet briefly and the only two black cadets [REDACTED] knows of in the class were (PNU) [REDACTED] (phonetic) and [REDACTED] both of whom are seniors.

[REDACTED] advised that after the class finished cleaning the guns and had left, he and [REDACTED]

on 5/6/70

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SA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED], locked the building and [REDACTED] noted that there did not appear to be any hecklers outside or any persons watching them leave.

At approximately 8:30 PM, [REDACTED] received a telephone call from the campus police who advised him that the ROTC building had been set on fire. [REDACTED] advised he did not come to the campus that evening as several of the other officers were there.

Date 5/14/70

(1)

[redacted] ROTC, Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, advised as follows concerning the burning of the ROTC building on Saturday, May 2, 1970, and the events which took place prior to that burning on the afternoon of May 2, 1970:

At approximately 7:30 AM, [redacted] and several other staff officers took a ROTC class to the rifle ranges and then left in an Army Reserve truck. Before they left, [redacted] had indicated to [redacted] that there may be trouble on campus with students trying to stop the class from going to the ranges. There were no problems in that regard however, upon returning from the ranges, their bus was stopped by [redacted] on Route 43 and [redacted] advised [redacted] that the rumor on campus was that the National Guard was coming to KSU and they decided to transfer to a University vehicle so as not to arouse attention. They took the class to the National Guard Armory and there transferred to the University bus and arrived on campus at approximately 2:30 PM.

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When they arrived, approximately ten students were standing on the driveway by the Student Union building looking towards the ROTC building where the class began departing from the bus. One of these students [redacted] recalls was a Negro male and he came down to the class and talked for a while to the three black cadets who were in the class. These cadets were [redacted]. He recalls that this student definitely talked to [redacted] for a short while. [redacted] cannot recall the names of any of the students although several of them were standing around heckling the class and the black student was possibly in the ROTC previously. When [redacted] left, the class was finished cleaning the weapons and [redacted] left with [redacted] around 6:00 PM.

On Saturday evening prior to the ROTC building being set on fire, [redacted] had occasion to drive on campus with members of his family at approximately 7:30 PM, and at that time he saw 300 to 400 students near the back of the ROTC building and some of these students were carrying large bags, similar

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SA [redacted]

by SA [redacted]

[redacted]

Date dictated 5/21/70

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(2)

grocery bags. They were carrying them in their hands, hanging towards the ground, and [REDACTED] does not know what was in the bags. Seeing the large crowd, [REDACTED] decided not to go near the building and left the campus.

He later heard that the ROTC building had been set on fire. He advised he cannot recall any of the names of the persons in the large crowd.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

(1)

Date 5/15/70

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[redacted] Staff ROTC, Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, advised that he was with the cadet class which returned to the campus from the rifle ranges on Saturday, May 2, 1970, and as they arrived on campus, he recalls several cadets commenting that there appeared to be a lot of strangers on campus. As the class was departing the bus, to enter the ROTC building, [redacted] heard a male individual who was standing near the bus make some comment to the effect that the staff officers should watch the ROTC building closely as it would make a pretty fire. There were several individuals standing around the bus trying to talk to the cadets, although [redacted] cannot recall the identity of these persons.

[redacted] left the building after the class had gone and at that time, recalls no persons standing around the building. He returned that evening at approximately 9:30 PM, after having been advised that the building had been set on fire. He recalls the identity of none of the persons in the crowd that evening.

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II. BURNING OF THE ROTC BUILDING

B. INTERVIEWS WITH STUDENTS