

Black Militant Notes Linked to Slayings

By Alfred E. Lewis and Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writers

Police yesterday revealed the texts of two notes, containing black militant slogans, that were found near the bodies of two white men stabbed to death here last Sept. 1 and Oct. 1.

In an unusual appeal for help from the community, police distributed copies of the notes to the news media, saying they have exhausted all leads and need new information.

The hand-scrawled notes, which police say were written by the same author, link the deaths of Marine Cpl. Christopher S. Brady, 22, fatally stabbed in a barracks building at the Washington Navy Yard on Sept. 1, and Ritchie H. Reed, 30-year-old government economist stabbed to death in a fifth floor men's room of the New Executive Office Building at 726 Jackson Pl. NW exactly a month later on Oct. 1.

The note found in a bathroom stall near Reed's body refers to another note that was "left at the assassination (sic) of your Marine honor guard a week ago today."

Police speculated that the Marine's assailant wrote the second note soon after the first murder and carried it with him for at least three weeks before leaving it at the scene of the Reed killing.

One of the notes alludes to Fred Hampton, Illinois Black Panther leader slain during a police raid in Chicago on Dec. 4, 1969, and to George Jackson, one of three militant West Coast blacks known as the "Soledad Brothers" because of their joint incarceration in California's Soledad Prison. Jackson was shot and killed last Aug. 21 during what prison officials called an escape attempt.

