Malcolm Little: Actual Communist

During this time in the United States, Communism was considered an ever-growing threat to American ideologies. Because of the stress from the Korean War, combined with the fear over the Cold War, the FBI was intent on making sure that Communists, as well as other dangerous radical groups, did not gain additional power.

Much of the FBI's focus in and around 1953 centered around Communism and religion. With the existing stresses from fighting the Korean War against Communists, the FBI wanted to investigate and get rid of the existing Communists in America in fear of them rising against the government. Along with the growing threat of Communism, many people had joined the Muslim Cult of Islam, also known as the Allah Temple of Islam. Followers of this radical sect of the Muslim religion actively choose not to listen to the United States government, because they pledged their allegiance only to Allah, who they claim to be their supreme being. The FBI saw this as a threat, and tried to find a way to deal with the possible dangers of this drastic sect of the religion.

The FBI collected a large amount of information regarding Malcolm X that is listed in this file, such as his criminal record, proof of Communist beliefs, physical description, drug use record, and religious affiliations. He has a number of previous charges brought against him, some of which include, breaking and entering, carrying a firearm, and larceny. The Bureau received a tip about Malcolm’s Communist beliefs when someone handed in a letter he had written that says “I have always been a Communist,” and so the Bureau kept that on file. Malcolm was associated with the Muslim Cult of Islam, which was a known hate group at the time. It was not affiliated with the Islam religion, as it was a splinter group of the Muslim religion.

The job of the FBI is to be inquisitive and to investigate groups or people that they believe for various reasons should be investigated to help prevent crimes. The United States at this time perceived anyone that associated with Communism to be a possible threat. This is why the investigation of Malcolm began. Some things about Malcolm, such as some extreme beliefs other than Communism, were noted and being watched.

At the time that this file was compiled, the FBI had a justified reason to collect information about Malcolm X. His ties to Communism affiliated him with a group known for their radical views. The terms they use to describe him are the common terms of the time. There is nothing here to suggest that they pulled Malcolm because of his characteristics, either physical or personality wise. But, we know that the FBI disapproved of the Communists in the country, and that, along with his affiliation with the Muslim Cult of Islam, led to the FBI's investigation of Malcolm Little.