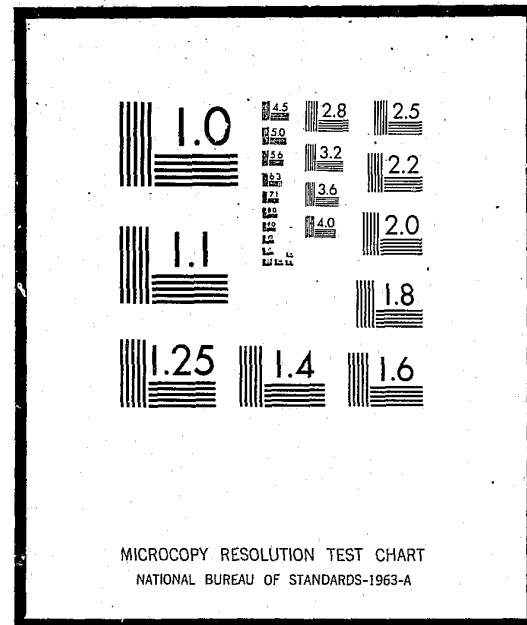


NCJRS

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed

6/13/75

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

STATEMENT ON TERRORISM
BY CLARENCE M. KELLEY, DIRECTOR, FBI,
MAY 31, 1974

In a tragic incident in Los Angeles last May 17th six members of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) met death. This event is tragic in several ways. A half dozen young lives were lost. For these six individuals, it was the end of a trail of violence, threats to society, bank robbery, kidnaping, and terrorist activity. It was also tragic in the fact that it aroused unwarranted criticism of the concerned law enforcement agencies and it blinded some citizens' perspective regarding terrorism.

As a career law enforcement official, I want to assure you that no police agency or police officer has any desire to become involved in gun battles. In law enforcement, firepower is a defensive weapon, a last resort used to protect innocent citizens or fellow law enforcement associates whose safety and lives are being jeopardized.

As a parent with deep love for my family and friends, I can well understand the anguish suffered by those whose loved ones have somehow become swept up in the violent antisocial

95081 *

movement, whether it be the SLA or other similar violence-oriented group. But this compassion cannot lead to disregard for rights of all citizens. Violence as a solution to social ills must be rejected.

The fact that a number of SLA members recently met a violent end does not mean that other members of the SLA or other revolutionary groups need also face such an end. However, let all who would espouse terrorism fully understand that the law enforcement profession will not shirk its responsibility to protect the rights, property, welfare, and lives of our fellow citizens.

I urge law-abiding citizens who reap the benefits of our form of government to maintain a sane and sensible position in regard to those who would overthrow this government and its institutions by force and violence. It may be true that these members of revolutionary groups seek a better world, that they give up comfortable homes and protected lives to further their cause, and that they crusade with burning zeal to achieve their ends.

They, however, like all who espouse anarchy or despotism, fail to realize that the world of the late 20th century will not tolerate force and violence as tactics to achieve a valid end. This nation has established a form

of government that permits change as the people desire-- but the change must be brought about peacefully and under the law. Those who choose to live outside the law must accept the consequences of their violent choice. They cannot be permitted to hide under a facade of idealism.

Those who would steal and those who would kill, despite ostensibly lofty motives, must be considered for what they actually are--thieves and murderers.

One in my position cannot discuss a problem such as terrorism without touching on what the FBI and law enforcement in general is doing about it. A couple of weeks ago I was widely quoted as having described our status in the Hearst kidnaping case as "stumped." To the extent that I was referring to the exact whereabouts of Miss Hearst, that was and is true. It does not mean, however, that our investigative efforts have ended. Together with police departments across the country, we are following up on hundreds of leads in the case in a nationwide cooperative effort to resolve this matter.

For obvious reasons I cannot cite examples of specific locations where we are conducting searches for terrorists, but I can assure you that where such groups or individuals are active, we are there. I can further assure you that in this cooperative effort by all law enforcement

agencies, we will succeed. Terrorism in the United States
simply will not be tolerated.

We in law enforcement realize and accept our responsibility to prevent terrorism as well as to enforce the laws which terrorists violate. We have given serious thought to this problem, and have concluded that our capabilities in this area definitely need to be broadened in the use of certain techniques we cannot now employ. To this objective, we in the FBI are in the process of considering proposed legislation in the area of domestic wiretaps for discussion with the Department of Justice and eventual presentation to the Congress. The use of this important law enforcement technique would greatly assist us in our counterterrorist efforts.

The FBI and all law enforcement agencies in this country are pledged to the safety and security of all citizens. So there may be no questions as to our policies with regard to the terrorists in this country, allow me to summarize our position by quoting from a fine editorial which appeared in the Washington Star-News on May 21, 1974: "Any group which takes up the gun to achieve its objectives must be put down very hard, very quickly. The SLA has learned, in Los Angeles, that this will be done. We can only hope that others with guerrilla delusions are learning that bullets and ideals do not mix in this country."

END