Index and Introduction to

The Microfilmed

Black Revolutionary Action Movement: Political Literature and other Papers and Records from R.A.M., 1960s and 1970s

(one roll)

Part of

The Buffalo Afro-American Collection

A joint project of
The Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier Inc.
and
Buffalo State College

Copies of the microfilmed titles are housed at
The Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library and
The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections,
E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State

The Papers were microfilmed in
The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center
Buffalo State College

The 16MM film was filmed with a 34X lens

2002
Revolutionary Action Movement:  
Political Literature and other Papers and Records from R.A.M,  
1960s and 1970s  

Compiled from the personal files of Akbar Mumammed Ahmed (Max Stanford), John H. Bracey, Jr., and Ernest Allen Jr.

1979
Introduction

The materials in this collection—which center mainly, but not solely, on the political activities and literature of the Revolutionary Action Movement from the early 1960's through the early 1970's--were compiled from the personal archives of Akbar Muhammed Ahmed (Max Stanford), John H. Bracey, Jr., and Ernest Allen, Jr. Founded in 1962, RAM was a "low-profile" organization which sought to transcend what it perceived as the "narrow orientations" of existing Civil Rights organizations (which tended to concentrate on "middle-class" cultural assimilation and patchwork social reform) as well as bourgeois-nationalist organizations (which tended to stress capital accumulation and withdrawal from mass struggle). In contrast, RAM sought to popularize a program of self-determination for Afro-Americans by means of armed struggle, with the ultimate form of American society conceived in terms of social cooperation rather than capitalist individualism. Included here are internal RAM documents, publicly disseminated RAM literature, as well as media accounts of the organization and its members. An incomplete file of Robert F. Williams' Crusader newsletter, published in exile from Cuba and China, is also included, as is a full catalog of Soulbook magazine, a west coast-based journal of revolutionary nationalist persuasion.

Much of the history of black political movements of the 1960's is incomplete--if not inaccurate--in part because records of small but extremely influential organizations such as RAM have not been publicly available until now. For example, RAM influence was felt at one time or another in organizations as diverse as the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. This is not a complete collection of RAM documents, however: an unknown (but apparently small) number of items were lost as people moved from one locale to another during the "tumultuous Sixties"; on several occasions, documents seized during the course of arrest of RAM leaders were never returned to them following their trials. No doubt such lapses will be lamented by future political activists and scholars, as they are by us today. But the main body of materials remains intact.

Today we are quite conscious of, and perhaps occasionally embarrassed by, the shortcomings of these materials at the level of political analysis; given the historical discontinuities induced within post-World War II American society by the crushing of radical movements, such analytical weaknesses now seem to have been inevitable. But no matter. For their presentation today in microform, it is hoped, will aid in the accurate reconstruction of the history of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. May they also aid in a coherent program for genuine Afro-American liberation.

Ernest Allen, Jr.
Amherst, MA / August 1979
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder #</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>African Peoples Party (APP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Afro-American Students Association (ASA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Afro-American Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Black Liberation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CORE Summer Project, 196^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Crusader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Jihad News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Muhammad Ahmad (Max Stanford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>News Clippings, a Position Paper, and Speech Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Newspapers; Publications of &quot;Radical Black Groups&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Political Slingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Queens County Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM)/Black Guards – Internal Papers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM)/Black Guards – External Papers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Rebellions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Republic of New Afrika (RNA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Soul Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Williams, Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Writings, Speeches, and Position Papers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The contents of the above folders/boxes are listed on the following pages.
Index to Folder Content

Folder #

1  African Peoples Party (APP)

   This folder contains papers pertaining to the African Peoples Party. The first
section contains promotional and informational literature about the APP (purposes,
organizational structure, history, etc.).

   The materials in the latter sections are organized chronologically (1966-
1975). Some of the papers that were not dated appear near the end of the section. The
papers in the latter section includes position statements, proceedings and resolutions
adopted at APP conferences, newsletters, news clippings etc. There are also numerous
pieces of correspondence sent from APP officials to its membership.

2  Afro-American Students Association (ASA)

   The ASA was a black high school student group in New York City during "the
late 1960s and early 1970s." This folder contains numerous news clippings, political
slingers, and other papers distributed by the group. Two handwritten documents which
appear at the beginning of the folder provide background information and a basic
chronology to help explain the material in the folder.

3  Afro-American Students

   This folder contains position statements, political slingers, several issues of The
Razor (a newsletter), a printed program for a National Afro-American Student
Conference on Afro-Youth (1964). Most of the papers in the folder are dated 1964.

4  Black Liberation Army

   This folder contains four newsletters or Information sheets. The content of the
newsletters includes information about the Black Liberation Army. The materials are

5  CORE Summer Project, 1964

   This folder contains an information packet for prospective participants in the
CORE Summer Project, 1964.

