

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Washington, D. C.

Eleventh Precinct

April 16, 1968

TO: The Chief of Police

THRU: The Assistant Chief for Field Operations

ATTENTION: Deputy Chief, Commander, Patrol Division

ATTENTION: Supervising Inspector Third District

SUBJECT: A chronological report of events relating to disorders within the Eleventh Precinct beginning Thursday April 4, 1968, problems encountered, solutions utilized and recommendations.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1968: Thursday began as a usual day in the Eleventh Precinct with the normal number of burglaries, robberies and other crimes reported. Business was usual and there was nothing noted that would give any indication of events to come. At 9:51 P.M., orders were received to hold the 4:00 P.M. to 12:00 section on duty. At 10:10 P.M., calls were started to notify the 12:00 midnight to 8:00 A.M., section to report for duty immediately. At 10:12 P.M., we began notifying all C.D.U. members of the precinct to report to the C.D.U. storeroom. These notifications were made relative to disorders which had begun in other sections of the city. At 11:59 P.M., twenty-three (23) members of the 4:00 P.M., section were sent to 14th and You Streets N.W. In addition, three scout cars from this precinct were sent to the northwest area. The conditions within the Eleventh Precinct remained normal and no unusual activity was reported.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1968: At 12:48 A.M., notifications were started to call in all off duty personnel of the precinct. As these men arrived they were assigned to patrol the business areas of the precinct. At 3:40 A.M., the windshield in Scout 117 was broken by a large crowd in the 2300 block of 13th Street N.W. (#13 Precinct). At 5:05 A.M., all days off for members of this command were canceled. At 11:45 A.M., [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, injured his back while fighting a crowd of looters and maintaining an arrest at 13th and You Streets N.W. (#13 Precinct.) [REDACTED] was admitted to the Washington Hospital Center. At 12:00 Noon all members of this precinct were placed on 12 hour shifts. At 12:30 P.M., a large group of juveniles, (approximately 300) marched from Anacostia High and Kramer Junior High Schools to Minnesota Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue S.E., where they held a memorial meeting for DR. KING. The meeting was peaceful and disbanded about 1:00 P.M. Small groups from this meeting began to drift

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1968 CONTINUED:

north into the Fourteenth Precinct and south into the Eleventh Precinct. Shortly after 1:00 P.M., calls for disorderly crowds were beginning to be received at the Eleventh Precinct. Crowds were gathering on Good Hope Road, Wheeler Road, Alabama Avenue and along Nichols Avenue. About 1:30 P.M., reports of window smashings and looting began coming in from areas of business over the entire precinct. Arrests for looting were made. About 6:00 P.M., the windshield of Scout 118 was smashed by a brick thrown at Nichols and Mount View Place S.E. By 7:00 P.M., illegal activity was increasing. Arrests for curfew violations were being made. At 7:55 P.M., Cruiser 23, operated by [REDACTED] was damaged in an accident while chasing looters in front of 2121 18th Street S.E. At 8:35 P.M., advance members of Engineer Troops from Fort Belvoir arrived. This first company of troops was immediately placed in critical areas of the precinct. About 9:00 P.M., first report of fire in shopping centers at 1000 Wohler Place and 4100 Wheeler Road S.E. came in. The fires were fought by fire companies from Maryland and Virginia. Both shopping centers were destroyed. About 9:10 P.M., fire was reported in the shopping center at 1300 Savannah Street S.E. which caused extensive damage. At 9:15 P.M., Ernest McIntyre, Negro male, 20 years of [REDACTED] was shot and killed by [REDACTED] when he was surprised looting a liquor store in the 4000 block of South Capitol Street. McIntyre had approached the officer in a threatening manner. At 9:45 P.M., [REDACTED] Negro male, 21 years of [REDACTED] was shot by [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, as he tried to run the officer down with an automobile at the scene of the looting of a liquor store at 2237 Minnesota Avenue S.E. [REDACTED] was treated at D.C. General Hospital, released and returned to the Eleventh Precinct. At 10:00 P.M., some unknown person threw a rock, breaking the rear window of Scout 112. The Scout Car was patrolling in the 3500 block of Wheeler Road S.E. At 10:30 P.M., [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, received broken fingers while chasing looters at 8th and Eye Streets S.E. (Fifth Precinct). At 11:30 P.M., arrangements were made to house the 82nd Airborne Division in Ballou High School.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1968: At 2:00 A.M., a communications net was organized with the U.S. Army troops. All available members of this command with troops were patrolling the streets. A large number of curfew violators were being arrested. Many items of loot found on the streets were being brought into the station by troops and policemen. About 4:00 A.M., two separate reports were received of a Negro male in a light trench coat, pointing a rifle at troops stationed at 14th and Good Hope Road S.E. The entire area was searched with the help of a unit from C.D.U. Gas was used by C.D.U. on several vacant and condemned houses in the area but results were negative. Things became relatively quiet during the daylight hours of Saturday. At 7:15 P.M., [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, injured his back while unloading crates of tear gas at the Municipal Center.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1968: At 2:00 A.M., [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, was injured by broken glass while chasing looters in the rear of 2757 Nichols Avenue. [REDACTED] received lacerations to the left forearm requiring 18 stitches. From this time until 6:45 P.M., the precinct was relatively calm. At about 6:50 P.M., an Army Jeep on patrol overturned at 2310 Skyland Place S.E. [REDACTED] 82nd Airborne Division was taken by helicopter to Walter Reed Hospital, condition critical.

