The purpose of this memorandum is to secure approval for the sending of the attached airtel to all offices for the implementation of an intensified effort to identify violence-prone individuals or organizations within the American Indian movement who may be planning future violent demonstrations or criminal activities.

By memorandum dated November 21, 1972, Mr. Ralph E. Erickson, Deputy Attorney General, made reference to the recent occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington, D.C. which resulted in substantial destruction of the interior of the building and the theft of government property and documents. He indicated that the constitutional rights to assemble and protest peacefully are recognized; however, the recent activities in Washington, D.C. have gone far beyond constitutionally protected activities. It is of particular concern to the Department that similar circumstances may arise in the future without sufficient advance information regarding the leadership, numbers to be involved, and plans -- whether violent or nonviolent. In order to lessen the possibility of a recurrence of such activities, Mr. Erickson requested that the Bureau intensify its efforts to identify violent-prone individuals or organizations within the American Indian movement who may be planning future violent demonstrations or criminal activities.

In order to be in a position to keep the Attorney General and Mr. Erickson advised on a current basis in accordance with the request, the attached airtel is being directed to...
Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller  
Re: American Indian Movement

offices for the purpose of implementing an informant development program within the American Indian movement so that we will be able to furnish the requested information on a current basis.

Mr. Erickson's memorandum has been acknowledged by separate communication.

ACTION:

That the attached airtel be approved and sent.

See my notes.

REGS

11-29 1:00 P
I AM NOT SURE WE SHOULD GO THIS FAR.

W. M. Felt
Room 5744, Extension 3351
Re: A114 - Extremist Matters

We are all outraged by the conduct of these Indians, but:

1. If we have jurisdictional authority, our teletype paints with far too broad a brush.

2. Check FBI jurisdictional authority, obtaining DF opinion if necessary. Our OLCS may not consider it necessary.

3. Then try to get more definitive guidelines for an investigation from DF supported by legal authority.

4. Then tone down the rhetoric in our teletype to set forth a straight set of orders to do the job. They know how to do it. Signed 29-1-83.

ENCLOSURE
To: SAC, Albany

From: For the Acting Director, FBI
       W. Mark Felt
       Acting Associate Director

American Indian Movement
Extremist Matters
Extremist Informants
BUDED 12/15/72

As a result of the recent occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington, D. C. the Deputy Attorney General by letter dated November 21, 1972, requested the Bureau to intensify its efforts in identifying violence-prone individuals or organizations within the American Indian movement who may be planning future violent demonstrations or criminal activities.

Accordingly, each SAC should have a survey conducted and the following data should be furnished Headquarters:

1) Approximate number of Indians residing within the division;

2) Number of reservations including the number of Indians residing thereon;

3) Identity of tribes within the division;

2 - All Field Offices

All information contained herein is unclassified.

Date: 11-30-73

(Do not type below this line.)
Airtel to Albany
Re: American Indian Movement

4) Identity of any known extremist organizations or extremist individuals active within the Indian community including the Bureau file number, if any.

In order to obtain the desired information, each division having American Indians located therein should institute a program to develop informants and sources able to furnish information concerning extremists or extremist organizations operating within the American Indian movement as well as advance information concerning any future demonstrations or other activity on the part of American Indians which could result in violence or criminal activities.

Each division should submit to Headquarters the identities of any current sources or informants which can be utilized in this program as well as specific details of its plan to implement this informant development program.

The Extremist Intelligence Section of the Domestic Intelligence Division has assumed supervision of the intelligence-gathering aspect of this matter. Therefore, investigations instituted with the aim of developing informants in this field are to be handled under the 170 classification and in accordance with instructions set forth in Section 130 of the Manual of Instructions. Investigations instituted on individual extremists or extremist organizations are to be handled under the 157 classification and in accordance with instructions set forth in Section 122 of the Manual of Instructions.

All investigations in conjunction with the intelligence-gathering aspect of the American Indian movement must be most discreet. Nevertheless, it is imperative and essential the Bureau learn of any indications of advance planning or organized efforts to create disturbances and civil unrest by extremist organizations of individuals within the American Indian movement.
Airtel to Albany
Re: American Indian Movement

In this regard it is pointed out that recent press releases have indicated that only approximately one half of the American Indians living in this country reside on reservations. It is also alleged that the more militant Indians giving leadership to the current extremist activities within the American Indian movement reside in the urban areas of the country and not on reservations. Therefore, your efforts must be directed toward not only developing information on an extremist nature on Indian reservations but must also be directed toward developing information regarding those Indians living in the urban areas that are promoting extremist activities within the American Indian movement.

Your attention is also directed to teletype dated November 24, 1972, from "For the Acting Director, FBI, H. W. Hunt, Acting Associate Director," to all SACs except Anchorage, Honolulu, and San Juan captioned "WASHAIRP." You should coordinate your efforts with the investigations being conducted in accordance with the above-referred-to teletype with particular emphasis upon developing sources and informants within the American Indian movement that may become evident as a result of the investigation currently being conducted in the WASHAIRP case.

Results of this survey as well as your plans for the informant program are to be furnished to the Bureau no later than 12/15/72. In the future when submitting your Monthly Status Report Extremist Informants - Extremist Groups (White - Black) (FD-405) you should list under the miscellaneous section progress being made in developing informants in the American Indian movement. The FD-405a should list the identities of individuals who have participated in or are active in planning acts of extremist violence.

The Deputy Attorney General has requested that we keep him and the Attorney General advised on a current basis of our results achieved in this regard. Therefore, it is incumbent on you to keep the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments in this matter.

Why do we have to say this? Will a SAC of the FBI not carry out an order from the Attorney General?