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The Attorney General

July 18, 1972

Acting Director, FBI

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**SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS FOR
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTION
INTERNAL SECURITY - REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES**

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This will confirm the following information furnished orally on July 14, 1972, to Mr. Carl W. Belcher, Chief, General Crimes Section, Criminal Division, by Special Agent [Redacted] of this Bureau.

A confidential source of this Bureau has furnished information concerning plans of the Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action (SESPA), Boston, Massachusetts, to possibly disrupt, or at least record proceedings of, a conference of The Engineering Foundation (TEF) to be held at the Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine, July 18-21, 1972. The theme of the conference is "Vulnerability of Urban Areas to Subversive Disruption: An Opportunity for Innovative Technology" and will be attended by representatives of the business community and governmental agencies, including Mr. Belcher.

According to the source a SESPA representative has a copy of a TEF newsletter which sets forth the agenda for the conference and identities of those to attend. It was suggested to this individual that representatives of SESPA might want to attend and that the manner and tactics of protest would be left up to them. The feeling among SESPA adherents is that the subject matter to be discussed at the conference will be "absolutely dynamite" and that it is necessary that they determine what happens at the meeting. SESPA people feel this is a way for them to find out the "weak spots in

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- Bates _____
- Bishop _____
- Callahan _____
- Campbell _____
- Cleveland _____
- Conrad _____
- Dalbey _____
- Jenkins _____
- Marshall _____
- Miller, E.S. _____
- Ponder _____
- Soyars _____
- Walters _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Kinley _____
- Mr. Armstrong _____
- Ms. Herwig _____
- Mrs. Gelpi _____

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The Attorney General

the system" and that it will enable them to determine the extent of activity to be taken to counteract subversion. SESPA representatives noted the approach to the subject matter is a strategy for controlling people in an oppressive system. They are hopeful of obtaining a full recording of the proceedings.

Files of this Bureau disclose SESPA is a loosely knit national organization of persons involved in scientific or engineering fields. It has been organized in various cities and each chapter has its own name and operates independently from other chapters. SESPA publishes a magazine known as "Science for the People" and on a national basis participates in disrupting the national meetings of professional organizations. It is also involved in a program to provide scientific data and research information to North Vietnam.

The above is supplied for your information.

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

NOTE:

Information was furnished orally in view of time element. Information originally received indicated Associate Deputy Attorney General Donald E. Santarelli was to attend the conference. He was replaced by Mr. Belcher. Dissemination necessary in view of fact SESPA representatives may attempt to embarrass the Government either by direct protest or subsequent publication of conference proceedings. This information was also furnished to [redacted] of the National Science Foundation and that agency being notified by separate communication.

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SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTION

A-14

Antiwar Scientists Ask Physicists' Backing

By Victor Cohn

Washington Post Staff Writer

Antiwar scientists' groups tried yesterday to enlist the 27,000-member American Physical Society against U.S. aerial, electronic and, it was charged, weather-modifying warfare in Southeast Asia. He and 275 fellow physicists want to make the Physical Society "shun those activities," including many forms of technological war, "judged to contribute harmfully to the welfare of mankind."

A Chicago-based organization called Science for Vietnam charged that the government has already used weather modification as a weapon in Indochina, and has made geophysical war "a high-priority project."

The group cited a Defense Department letter to Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) saying that its "weather modification undertakings" are classified.

On April 18, questioned by Pell before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird said the Defense Department has done research on weather modifying but, when asked about any military weather warfare in Southeast Asia—he said he would not discuss what he called "any of the operating authorities within the battle area."

Dr. Robert March of the University of Wisconsin said

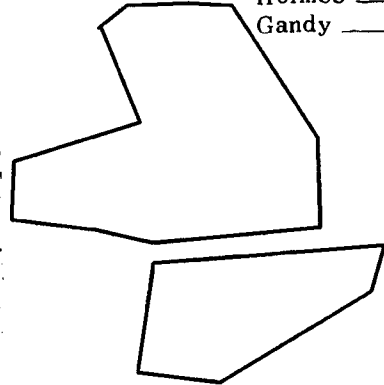
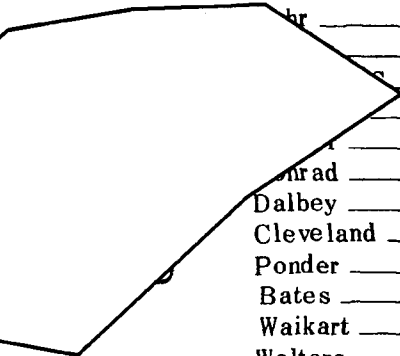
Their petition is forcing the group to put an amendment to this effect before its membership next December.

Among acts that harm mankind, March cited the Vietnam war itself, laser-directed bombing, the electronic battlefield and use of computers to guide planes to targets.

"We don't want to license physicists or tell them what to do," he said. "We do want enough discussion so there will be a consensus."

"I'm like George Wallace," he added. "I'm quite confident I'm going to lose, but I'm trying to send a message."

Similar efforts in the past four years have also lost, he pointed out, but led to creation of an official Forum on Physics and Society. March and others are speaking this week before that forum, and several addressed a news conference yesterday.



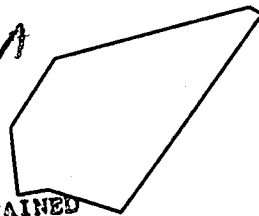
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- The Washington Post Times Herald A-14
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Daily World _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____

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