6  The CRUSADER

   This folder contains more than two dozen issues of the monthly newsletter - The
Crusader. The newsletter was published by Robert Williams during his exile. The issues
date from 1962 through the mid-1960s.

7  JIHAD NEWS (San Francisco, n.d.)
"The organization of Jihad News Service came about as a result of the jailing of" Muhammad Ahmad (Max Stanford), the black political leader who has dedicated his life to the liberation of all African people.

We intend to inform, analyze and document the movements of black people in our unending struggle for self determination." This folder contains eleven issues of the Newspaper Jihad News. The papers were apparently published in San Francisco, California and later in Philadelphia, Perm. during the 1970s.

8 Muhammad Ahmad (Max Stanford)

During the 1960s Muhammad Ahmad was active in many facets of the black movement. He was involved with the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), the Black Panther Party, SNCC, the African Peoples Party, and other groups at various times. This folder contains a large number of papers dealing with Ahmad's activities during the 1960s. The papers include news clippings from "black revolutionary" publications, press releases, black political literature, several position papers written by Ahmad, and other related papers. The folder also contains several issues of Contrast as well as other "black radical" newspapers. Whenever possible the papers were organized chronologically, however many of the papers did not have dates. NOTE: See also folders ^ 12, and 19 for material related to Muhammad Ahmad.

9 News Clippings, a Position Paper, and Speech Notes

This folder contains many news clippings about black activism during the mid and late 1960s. Also contains a position paper on "Community Control of Berkeley County Schools," by Moncks Corner NAACP Youth Council. Several pages of notes—possibly for a speech.

10 Newspapers: (Publications of "Radical Black Groups")

This box contains issues of some of the newspapers published by black nationalist groups during the 1960s and 1970s. The papers represented include at least one and sometimes as many as 6 issues of each. The following are included: Black Fire, Black Magic Juju, The Black Liberator, BYO (Toronto), Black Women's Committee News, The Faith, Guardian, KWELI, Liberation, Mojo, Moko, Movement, Sauti, SNCC Monthly, SOBU, Soledad Brothers, Struggle, Uhuru, Vibrations, and Additional newspapers and newsletters published by black groups are included in the folders for the particular organization.

11 Political Slingers

Folder contains numerous political slingers and similar handouts announcing community rallies, workshops, organizations, and related activities, (ex. Malcolm X Unity Day; Harlem Youth Federation's Education Workshop; Yoruba Temple; Black Arts Convention; Black Peoples Topographical Research Center; etc.).
12 **Queens County Case**

Folder contains political slingers, and other literature that was distributed in an effort to rally community support for the 15 black members of RAM. Those persons were accused of plotting to blow up several national monuments and conspiring to assassinate several black civil rights leaders. (1967-68)

13 **Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) / Black Guards – Internal Papers.**

This folder contains strategy sheets for organizing RAM groups, numerous position statements, and other papers used in providing political education for RAM members. (1964-1969)

14 **Revolutionary Action Movement/ External Papers**

This folder contains political slingers, position papers, newsletters and other papers that were published and distributed by RAM. Covers the period from the mid-1960s to late-1960s.

15 **Rebellions**

This folder contains several news clippings pertaining to the Newark Rebellion of 1967.

16 **Republic of New Afrika (RNA)**

Folder contains several publications of RNA (Break the Chains; New African Prisoner of War Committee Newsletter; The New Afrikan; Take the Land). Also included are numerous political slingers, position statements, and other materials published and distributed by the RNA. The folder also contains the Proceedings and Workshop Reports from the Eastern Regional Conference of the RNA which was held in Boston in 1976.

17 **SOUL BOOK**

This box contains Volumes 1 (1964) - Volume 12. of the publication Soul Book, Soul Book contains political and creative writings.

18 **Williams (Robert Williams)**

Robert Williams was at one time the head of the Monroe, North Carolina NAAGP. In 1961 Williams became a fugitive in order to avoid being arrested in connection with his Civil Rights activities. Williams went to China, Vietnam, and Cuba during his exile. He was always an outspoken critic of U.S. imperialism and racism. The folder includes news clippings, several speeches and other papers pertaining to Robert
Williams (1963-1969). The materials are arranged in chronological order except non-dated material which appears at the end of the section. NOTE: Copies of the newsletter (Crusader) which was edited by Williams during his exile are included in folder # 6.

19 Writings, Speeches, and Position Papers

This folder contains writings of some of the key individuals in the "revolutionary black nationalist" movement during the 1960s and 1970s. Some of the position papers are the publications of organizations rather than individuals.