

Police Retain Panther Stake-Out

Refuse To Give Reason; Shift Claimed From 'Subtle' Tactics

City police continued to keep a close watch on an East Baltimore apartment frequented by members of the Black Panthers yesterday, but refused to reveal reasons for the round-the-clock surveillance.

Marked patrol cars remained in front of and behind the apartment in the 1200 block North Gay street for the third straight day. Several Black Panthers use the building which is a half block north of the group's new headquarters, as a residence.

Police officials would not elaborate on reasons for the

stake-out other than to deny charges by the Panthers that the action is the latest in a series of harassing tactics.

More Harassment Charged office and were getting into an automobile.

"There's been an increase in harassment since we moved to the new office," said Sherry Brown, lieutenant of finance for the local group. The Panthers have been in their new headquarters about two weeks.

"Except for this stake-out, everything they have done has been sort of subtle," he said.

"They follow us. We know that they follow us. There's about three different cars they use to tail us."

Saturday night city police took a Panther, James M. Miles, of Washington, into custody and

Interrogated At Station

A large number of patrol cars converged on the area before the man was taken to the Eastern district police station, where he was interrogated for about 20 minutes before a traffic summons was given him.

Mr. Miles, 26, was summoned to appear in Traffic Court at 10 A.M., January 5, to answer

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charges of failing to have a driver's license and automobile registration in his possession.

Another Panther, Edward Martin, 22, of the 1200 block North Gay street, was arrested Friday afternoon by federal officials and charged with violations under the Gun Control Act of 1968.

Martin was sentenced to six months in jail last November by Judge Shirley B. Jones for obstructing police officers during his arrest on weapons charges. He is free on \$1,000 bail pending a hearing before a United States Commissioner at 2 P.M. Tuesday.

After Martin was arrested Friday, the Panthers first noticed that police cars were sta-

tioned near their headquarters.

A spokesman for the police department vigorously denied that the police were harassing the Panthers or any other group.

Cause And Effect?

The spokesman did not deny, however, that the department has been collecting photographs on persons known or suspected to be Black Panthers and has been displaying them on bulletin boards in a number of police districts.

Such police activity is simply an effort to "keep tabs on possible law violators," he said. There has been no attempt by local police officials to intimidate or threaten members of the Black Panthers, the spokesman said.