

April 29, 1968

Alianza Federal de Pueblos Libres, 1010 3rd N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico
Brown-Black Coalition, Peace and Freedom Movement (L. Martinez, Communications Secretary)
Black Panther Party (K. Cleaver, Communications Secretary)
Peace and Freedom Party, Northern Regional Office, 2860 Telegraph, Berkeley, California, 841-8487)

REYES TIJERINA, who has been proposed as Vice Presidential candidate of the Peace and Freedom Party, and Southwest Steering Committee President for the Poor People's March on Washington, has been jailed on phony charges on the eve of his departure for Washington, D. C.

- * On April 27, in what appears to be a calculated move to remove radical leadership from the Poor People's March, the District Attorney of Santa Fe, New Mexico dredged up a case against Tijerina and 13 other Alianza members which had been dismissed by court action earlier this year. (The original case referred to the symbolic act of Tijerina and other Alianza members in 1966 in laying just claim to lands guaranteed to Spanish-speaking residents of the Southwest by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo - - by bringing to mock trial two forest rangers for trespassing on Pueblo property; the rangers were fined \$50, the sentence was suspended, and the rangers were released. In October, 1966, the District Attorney of Santa Fe brought charges of "kidnapping" against Tijerina and other members of the Alianza, and asked for the death penalty. In January, 1968, presiding Judge Joe Angel dismissed the case after Charles Solomon, for the American Civil Liberties Union, pointed out to the court that the definition of "kidnapping" did not apply).
- * Three days before Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, Reyes Tijerina was with him in Atlanta, preparing the details for the Poor Peoples March. After Dr. King named Tijerina Southwest Steering Committee President of the Poor People's March, political harassment began; the latest episode occurred on April 21st when an ex-police officer attempted to dynamite Alianza headquarters in Albuquerque. On April 27, the District Attorney hastily convened a Grand Jury which over-ruled Judge Angel's dismissal of the case against Tijerina. Tijerina was immediately jailed; police officers stormed into an Alianza dance in Albuquerque to seek out others; 13 members of the Alianza were jailed also.
- * A local spokesman for the Alianza stated today that the action was "an attempt on the part of federal authorities to keep Tijerina in jail as long as possible in order to prevent his participation in the Poor People's March."
- * The Brown-Black Coalition of the Peace and Freedom Party was meeting in Richmond Sunday when word came of Tijerina's arrest. Manuel Gomez, Chairman of the Brown Coalition, was instructed to send telegrams of protest to the President of Mexico, the Legislature of Mexico, the United Nations, the Governor of New Mexico, and all

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Spanish language newspapers in the U. S. Chicano groups have scheduled a large protest rally at the University of California and are making a public appeal for bail money so Tijerina may be immediately released to resume the responsibility that Dr. King conferred on him for the march in Washington. All monies may be sent to the Alianza (above address) or to the Peace and Freedom Office, ~~Agent~~ Richard Romo, 2860 Telegraph, Berkeley, California.

- * Last night, the County Council of the ALAMEDA COUNTY PEACE AND FREEDOM MOVEMENT, passed a resolution of support for Tijerina and other Alianza leaders, appointed a committee to send letters of protest to all relevant government authorities, and to plan a massive demonstration against this latest instance of decapitating the leadership of poor people in the U.S.
- * Spokesmen for the Black-Brown Coalition, the Black Panther Party, and the Peace and Freedom Movement stated today that the pattern of assassination or incarceration of radical black and brown leaders is becoming blatantly visible: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, Huey Newton, Gilberto Garza, H. Rap Brown, Charles de Baca (Garza and de Baca were among the 12 Latin youths fatally assaulted by police in the past year). Most recently, the murder of Martin Luther King and Bobby Hutton, the harassment and incarceration of David Sanchez (Prime Minister of the Brown Berets, Los Angeles) and of Eldridge Cleaver (Minister of Information, Black Panther Party); the trumped up suit against Bobby Seale, Chairman of the Black Panther Party - - and now Reies Tijerina. Peace and Freedom people regard these cases as political oppression which encompasses the Peace and Freedom Party since many of these leaders are candidates of Peace and Freedom: Huey Newton is P & F candidate for U. S. Congress; Bobby Seale is the P & F candidate for the State Legislature, 17th A.D.; and Reies Tijerina, proposed P & F candidate for the Vice-Presidency.