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QUESTION: Are they in your movement?

MALCOLM X: Every movement.

February 18, 1965

A global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor

Barnard College, New York City

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The Black nationalist leader urged all Negroes "to help Africa in its struggle to free itself from Western domination. No matter where the Black man is, he will never be respected until Africa is a world power."

He also told the audience that "we are living in an era of revolution, and the revolt of the American Negro is part of the rebellion against the oppression and colonialism which has characterized this era."

Speaking on "The Black Revolution and Its Effect upon the Negro of the Western Hemisphere," Malcolm stated that the African Negro has won his battle for "political freedom and human dignity" from the Western colonial powers, and that the American Negro "must take any means necessary to secure his full rights as an individual human being."

Malcolm stressed that "it is incorrect to classify the revolt of the Negro as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or as a purely American problem."

"Rather," he added, "we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter."

"The Negro revolution is not a racial revolt," the Black nationalist leader said. "We are interested in practicing brotherhood with anyone really interested in living according to it."
"But the white man has long preached an empty doctrine of brotherhood which means little more than a passive acceptance of his fate by the Negro," he stated.

The Negro leader accused all Western industrial nations of "deliberately subjugating the Negro for economic reasons. These international criminals raped the African continent to feed their factories, and are themselves responsible for the low standards of living prevalent throughout Africa."⁸⁸

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"I would rather be dead than have somebody deprive me of my rights."

So spoke Malcolm X when he appeared at Barnard last Thursday, three days before he was shot to death in the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan.

Mr. X spoke at the invitation of the Student Exchange Committee to about 1,500 Barnard and Columbia students and faculty members. He repeatedly emphasized how the United States has failed to provide an atmosphere fostering brotherhood and equality, how the world was in a state of revolt of the oppressed

against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter, and the victim against the criminal.

He saw his group as a law-abiding, nonviolent group, adding that "our demands are just, and we will use any means to get them."

He said that the Negro has been made to feel inferior by the colonial powers and has got to hate himself. "Today there is no Black man who is not aware of his African ancestry. No matter how dark you are you're proud of your white blood. Why, some of you are darker than I am. There are Italians and Jews who are blacker than some Negroes, and they brag about how white they are. We are proud of our Black blood."

Of the Reverend Martin Luther King he said, "He is the foremost exponent of love, who gets his head bashed in while he is preaching brotherhood. I go for that retaliation type of brotherhood."

He cautioned his primarily white audience, "If you don't want very bad things to happen, you better put pressure on your parents to put pressure on Johnson. I'm not advocating violence, but peace—the same approach Johnson does in Vietnam to save the peace." His words were greeted with applause.

"I'm a human being; a human being first, an American second," he concluded.⁸⁹

February 18, 1965

Free to participate in the struggle

Interview with ABC-TV

The following excerpts are from interviews with ABC television. The latter portion was conducted outside Barnard College in New York City prior to a speaking engagement there. The text has been transcribed from a recording.

MALCOLM X: [I used to be] Elijah Muhammad's mouthpiece, or parrot—you know, I used to be his parrot. And whenever I spoke, I parroted what he said. I never professed to know anything or speak anything on my own. Well, the man who's doing that for him now here in New York is James and Joseph.⁸⁷ Nothing that James says comes from James's brain. Everything that James says comes from what Elijah Muhammad has left of his brain....

It is a known fact that Elijah Muhammad has been tied in with the Ku Klux Klan, has been very partial to Rockwell and all of the other right-wing, racist elements in this country. While he was fooling us that God wanted him to separate us, actually what he was doing was teaching the same form of segregation that the Ku Klux Klan and these other racists in the South teach.

It is easy to see the common denominator between Elijah Muhammad and the other elements that are racists in this coun-

...
[He is asked about attempts on his life.]

MALCOLM X: ... trying to touch off any war between those who follow me and those who follow Elijah Muhammad. The conspiracy is to get me killed because they know that I believe the only thing necessary to solve the problem of Black people in this country is unity.

QUESTION: You are a marked man, then, now, you feel?

MALCOLM X: Well, I'm marked, but frankly, when a Black man is born in this society, in America—as racist as it is—he's marked man.

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[What does he think about Aubrey Barnette's article in the February 27 Saturday Evening Post entitled "The Black Muslims Are a Fraud" ?]

MALCOLM X: Well, Aubrey Barnette is a very intelligent person and he has a fine academic background, and I think that the [article] itself was very analytical, it was objective, and it was true.

QUESTION: Barnette says, "The Muslim movement is just another little money-grubbing scheme feeding on Negro frustrations."

MALCOLM X: If it is—and it is, that's what it has deteriorated to—you still can't blame the Negroes and you can't blame the movement. You have to blame the society that let such frustration develop. This is the result of it. I don't think any organization in itself can be condemned. The society and its shortcomings, that is what has produced an atmosphere that brings these organizations into existence.

QUESTION: He says there are probably less than seven thousand members now in the Muslims.

MALCOLM X: Well, it has fallen apart. It has fallen apart, and

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