

O'Brien to Moore Memo
Re: SITOL

Throughout the entire search in the Los Angeles area, numerous Scientologists followed Agents, taking hundreds of photographs with flashbulbs in close proximity to the Agents' eyes. SAC-Criminal warned numerous Scientologists throughout the day that they were bordering on interfering with a lawful search and instructed them to leave the area.

In addition, SAC-Criminal advised that every opportunity was given to the Scientologists to produce keys; however, after a reasonable period, it became necessary to forcibly enter some desks and some rooms. At the two locations, Los Angeles Special Agents used utmost restraint and discretion throughout the long search which lasted about 21 hours. Special Agents were subject to various types of harassing activities and verbal abuse.

The "Atlanta Constitution" contained a similar article to "The Los Angeles Times"; however, in addition, states "In the suit, Church officials quoted one of the FBI Agents who allegedly took part in the raids in Los Angeles as saying the sweep was 'The most brutal search and seizure I've ever seen or been involved in.'" SAC-Criminal advised there is no indication any Agent made such a statement. It is obvious that from the above-mentioned newspaper articles that the organization's allegations are in line with known and established tactics of the Church of Scientology when dealing with law enforcement agencies who come in conflict with the Church during the performance of their law enforcement functions.

In reply to the requests of Los Angeles that FBIHQ contact the Department in an effort to accelerate court action pending in Los Angeles, on 7/22/77, SA John C. Gordon, General Government Crimes Unit, contacted Deputy Assistant Attorney General, John C. Keeney, Criminal Division. Mr. Keeney advised all matters pertaining to the prosecution of this case are to be routinely brought to the attention of U. S. Attorney Earl Silbert, Washington, D. C.

RECOMMENDATION: None For information.

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Fo'B
[Signature]

APPROVED	Adm. Serv.	Legal Coun.
Director	Crim. Inv.	Plan. & Insp.
Assoc. Dir.	Fin. & Pers.	Rec. Mgnt.
Dep. AD Adm.	Ident.	Spec. Inv.
Dep. AD Inv.	Intell.	Tech. Servs.
	Laboratory	Training
		Public Affs. Off.

O'Brien to Moore Memo
Re: SITOL

DETAILS: See teletype from SAC-Criminal, Los Angeles to Director, dated 7/20/77 captioned case (attached). Also, see copy of "Atlanta Constitution" and "The Los Angeles Times" articles, 7/19/77, copies attached.

'GESTAPO' TACTIC CHARGED

Scientology Church Suing FBI on Raids

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The Church of Scientology, whose offices were raided by federal agents last week in Los Angeles and Washington, filed a \$7.9 million damage suit in federal court Monday, accusing the FBI of using "Gestapo-like" tactics in the raids.

The church named as defendants two deputy U.S. attorneys and 134 FBI agents who conducted the simultaneous early morning raids in the two cities July 8.

Documents taken in the raids — some of which were believed related to alleged infiltration by church members into various government departments — were ordered

temporarily sealed at the request of the church by federal judges in both cities.

In the suit, church officials quoted one of the FBI agents who allegedly took part in the raids in Los Angeles as saying the sweep was "the most brutal search and seizure I've ever seen or been involved in."

The suit said the raids resulted in extensive "unnecessary" physical damage to the church buildings and were "unlawful, unconstitutional ... intrusions into the privacy of its parishioners."

The church said that even when members repeatedly offered to supply keys and to open doors for the agents, they went ahead with sledge hammers, battering rams, power saws, power drills and crowbars to force their way in.

About 30 agents who raided the Los Angeles headquarters shouted, "FBI, we have a search warrant," but went directly to a floor not covered by the warrant, the suit alleged. It said they burst into rooms where "married couples were sleeping unclothed and deliberately invaded their privacy."

The church said an estimated 100,000 pages of documents were seized by the agents although only 156 documents were specified by the warrant, the suit said.

Some of the files seized were "privileged attorney-client documents containing legal strategy in oncoming suits the church has against the government and the planning for possible future suits."

Church officials charged that the raids were part of a "campaign of harassment and retaliation" for the Scientologists' "exposures of government abuse."

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- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

- The Washington Post _____
- Washington Star-News _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- The Los Angeles Times _____
- Atlanta Const. St. _____

Date JUL 19 1977

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Church Sues FBI Agents, Attorneys for \$7 Million

Scientists Claim Raids, Seizure of Documents Were in Retaliation for Suits Against Government

BY ROBERT RAWITCH
Times Staff Writer

The Church of Scientology Monday filed a \$7.8 million damage suit against two Justice Department attorneys and 134 unnamed FBI agents who the church said seized thousands of documents in raids July 8 on two Los Angeles church locations.

The raids were motivated, the church alleged, by the government's desire to retaliate against Scientologists because of the many lawsuits the church has filed against governmental agencies.

Estimates of how many documents were seized have ranged from 20,000 to 100,000. The church claimed the papers were seized so they be used by the government to defend itself against the Scientologists' lawsuits.

