

Approximately 2 years ago, I undertook a research assignment to systematically examine the political behavior of the Republic of New Africa (RNA) and the political repression that was directed against the organization from 1967 to 1974. This effort was facilitated by the provision of the RNA's "Red Squad" file, a composite of different documents emerging from local police, federal bureau of investigation, and various courts within the United States. In one of the most bizarre aspects of the whole process, the research was supported by the National Science Foundation.

As designed, the "Red Squad" file was used to compile two databases, only one of which is currently available.

**RAW GOVERNMENT RECORDS (available on the web page).** The first database is composed of all the raw files. Here, several thousand pages of documents have been scanned. Upon moving to the web page and downloading the Paperport software that is necessary to view the documents, individuals will be able to directly observe police documents, informant reports, arrest records, and information regarding surveillance activities. This information is categorized by year and then sorted by government agency: for example, Detroit Police Department (DPD) Special Investigation Division, DPD Intelligence Unit, DPD Homicide Division, and so forth.

The one difficulty with this data is the format that was used to arrange the dates. Currently, dates are designated in the following fashion [month (one or two unit digit) day (one or two unit digit) year (two unit digit)]. For example, a record for DPD Detective Division concerning March 15, 1969 would appear "31569". Additionally, given the way that we had to scan the materials multiple records had to be scanned individually and thus each record affiliated with a particular police file is given a letter. Thus, using the example just provided if there were three pages for the record identified, the following files would be identified "31569a", "31569b", and "31569c". I apologize for this format and if I am able to acquire any additional funds, then I will change this format to be a bit more "user-friendly". Unfortunately, I was learning about much of the software at the time that we were scanning the documents.

**CODED EVENTS (not yet available).** The second database is composed of information that I coded from the raw files. My particular interest was with identifying all meetings (when they took place, where they took place, how long they lasted, who showed up, and what was talked about), protest events (e.g., petitions, marches, rallies, fundraising, demonstrations, and speeches), miscellaneous group behavior (e.g., conferences, trips, elections, publications of materials, recruitments, and training sessions) and instances of political repression (physical as well as electronic surveillance, infiltration by informant, arrests, warrants, questioning of members, raids, searches, distribution of false letters, and suspicion of infiltration/informants within the group) – all of this information is available within the raw data; I merely decided to represent the data in spreadsheet form so that one can better identify and examine patterns across variables (e.g., is meeting attendance influenced by repressive activity, is surveillance activity responsive to inter-group activity or is it merely following the pattern of who was previously under surveillance, how far back in the past do group members talk

about overtime, and are particular geographic locations more likely to be selected for protest or repression).

Inevitably this information will also be placed on the webpage for downloading. Additionally, I have connected with another individual (David Reilly, a graduate student at the University of Colorado – Boulder) and he is assisting me with the development of mapping software. As the police paid attention to geographically where things took place, we are able to map all activity over time. This allows one to gauge spatial patterns in membership, repressive activity, and protest – identifying where things took place, what happened and how responsive different factors were to each other. In a sense, we will have RNA movies of meetings, membership, protest and repression.

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