

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 14, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Hearst
233 West Inez
Hillsborough, California

Dear Sir:

First, let me say, as the leader of the Black Panther Party, that we have no relationship with the Symbionese Liberation Army.

The fact is, however, that Patricia Hearst is already captured by the Symbionese Liberation Army and in danger. In the past, we, the Black Panther Party, had attempted to help the U.S. corporate interests avoid bearing such a yoke, by asking and imploring your help for the people's survival. In this interest, we ourselves gave away over \$154,000.00 of free food to poor people, in order to forstall what has presently happened.

Therefore, in the light of the fact of Ms. Hearst's capture and in light of the Symbionese Liberation Army's just demands for free food for poor people, we are willing to help resolve this contradiction.

Because we are familiar with mass distribution of free food, we, the Black Panther Party, are willing to take full responsibility for the distribution of food to the masses of people in exchange for one life, the life of Patricia Hearst.

We will distribute food to the poor, to the oppressed, to the disenfranchised. We will do so as we have always done because we are one with the people, not because we are parties to or victims of extortion.

The rights of the people to the plenty of this land is something we have fought and died for, but we did not die only to become romantic curiosities.

We struggle for the people, for the rights of mankind. We will not involve ourselves in their destruction. We, as always, will struggle for their liberation.

We have known people before, both fascists and fools, who have tried to make of us murderers and kidnapers. They have their motives. But for us, let it be known that we never murdered anyone to make our motives and our beliefs clear.

We believe in the freedom and the rights of man. And we will feed people because we know that people are hungry, not only because we know that some are prisoners.

Huey P. Newton
Black Panther Party