Search warrants authorizing the raids in Los Angeles and a third one at the church's headquarters in Washington, D.C., were based on allegations by a former high church official that the hierarchy of the church was involved in extensive criminal activities.

The former official, Michael Meisner, has admitted taking part in three burglaries in the U.S. Courthouse in Washington and has attempted to implicate other church officials in the break-ins.

The alleged purpose of the illegal entries was to obtain documents about the church which it had been unable to obtain through Freedom of Information Act lawsuits.

Scientology considers itself an applied religious philosophy which attempts to increase an individual's self-knowledge and self-awareness.

Attorneys for the church have charged that there was not probable cause to conduct the raids on the church locations and that agents using power saws, crowbars and battering rams did extensive damage to areas not specified in the warrant.

The actions of the FBI constituted a violation of the church First Amendment right to freedom of speech and religion as well as Fourth Amendment right against an illegal search and seizure, the suit said.

A church spokesman called the FBI's actions "Gestapo-like." The suit charged agents "chanting, 'FBI—we have a search warrant' . . . burst into rooms where married couples were sleeping unclothed . . . and burst into shower stalls where people were bathing."

One female church member trying to take a picture of an FBI agent was struck on the head with a clip-board by the agent, according to church spokesman Vaughn Young at a

Greater Los Angeles Press Club news conference.

At the old Cedars-Sinai hospital complex, 4833 Fountain Ave., now owned by the church, agents "roamed and searched at will" on the upper five floors of the building, the suit said. The search warrant specifically identified the first-floor office area as the focus for the search.

More than 150 specifically identified documents allegedly stolen or copied in the Washington burglaries were sought in the search of the church locations.

Young was particularly critical of the authority given by the search warrant for the FBI to take any documents or evidence about crimes of conspiracy, obstruction of justice or theft of government property.

It was under that authority that the FBI seized the vast majority of the documents in the search. In addition, lock-picking equipment, cavedropping devices and dossiers on government officials also were taken by the FBI, it was learned.

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- The Washington Post _____
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- Daily News (New York) _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- The Los Angeles Times PF 11

Date JUL 19 1977

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ENCLOSURE

...neither of the two Justice Department attorneys named in the action, Henry Schuelke III and Raymond Banoun, could be reached for comment. An FBI spokesman said the bureau would have no immediate comment.

Generally, however, government attorneys and FBI agents have virtually total immunity for actions they perform in their official capacity, Justice Department sources said.



CRITICAL—Vaughn Young, spokesman for the Church of Scientology, at a news conference on FBI raids at church locations here.

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FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

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ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

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(Attn: [redacted])

Mr. Kevin D. Rooney
Assistant Attorney General for Administration

July 27, 1977

Director, FBI

**LOSS OR COMPROMISE OF
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

Reference is made to your memorandum dated July 19, 1977, relating to the possible loss or compromise of classified information as a result of penetration activities of members of the Founding Church of Scientology, and requesting that this Bureau's Security Officer provide a preliminary report prior to July 29, 1977, and a final report by September 1, 1977, which will enable the Department to make a damage assessment.

This Bureau has custody of voluminous documents obtained from the Founding Church of Scientology offices in Washington, D. C., and in the Los Angeles area as the result of execution of Federal search warrants on July 8 and 9, 1977. Investigation is continuing regarding alleged violations of Federal statutes involving members and former members of the Church, and the documents seized are being subjected to systematic review. On July 19, 1977, this Bureau's Document Classification Officer (Security Officer) furnished the Department Review Committee a preliminary overview of this investigation and of the extensive review required of documents to determine possible loss or compromise of national security information. The Department Review Committee was advised this investigation is progressing and, consistent with matters relating to litigation in the U. S. District Courts, the Department and all other appropriate agencies would be alerted to all facets pertaining to their interests at the earliest possible date.

The FBI Document Classification Officer (Security Officer) has been in contact with Mr. D. Jerry Rubino of the Department Security Programs Staff regarding this matter, and you may be assured of our full cooperation.

62-110008

- 1 - Mr. Leon Ulman, Chairman
Department Review Committee
- 1 - 47-56689 (SITOL)

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SEE NOTE PAGE 2

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**Mr. Kevin D. Rooney
Assistant Attorney General
for Administration**

NOTE:

In accordance with 28 CFR 17.55, the Security Officer of each division of the Department is responsible for reporting the loss or possible compromise of classified material to the Department Security Officer. The Department Security Officer, in turn, is required to make a damage assessment and to recommend corrective measures to the Department Review Committee which, in turn, is required to advise the Attorney General. The Department has a specific interest in the investigation relating to the Founding Church of Scientology (SITOL) as a former employee of the Civil Division and a former employee of the Drug Enforcement Administration are alleged to have penetrated the organizations in behalf of the Church. Because of the voluminous material involved, it will be impossible for us to meet the deadline placed upon us by the Department Security Officer. Personal contact regarding this matter is being maintained with the Department Security Officer and appropriate information will be furnished to the Department as soon as it is available. This matter has been coordinated with [REDACTED] of the Criminal Investigative Division.

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