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CIA Instigated Assassination Of Malcolm X, Says His Sister

A sister of the late Black Nationalist leader Malcolm X charged last night that his assassination two years ago was instigated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

In a radio interview on WLIB, Mrs. Ella Collins said the CIA arranged Malcolm's killing because "it was necessary that the white power structure remove this man."

Malcolm was shot down Feb. 21, 1965, while he was addressing a meeting in Harlem's Audubon Ballroom. Three Negroes—Norman (3X) Butler, Thomas (15X) Johnson and Talmadge Hayer—were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Butler and Johnson were members of Elijah Muhammad's Black Muslim organization, with which Malcolm broke about a year before he was killed. Hayer insisted, however, that the Black Muslims had nothing to do with the killing.

Although Mrs. Collins had never previously accused the CIA of complicity in the killing, speculation along those lines had been published by others. One such article, by Eric Milton, appeared recently in the "Realist," a Greenwich Village periodical.

"I know that the CIA instigated Malcolm's death," Mrs. Collins said when she was asked about the Realist article. "There's no doubt in my mind. I would never say I believe, or I think . . ."

"Mr. Eric Milton had many interviews with me in putting his article together for the Realist. I gave him my views and he became so alarmed that he would spend most of the day with me, on many occasions."

Mrs. Collins said there had been several attempts to assassinate her brother. She discounted speculation that the Black Muslims were to blame.

"It (the killing) was supposed to happen in Egypt when he was poisoned," she said. "It was supposed to have taken place in France, and the State Department in France became aware of it and would not allow him to come into the country. As you know, immediately after his return from France, his home was bombed the same day, and one week later he was assassinated."

"Therefore, we can say what we please about Elijah Muhammad or others, but Elijah Muhammad is a black man in America and his powers are limited."

Interviewer Leon Lewis

asked Mrs. Collins why she thought "no one sought to protect" her brother, even though he had complained to police that his life was in danger.

"Whenever a man of Malcolm's caliber came up out of the black race, it was necessary that the white power structure remove this man if they are not successful in incriminating him in the eyes of the people through some court procedure," she replied.

"Malcolm was the type of man who kept himself above reproach. The only way to eliminate Malcolm was to kill him. Therefore, it was necessary on many occasions for Malcolm's life to be threatened, so that he would plant its seed in the

mind of the people that his life was in danger. On many occasions, Malcolm received threatening calls, and notes, and letters, and things of this type . . .

"Now, you would think that the law would come forth and protect this man. They did not, even the day he was assassinated. He was in the Audubon Ballroom. His security had deserted him . . . someone in that security was working with the plotters . . ."

"Malcolm's death was very carefully planned, and very expertly carried out."

Mrs. Collins is now the president of the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), which her brother founded.