

MALCOLM SPEAKS ON NATION OF ISLAM

Condensed version of speech delivered by Malcolm X in Harlem, New York on February 15, 1965 -- six days before his death.

As many of you probably know, tonight we were going to unfold a program which we felt would be beneficial to the struggle of our people in this country. But because of events which are beyond our control, we feel that it is best to postpone unfolding the program until a later date.

Sunday morning about three o'clock, somebody threw some bombs inside my house, and the ones who threw these aimed some of them at rooms where three of my daughters (aged six, four and two) sleep. And since I am quite certain that those who threw the bombs knew my house well enough to know where everyone was sleeping, I can't quite bring my heart to the point where it can in anyway be merciful, or compromising, toward anyone who can be that low. Especially when I heard on the news today that Joseph, a brother that I found in a garbage can, (Yes, that's where I found him) in Detroit in 1952, made the statement that I had bombed my own house.

Now you see, this doesn't surprise me, because I know that since many of us left the Muslim movement, its intelligence and its morals have gone bankrupt. And now they are using the same tactics that are used by the Ku Klux Klan. When the Klan bombs your church, they say you did it. This is a Klan tactic.

I am telling you these things because I have reached a point where I feel that Black people in this country need to know what's going on. And I am talking about an organization which I had a hand in building, which I had a hand in organizing. I know its characteristics. I know its potential. I know its behavior patterns. I know what it can do and what it cannot do. One of the things it can do is bomb your house and try to kill your baby.

As you will recall, when I was in Mecca in September, I wrote back a letter which was printed in the New York Times in which I pointed out that it was my intention when I returned to expose Elijah Muhammad as a religious faker. (Ed. Note: This letter stated: I shall never rest until I have undone the harm I did to so many well-meaning, innocent Negroes who through my own evangelistic zeal now believe in him even more fanatically and more blindly than I did. I totally reject Elijah Muhammad's racist philosophy which he has labeled Islam only to fool and misuse gullible people...."). This is what I wrote. Now, while I was in Mecca among the Muslims, I had a chance to meditate and think and see things with a great deal of clarity -- with much greater clarity than I've achieved from over here. And I had made up my mind that I was going to tell the Black people in the Western Hemisphere, who I had played a great role in misleading into the hands of Elijah Muhammad, exactly what kind of man he was and what he was doing.

And I might point out right here that it was not a case of my knowing all the time, because I didn't. I had blind faith in him. My faith in Elijah Muhammad was more blind and more uncompromising than any faith that any man has ever had for another man. And so I didn't try to see him as he actually was. But, being away, I could see him better, understand many things better.

But when I came back to this county, as you recall, I was very quiet. I didn't want to get into it. The reason for that was that the letter I had written was written when I was in Arabia. After leaving Arabia I went into Africa to hold long discussions with President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, with President Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Prime Minister Milton Obote of Uganda, President Azikiwe of Nigeria, President Nkrumah of Ghana

and President Sekou Toure in Guinea. The understanding that I got broadened my scope so much that I felt I could see the problems of black people in America with a much greater clarity.

And so I felt foolish coming back to this country and getting into a little two-bit argument with some bird-brained person who calls himself a Black Muslim. I felt it would be wasting my time and allow myself to be in a whole lot of public arguments and physical fisticuffs. And knowing what I know, I knew it would be more beneficial to our people if a constructive program were put in front of them immediately.

Many of you will recall that shortly after I came back, despite the fact that I said nothing about the Black Muslims, a wire was put in the newspaper under the name of Raymond Sharrieff threatening me if I were to say anything about Elijah Muhammad. Actually that wasn't Raymond Sharrieff's wire, that was Elijah Muhammad's wire. Raymond Sharrieff has not words of his own.

If you recall, when I was in the Black Muslim movement, I never said anything without saying Elijah Muhammad said thus and so. This is the way the Black Muslim movement is organized. Nobody makes any public statement unless it comes from Elijah Muhammad. And nobody makes any move unless it comes from Elijah Muhammad.

