

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

22 NOV 1968

SUBJECT: Eldridge Leroy CLEAVER

1. FMIS has provided a tape recording, in Spanish, of an interview with the subject, which was broadcast by Havana in Spanish to the Americas 1200 GMT 26 October 1968. (Please see attachment)

2. Do you wish a copy of the tape?

PLEASE TRANSMIT REPLY VIA LIAISON, MR. S. J. PAPICH

*Yes. I  
will also  
copy in future*

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ENCLOSURE

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE 28 JAN 1994

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ELDRIDGE CLEAVER DISCUSSES TEACHING RACE

Interview in Spanish to the Americas 1200 GMT 26 Oct 68 C

[Interview with Eldridge Cleaver, U.S. Black Panther information minister]

[Question: What can you tell us, Eldridge Cleaver, about the police attacks on students of the University of California who were protesting the refusal of the university authorities to give academic recognition to the course of racism in the United States?

Answer: One fundamental thing is that the professional politicians who control the state of California have begun a racist campaign designed to unite the whites on the basis of open racism. The course, organized by the young students and members of the teaching staff, is designed precisely to combat this campaign, and therefore the white establishment want to liquidate this course, since it is a hard blow to their intention to stimulate racism, use racism as an instrument to unite the white masses, and at the same time carry out their fascist program and use Negroes as sacrificial lambs just as the Nazis used the Jews in Germany under Adolph Hitler. These young white students do not want to be racists (fand) are trying to learn everything. They have received the racist heritage of the country but they are trying to speak with us. They have seen in the program of the Black Panther Party and some ideas that we express the possibility to face this situation.

Persons such as the Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, and the Republican candidates for the Senate, Max Rafferty, use this course on racism to promote hysteria among the electorate in order to use this point to their advantage in the present electoral campaign.

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The students got this course started but the university regents refuse to recognize its academic validity. In protest, the students demonstrated at the University on Wednesday and Thursday. Instead of hearing the student position, the regents called the police, who mistreated the youths and made mass arrests. The students are struggling for their rights and are firm in their present position.

I have given three lectures in this course, and seven more are yet to be given at the rate of one a week. My role in this struggle is to support the students in any way they ask me, since our struggle is one, together with the whites who are trying to free themselves from racism and block the path of fascism and the fascist governments in this country.

Question: What is the position of the Black Panther Party on the protest act which the Negro athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos carried out at the Olympic Games in Mexico?

Answer: We applaud the courageous act by these brothers to show up the sham of democracy in America and also to protest the condition of black people in this country. We believe that the Olympics should have been boycotted from the beginning, but in view of the fact that this was not done we believe that everything came out all right, since once they had won they did not permit imperialism to take advantage of this triumph but bowed their heads as a sign of shame when they heard the notes of the U.S. national anthem and lifted their fists in salute to black power. This gesture by Smith and Carlos electrified this country. The Negroes and many white people--oppressed people--support them.