

Guide to the Microfilm
Edition of

FBI File on Elijah Muhammad

A Microfilm Publication by

Primary Source Media



Acknowledgment

Scholarly Resources (an imprint of Primary Source Media) microfilm publications of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Files are produced with the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington D.C.

ISBN 0-8420-4162-1

Manufactured in the United States of America
Published 1996

Distributed on microfilm by:

Primary Source Media



12 Lunar Drive, Woodbridge, CT 06525
Telephone: (800) 444-0799 and (203) 397-2600
Fax: (203) 397-3893
Website: www.gale.cengage.com/psm

Also available from Scholarly Resources (an imprint of Primary Source Media) microfilm:

FBI File on Malcolm X (10 rolls)
FBI File on the Muslim Mosque Inc. (3 rolls)
FBI File on Organization of Afro-American Unity (1 roll)
FBI File on the NAACP (4 rolls)
FBI File on the Reverend Jesse Jackson (1 roll)
FBI File on W.E.B. Du Bois (1 roll)
FBI Assassination File: Martin Luther King, Jr. (25 rolls)
FBI File on the Moorish Science Temple of America (Noble Drew Ali) (3 rolls)

Introduction

Elijah Poole was born on October 7, 1897, near Sandersville, Georgia, to Wally and Marie Poole. In 1931, he met A. Wallace Fard Mohammed, who instructed him in religious theology. Poole accepted his teacher as Allah, the true God. He then dropped his surname and became Elijah Mohammed (or Muhammad, as he preferred), the Prophet of Allah. He began to teach the black community his understanding of Islam.

The Nation of Islam, an all-black organization, first appeared in Detroit in 1930. Under the leadership of Muhammad, its temples spread across the United States. His interpretation of the Koran taught that there was no such thing as a Negro; that so-called Negroes were slaves of the white race (called "white devils") in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitations of the so-called Negroes, must and would be destroyed in the coming "War of Armageddon." He further sought to establish an independent, black nation within the United States. During the birth of the civil rights movement in the 1950s, the Nation of Islam was deemed a subversive organization. The teachings of Elijah Muhammad came under the scrutiny of the FBI because he encouraged young people to evade the draft (registration under the Selective Service Act) because they owed no allegiance to the United States. Muhammad himself had been arrested in 1942 for failure to register with the Selective Service System.

These FBI files provide background into the life of Muhammad and follow his activities and teachings as the spiritual leader of the Nation of Islam from 1953 until his death in 1975. They also trace the role of the Nation of Islam as an influence during the civil rights struggle, which often found itself opposed to the "nonviolent" protest philosophy and direction of the main line movement. This program reveals the problems within the Nation of Islam, including the division that evolved between Muhammad and his second in command Malcolm X. And they profile

probably their most famous convert: prize-fighter Cassius Clay who became Muhammad Ali.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act; certain documents or portions of documents have been deleted by the FBI pursuant to provisions of that legislation. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, and the FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of material or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.

Roll Notes

FBI File 105-24822

SECTION 1

1953-1957

Roll 1, 0003-0102

Security Matter: Muslim Cult of Islam (MCI)

Background information on Elijah Muhammad

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks," a newspaper column

"The Rise of Elijah Muhammad," an article appearing in the magazine *Moslem World* and the *USA* (Jun./Jul. 1956)

SECTION 2

1957-1958

Roll 1, 0103-0203

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Background information on Elijah Muhammad

Purpose of the Nation of Islam

Newspaper articles: "Islamic World" as published in the *NY Amsterdam Star News* (Feb. 1958)

SECTION 3

1958-1959

Roll 1, 0204-0336

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Background information on Elijah Muhammad

Connections with the Nation of Islam

SECTION 4

1959-1960

Roll 1, 0337-0472

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Contains letters from the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

SECTION 5

1960-1961

Roll 1, 0473-0666

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

FBI Identification Number (FBI No. 2-759-020)

Congressional interest in Moslem movement

Article: "Mr. Muhammad Speaks" (*Reader's Digest*,
Mar. 1960), by Alex Haley
Excerpt from Muhammad's speech on radio (Sep. 1960)