So when Raymond Sharrieff put that wire in the paper it was from Elijah Muhammad himself. And he was trying to irk me into saying something so that a public hullabaloo would take place.

But I continued to ignore them and concentrated on trying to get the Organization of Afro-American Unity better organized. Because I knew that what I had in mind would actually solve the problems of most of our people.

But despite the fact that I tried to keep quiet, on January 22 I came out of my house one night and they jumped me, on a Friday night, about 11:15. Now, I knew that they weren't out there waiting for me, because normally I wouldn't come out at that time of the night. So that when I did out and they jumped me, I knew that they were casing my house. And frankly, I waited for them for a month. I'd sit around that house with my rifle, staying up all times of the night just to get one change to put somebody in hell.

And then when I went to Los Angeles a couple of weeks ago, they had gotten so insane that they chased me right down the Hollywood Freeway in broad daylight, but somehow it wasn't reported in the paper.

Then later on, I was in Chicago. I appeared on the Irv Kupcincet show. The Muslims were there and even attacked the police, but it was never put in the paper. I was just as nuts as they were. If Elijah Muhammad had told me to go get somebody's head, I would have gone and gotten it just like that. And that's what's the matter with them. They're only following what I taught them how to do. So, I understand.

But despite the fact they put on this performance, it was kept quiet by the press. Then the night I was on the David Susskind Show, those same persons had surrounded the station. They had told Susskind that I wasn't going to make it to the show.

The next thing that irritated them the most was

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he heads will not do anything in the struggle that the Black man is confronted with in this country. Proof of which, look how violent they can get. They were violent, they've been violent from coast to coast. Muslims, in the Muslim movement, have been involved in cold, calculated violence. Yet not at any time have they been involved in any violence against the KKK. They're capable. They're qualified. They're equipped. They know how to do it. But they'll never do it — They'll do it only to another brother. Now, I am well aware of what I'm setting in motion by what I am saying here tonight. I'm well aware. But I have never said or done anything in my life that I wasn't prepared to suffer the consequences for.

I wanted you to know that my house was bombed. It was bombed by the Black Muslim movement upon the orders of Elijah Muhammad. And when the bomb was thrown, one of the bombs was thrown at the rear window of my house where my three little baby girls sleep. If you attack me that's one thing. I know what to do when you start attacking me, but when you attack sleeping babies, you are lower than a _____.

Elijah Muhammad could stop the whole thing tomorrow, just by raising his hand. Really, he could. He could stop the whole thing by raising his hand. But he won't. He doesn't love black people. He doesn't even want to go forward. Proof of which, they're killing each other. They killed one in the Bronx. They shot another one in the Bronx. They tried to get six of us Sunday morning. And the pattern has developed across the country.

So I feel responsible for having played a major role in developing a criminal organization. It was not a

criminal organization at the outset. It was an organization that had the power, the spiritual power, to reform the criminal. I, for one, disassociate myself from the movement completely. And I dedicate myself to the organizing of Black people into a group that is interested in doing things constructive for the entire Black community. This is what the purpose of the Organization of Afro-American Unity is. To have an action program that's for the good of the entire black community, and we are for the betterment of the community by any means necessary.

We are going to have a rally here this coming Sunday at two o'clock at which time we will give you the program of the Organization of AfroAmerican Unity. Nobody's going to straighten out Harlem but us. Harlem is our house; we'll clean it up. But when we clean it up, we'll also control it. We'll control the politics. We'll control the economy. We'll control the school system.

Question : You mentioned a conspiracy between the Black Muslims and the right wing in this country. Could you elaborate?

Answer: I know for a fact that there is a conspiracy between, among and between the Muslims and the Lincoln Rockwell Nazis and also the Ku Klux Klan.

They were trying to make a deal with him to make available to Elijah Muhammad a county-size tract of land in Georgia or South Carolina where Elijah Muhammad could then induce negroes to migrate and make it appear that his program of a segregated state or separated state was feasible.