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1968: During the day troops patrolled the streets. Relative calm prevailed. At night the curfew was enforced with few violators. A few reports of looters were received. The evening and night were quiet and calm.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1968: At 2:45 A.M., [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, while stationed at a roadblock at Suitland Road and Southern Avenue S.E., reported several sniper shots directed at him from a vacant building just across the district line in Maryland. [REDACTED] returned nine (9) rounds of fire. A thorough search of the area was conducted by Maryland and Eleventh Precinct officers and the results were negative. At 9:50 A.M., an Army tractor-trailer was damaged in an accident at Nichols Avenue and Portland Street S.E. There were no injuries. The remainder of the daylight hours were quiet. At 8:20 P.M., a rock was thrown through the right window of Cruiser 231 in front of 2753 Alabama Avenue S.E. The window was smashed and [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, received injuries to the face. He was treated at Cafritz Hospital and remained on duty.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1968: At 12:10 A.M., Scout 116 was damaged in an accident at Stanton Terrace and Bruce Place S.E., while chasing a suspicious auto. The auto being chased was abandoned and the occupants escaped. It proved to be stolen. No other incidents reported this date.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1968: The conditions in the precinct were calm. The 82nd Airborne Division began removing its troops and the D.C. National Guard began moving into the precinct. At 9:15 P.M., [REDACTED] Eleventh Precinct, after having made an arrest in the 2800 block of Knox Street, was surrounded by a large crowd which threatened the officer. [REDACTED] fired one (1) shot into the air which dispersed the crowd long enough for him to get to his scout car with the prisoner and leave the area.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1968: At 4:00 A.M., the last curfew was lifted. Total curfew arrest had been 340 adults and approximately 150 juveniles. The day remained calm. By 11:50 P.M., this date the total number of adult arrests for all offenses since the start of the disturbance stood at 568.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1968: Calm prevailed throughout the day. At 11:30 P.M., [redacted] white, male, 20 years of [redacted] reports while walking in the 800 block of Southern Avenue S.E., he was shot in the left shoulder by an unknown sniper. [redacted] could not tell if the shots came from an auto or one of the buildings in the area.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1968: At 12:25 A.M., [redacted] white, male, 41 years of [redacted] while walking in front of his home, was attacked by three Negro males who stopped their auto when they saw him afoot. One of these subjects stated, "I haven't got me a white man since this riot". He then proceeded to stab [redacted] about the face and head with a knife. Condition serious and admitted to the hospital. At 1:05 A.M., a large furniture store at 1236 Good Hope Road S.E., was entered and a large quantity of TV sets were stolen. The store was then set afire causing extensive damage to the entire building. The remainder of the day was calm. As of 8:00 P.M., this date nineteen (19) business establishments had been destroyed by fire, ninety-eight (98) had been extensively damaged by looters. No homes or apartments had been destroyed by disturbance related incidents. The Fire Department was plagued Sunday evening by the sounding of ten (10) false fire boxes in the precinct.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1968: Monday was a quiet day. National Guard units assisted police in patrolling the streets. A series of false fire boxes was sounded in the early evening in the southern part of the precinct. The normal amount of crime was reported. There were no disturbance related incidents.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1968: The operations of the Eleventh Precinct returned to normal. National Guard Units left the precinct about 12:00 Noon. Many business establishments that had been looted were opened again for business.

#### PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

##### TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS

During the peak arrest periods there was a problem of transporting prisoners from the place of arrest to the Eleventh Precinct. Wagon #11 was frequently busy with runs to hospitals and headquarters. After the arrival of Army troops we utilized a large Army truck, Army jeep and one of our scout cars to operate as a unit designated "Wagon #17". This method supplemented regular wagon transportation.

## PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED CONTINUED

### HOLDING PRISONERS WHILE AWAITING BOOKING

During the peak arrest periods there was a large backlog of prisoners waiting to be booked. It was necessary to place these prisoners in the report writing room and other rooms in the station until they could be booked, searched and placed in the cellblock. A typewriter in the report room was damaged by unknown prisoners at one time when the room was packed with prisoners. About the third day we managed to get an Army bus with cage and bars on the windows which we parked directly in the rear of the station. All prisoners brought in were placed on this bus then brought into the station one at a time to be booked and processed.

### BOOKING OF PRISONERS

Operating with one arrest book allows only one officer at a time to do the booking. This is a slow process in view of the information needed for the records and the reluctance of some prisoners to provide this information.

### CURFEW PASSES

Many people were found on the street during curfew, who, because of the nature of their occupations or other situations, were allowed to proceed. Very few people holding curfew passes were encountered. Each officer stopping these people was left to his own discretion and common sense. With no uniformity, many persons claimed they were arrested at one roadblock after having been passed on at several others.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### TRANSPORTING PRISONERS

I recommend that a number of Army trucks stationed in the Washington area be equipped with rear end gates and covered with wire making them suitable for transporting prisoners. At the first sign of civil disorder these trucks could be made available to the department. At least one truck should be made available to each precinct.

### DETAINING PRISONERS AWAITING PROCESSING

I recommend a number of Army buses stationed in the area be equipped with cages and barred windows and that at least one bus be made available to each precinct for confinement of prisoners at the earliest sign of civil disorder.

### BOOKING OF PRISONERS

I recommend that a system be established utilizing the present PD form #255 for booking purposes during times of mass arrests. As many officers as are needed could obtain information from prisoners and record the information by hand on Form #255. The prisoner could then be searched and placed in the cellblock. All 255 forms would be turned over to the station clerk for booking on the arrest book when time permitted. Case numbers could be entered on the 255' forms at the time the case is entered on the arrest book.

CURFEW PASSES

I recommend that curfew passes be issued beforehand to all persons who would qualify for being on the streets during curfew hours at a time of civil disorder. This would avoid a rush for passes at the time an emergency is declared. I recommend that Commanding Officers of Precincts be permitted to issue curfew passes to members of the Reserve Corps so they would be permitted to travel to and from the stations during a time of curfew.

CURFEW COLLATERAL

I recommend that a cash collateral be set for violations of curfew. Violators could be held until the curfew expires for that particular day then released upon posting a cash collateral.

RIOT HELMETS

I recommend that, for sanitary reasons and control purpose, each member of the Department be personally issued a riot helmet.


COVERALLS

I recommend that all members of the Department be issued coveralls as are used by members of the C.I.D. These coveralls are a practical uniform for civil disorder work and would save damage to regular uniforms.

BASEBALL TYPE GAS GRENADES

I recommend that a supply of baseball type gas grenades be kept at the precinct stationhouses. This grenade is simple to use and causes a minimum of injuries. Control could be maintained by an order issued setting forth the conditions under which they could be used.

This report is submitted in compliance with Teletype message #19-840.

  
Kenneth L. Knight  
Captain  
Commanding, Eleventh Precinct

## Summarizing Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Source Information:**

[illegible]