SECTION 6
1961-1962 **Roll 1, 0667-0762**
Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)
Activities as leader of the Nation of Islam

SECTION 7
1962-1963 **Roll 1, 0763-END**
Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)
Extramarital activities of Elijah Muhammad
Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks," a bimonthly news-
paper including (Jul. 1962) "What the Muslims
Want," by Elijah Muhammad
Excerpts from newspaper article, "Mr. Muhammad
Speaks"

SECTION 8
1963-1964 **Roll 2, 0002-0236**
Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)
Transcript of Elijah Muhammad's conversation
involving income tax matters
Excerpts from "Mr. Muhammad Speaks"
Elijah Muhammad suspends Malcolm X
Rift between Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X
Association of Elijah Muhammad and Cassius Clay

SECTION 9
1964-1965 **Roll 2, 0237-0467**
Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)
Elijah Muhammad's trip to Jamaica
Organization of Afro-American Unity
Muslim Mosque Inc. (MMI)
Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks"
Newspaper article: *Phoenix Gazette* (Feb. 1965): "Black
Muslim Chief Loses Damage Suit"
Murder of Malcolm X

SECTION 10

1965-1966

Roll 2, 0468-0685

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks"

Paternity suits against Elijah Muhammad

Police brutality charges in Los Angeles riots

Excerpts from "Kup's Show" (Oct. 9, 1965), a Chicago-based television program, with host Irving Kupcinet and an interview with Elijah Muhammad

Transcript of speech given by Elijah Muhammad, outlining the beliefs of the Nation of Islam

SECTION 11

1966-1968

Roll 2, 0686-END

Internal Security: Nation of Islam

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks"

Rumors of a marriage between Cassius Clay and a daughter of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser

Cassius Clay's conscientious objector status (draft designation)

Damage suit against Elijah Muhammad re: auto accident Muslim Mosque Inc. (MMI)

SECTION 12

1968-1969

Roll 3, 0002-0231

Internal Security: Nation of Islam

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks"

Excerpt from program (Aug. 15, 1968) monitored by James Tilman and featuring Elijah Muhammad

Black Panther Party and Elijah Muhammad

Letter to President-elect Richard M. Nixon

SECTION 13

1969-1972

Roll 3, 0232-0573

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks" (1970-1972)

News article: *Chicago Today* (Feb. 1970), "Leader
Scorns Jackson, King: Barbara Reynolds Interviews
Elijah Muhammad"
Black Panther Party

SECTION 14

1972-1973

Roll 3, 0574-0744

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Dissension among the NOI

Excerpts from *Chicago Sun Times* (Mar. 1972), "Merv
Block Interviews Elijah Muhammad"

Excerpts from speeches given by Elijah Muhammad

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks" (Apr.-Jul.,
Oct.-Nov. 1972)

Financial gift from Qatar to the Nation of Islam

Excerpts from Muhammad's "Savior's Day Address"
(Feb. 1973)

Ideology of the Islamic Party in North America

SECTION 15

1973-1974

Roll 3, 0745-1001

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Howard University award established in the name of
Elijah Muhammad (Jun. 1973)

Report on Elijah Muhammad including his background
and his teachings (Nov. 1973)

Annual Muslim Convention (AMC), 1974

Transcript of FBI agents meeting with Elijah
Muhammad (Nov. 1974) to discuss the criminal
activities of and a death threat made by Muslims in
Philadelphia

Muhammad's purchase of a Lockheed jet

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks"

SECTION 16

Jan-Mar 1975

Roll 3, 1002-1067

Internal Security: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Excerpts from "Muhammad Speaks"

Death of Elijah Muhammad (Feb. 25, 1975)
Wallace D. Muhammad named as spiritual head of the
Nation of Islam
Excerpts from Minister Louis Farrukhan's eulogy of
Elijah Muhammad
Excerpts from Wallace Muhammad's speech (Mar. 14,
1975)

Enclosure	Roll 3, 1068-1265
Index and memos to destroy files	
June Mail	Roll 3, 1266-END