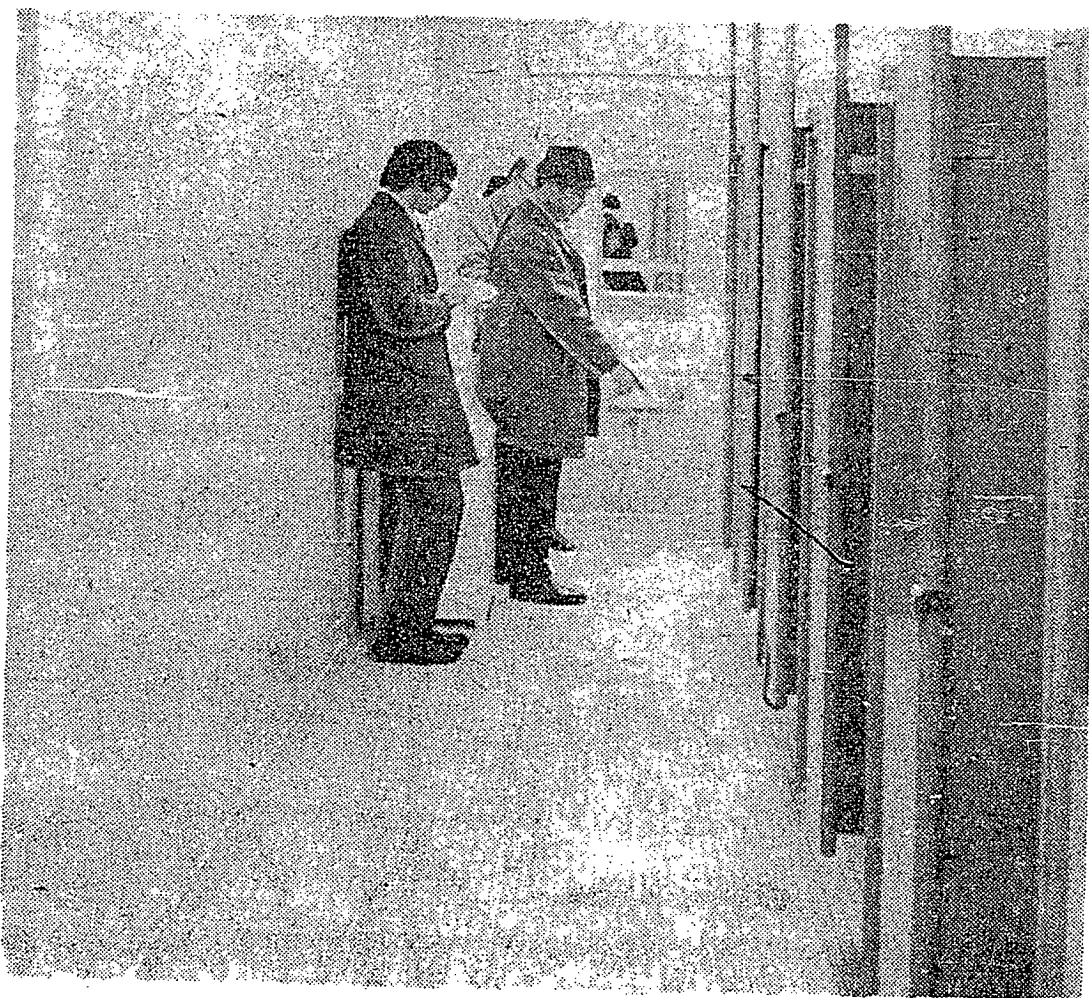
See NOTES, B11, Col. 1

VIETNAM —
BROTHERS
WILSON'S PIGS
(BLACK + WHITE) WILL
GET THE (45S)
REMEMBER BROTHER FRED
HAMPTON!
THE PIGS MUST
GET OUT OF OUR
COMMUNITY NOW / REVOLUTION
IS NOW

This note was found at the site of the Reed slaying.



This is the site where three witnesses say Marine Cpl. Christopher S. Brady was fatally stabbed last Sept. 1.



Detective John A. Chaillet inspects site where Ritchie Reed was slain Oct. 1.

Photos by Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

Black Militant Notes Linked to Slayings

NOTES, From B1

Both notes also made vague references to two other killings—one believed by police to have been a black who died in an altercation with police here last Easter, the other thought to refer to a second black man shot and killed by FBI agents in Jacksonville, Fla., last July 27.

Both notes contain warnings against white persons in general and police in particular.

"The pigs must get out of our community now," says the note found near Brady.

"No European will be safe in our (black people's) city

again," says the Reed note. "If you don't live here, stay out and let us black people have our jobs to support our families . . . The revolution is now . . . All power to the people."

Deputy Chief Mahlon E. Pitts, commander of detectives in the metropolitan police department, released the notes and made an appeal for public help at a special press conference yesterday. "We have exhausted every possible lead in these cases," he said, "and we are hoping that someone in the community will now come forward to assist us."

He said detectives are still

trying to establish any possible link between the Brady-Reed killings and the apparent ambush slaying of two policemen in New York City Jan. 27.

Pitts said the Brady-Reed murders are two of 38 still unsolved homicides that occurred here in 1971. He said the police department hopes to release information on the others on a week-by-week basis in a similar appeal to the public for help.

Investigation of the Brady-Reed deaths has come to a near halt, he said, after police expended "thousands of man-hours."

Washington police as well as the FBI, Naval Intelligence and several police departments throughout the country have examined more than 400,000 handwriting samples and questioned thousands of people in their search for the assailant, Pitts said.

He said handwriting experts were satisfied that the two notes were written by the same person.

Brady, a member of the ceremonial honor guard at the Marine Barracks in Southeast Washington, was fatally stabbed by a man who police said entered the building after telling guards he was looking for a friend named "Cox" or "Wilcox."

He accosted Brady in a second floor corridor of Barracks Building 58 in the Navy Yard, police said. Three nearby Marines spotted the man repeatedly stabbing Brady. When they approached, he fled.

Police said they found the note believed to have been left by the assailant on the ground about 50 feet from the barracks building.

The note refers to "brother Cox murdered by pig FBI." Police said they believe this is a reference to Walter N. Cox, a Negro shot and killed by FBI agents in Jacksonville last July 27. FBI officials said the man accosted the agents with a knife in an unprovoked situation. Cox had a history of mental illness, they said, as



A composite sketch of the suspect in two slayings.

Jacksonville authorities ruled the shooting justifiable. stall said, "We have not forgotten the murder of our brother here Easter Sunday."

Like Brady, Reed died from multiple stab wounds of the chest after what police said was an apparent struggle with his assailant in the bathroom of the New Executive Office Building across from the White House, Reed's wallet containing a small amount of cash and credit cards, was also taken.

A note found in a bathroom was taken.

Police speculated that this referred to Earnest A. Thomas, 33, listed at 860 Southern Ave. SE, who last April 11 (Easter Sunday) died when he fell and struck his head during an altercation with police after an auto chase ending at 8th and H Streets NW. The case was presented to a grand jury but no action