

Church of Scientology
vs
FBI S.F.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
SAN FRANCISCO
CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY OF CALIFORNIA
414 Mason Street Room 400
San Francisco, California 94102

8 July 1977

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY
CONCERNING F.B.I. BREAK-IN

In the early morning hours today, our churches in Los Angeles and Washington D.C., were the target of a gestapo, police-state raid as retaliation for recent attempts at government reform and an attempt to cover up a massive international narcotics operation known to officials of the U.S. and some foreign governments.

For the past three years the Church of Scientology has sponsored the National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice's investigation of Interpol, the private french-based police association. Two years ago we first heard rumors that there was another aspect to the infamous "French Connection" that involved both Interpol and government officials. But it was not until a few months ago when the NCLE's Director of Research toured Europe that we were able to uncover the first supporting evidence. Only weeks ago did we make this material public, requesting that the Department of Justice investigate the evidence we found. The Justice Department's response came early this morning when FBI agents took sledgehammers, crowbars and lock cutters to our churches and broke into our offices before the staff could even arrive which is an illegal act.

For us, this is not new. In 1963 the federal government perpetrated a similar raid on the Founding Church in Washington D.C., carting off several tons of religious materials. We fought that battle for 10 long years in the courts and finally won the case with the government returning all seized materials.

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Since then we have employed the Freedom of Information Act to force further disclosure of governmental harassment and false information circulated by federal officials and have found shocking false reports.

At every step the government has responded with a nazi mentality, and this latest tactic proves to us beyond a reasonable doubt that the government is terrified and is resorting to the final, frantic attempts to prevent the ultimate disclosures both we and they know lie behind their brutalities today.

Even their allegations of stolen governmental records is not new, either with us or with others. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office was broken into when he obtained the Pentagon Papers. The FBI has executed "black bag" jobs around the country. But now the tactic is more brutal, and sledgehammers have replaced the quiet and covert entry.

A few months ago the NCLE's research director was traveling through Europe to find the drug and CIA connections we had heard rumored so long. The retaliation there was to attack him in the media as a fraud and swindler who was also peddling forged or stolen US government documents. The documents turned out to be a report on Interpol published by the General Accounting Office. The report could be purchased at government printing offices for \$1.

That same trumped up charge has now appeared with the FBI who are making the same false allegations in order to break into our offices and confiscate wholesale what they have not been able to find in mail covers and other means. The FBI has not permitted the Church to xerox copies of material they took, however Church observers indicate the FBI is on a "fishing expedition". In fact they have taken Church documents and documents obtained by the Church under the Freedom of Information Act.

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The history and tactics of the FBI are becoming painfully known to the American public and this latest gestapo raid shows there has been no reform in government dirty tricks.

They have, in effect, proven to us that our research is correct; that there is a massive, international narcotics cartel heretofore unrevealed which is operating with the knowledge and consent of highly placed government officials both here and abroad who will go to any means and use any tactics to prevent its disclosure.

That secret cartel is behind the heroin and cocaine smuggling into this country and extends into the highest ranks of the French judicial and police systems. Thus it is no coincidence that our church in France was raided last year during that probe.

We are not talking about a few dishonest cops. We are talking about an operation that is being run with the blessing of French officials and the cooperation of American officials in Washington from whence the orders for this raid came.

The raid of a church is in keeping with their criminal mentality and we are now rededicating ourselves to the fight not only for religious liberty but to expose those who are seeking to turn this country into a police state.

Our past history of vigorous government reform and the 750 million dollar suit against the US government for conspiracy filed by the Church of Scientology several months ago is certainly motive enough for the US government to use whatever reason they could create to get to our information and legal documents. We of course, are taking immediate legal action.

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Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTE: The following is an official statement issued in Los Angeles by Vaughn Young, spokesperson for the Church of Scientology:

DOCUMENTS ON INFILTRATION OF CHURCH TAKEN IN FBI RAIDS

We are currently returning our premises to normal operation now that over 100 FBI agents have withdrawn.

We have been given, in the early morning hours, a list of materials taken which is now in the hands of our attorneys. As we were unable to make any copies of materials stolen from us under the guise of a federal case, it will take us some time to reconstruct the wanton and irresponsible damage that was intentionally created. This will involve contacting our various attorneys to determine if they have copies of the material now in the hands of the Justice Department which we obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

However, we do recognize some materials and are releasing today some of the documents the FBI has irresponsibly claimed were "stolen" from the government. We will be releasing more as we can find them.

These documents consisted of six reports by a federal operative who was sent into the Founding Church of Scientology in Washington, D.C., one of the churches raided by the government Friday as well as in 1963. The documents are dated from March 16, 1959 to March 27, 1959 and were being sent to an official in the Food and Drug Administration which was the agency that conducted the raid a few years later.

The documents were part of thousands of pages obtained from the FDA during our FOIA requests.

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The fact that the government would confiscate material legally obtained and meanwhile fabricate the charge "stolen" is one matter. To confiscate materials relating to their own infiltration and the planting of agents in a church that was subsequently raided is yet another.

The use of operatives and agents provocateurs by the government is a well documented fact, and religious organizations are hardly exempt. In 1971 the FBI broke into the headquarters of the Religious Actions Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Their director, David Saperstein, is still trying to obtain the material relating to the break-in through FOIA. Apparently the FBI's target was the UAHC's entire mailing list.

In Camden, New Jersey, the FBI sent in a person to plan and carry out a criminal act on behalf of an organization so that criminal charges could be brought against the group.

Much of the matter is currently with our attorneys, but we are not discounting the possibility that we too were so set up.

The fact that some of the documents seized under the false pretense that they were "stolen" are government documents showing infiltration of our church prior to its last raid is disturbing enough.

We will be releasing more material as we are able to assemble it.

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