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Williams May Take U. S. Speaking Tour

By JOHN ASKINS
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DETROIT — Black revolutionary leader Robert F. Williams spent his first weekend home from exile "taking care of family matters" at a relative's home guarded round by armed Green Berets.

A spokesman for the Republic of New Africa (RNA) said Saturday the RNA president had asked to be left alone so he could spend some time with his wife, children, brothers and sisters.

Williams was arrested, arraigned and released on \$10,000 bond Friday on a 8-year-old kidnaping charge and a federal fugitive warrant. He returned voluntarily to the United States and gave himself up, calling the charges false, after living in Cuba, China and Tanzania for several years.

RNA deputy minister of information Leito Durley said the organization is convinced that attempts will be made in Williams' life by "the right wing, including the CIA and FBI." Hence the armed guard. "Look what happened to Che," Durley said, referring to the late Cuban revolutionary, Che Guevara.

Durley said the 44-year-old Williams will probably go on a speaking tour between now and Nov. 11, when a hearing has been set in Detroit on a North Carolina extradition request regarding the kidnap charge.

Durley said the speaking tour would be for the purpose of "unifying black people behind the RNA," which seeks to acquire five southern states to start its own black nation. The kidnap charge grew out of a 1961 incident involving a middle-aged white couple and a band of more than 100 angry blacks and a few whites in Monroe, N.C.

The couple, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Stegall of Marshville, N.C., got lost driving around Monroe in an attempt to bypass a downtown racial demonstration and found themselves surrounded by the mob.

Mrs. Stegall said they were removed from their car and taken to Williams' home nearby, where they were bound with tape from venetian blinds.

She told reporters she heard Williams call the police chief and threaten to "sacrifice" the Stegalls to the mob unless 52 demonstrators who had been arrested during an attempt to protest segregation at a public swimming pool were released.

However, the RNA says it has a tape recording of Mrs. Stegall telling a BBC interviewer that she did not actually consider herself kidnaped at the time.

In any case, Williams voluntarily freed the couple a few hours later. Within hours an all-white grand jury had indicted and a raid was made on his home.

Police found miniature Cuban flags and an autographed picture of Fidel Castro, mementoes of two earlier trips to Cuba, but no sign of Williams. Shortly before midnight, the FBI obtained a warrant for Williams on charges of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

In a pattern since followed by Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver, Williams next turned up in Cuba.

In Cuba he broadcast on "Radio Free Dixie" urging Southern blacks to arm themselves and meet violence with violence. He wrote a book, "Negroes with Guns," and continued publishing a newsletter he had started in the U.S., "The Crusader," both similar in tone to his Cuban radio broadcasts.

In 1965 Williams became disgruntled with Cuban officials, although not with Castro, and moved to Communist China, where he continued publishing "The Crusader," which was banned from U.S. mails. He was elected president of the RNA at its 1968 founding convention here.

He decided to return home this year in order to become more directly involved in the black liberation movement, and to stand as a symbol that "blacks are through with running."



Robert Williams
... Rests With Family

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