

MUHAMMAD SPEAKS

MARCH 12, 1965

# Harlem Youths Deny They Were Part of 'Murder' Plot

NEW YORK — Acting on the advice of responsible leaders in the Harlem community, MUHAMMAD SPEAKS investigated the backgrounds of two young men reported by the police and some newspapers as supposedly on their way to Chicago to attempt to assassinate the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and learned that the story was entirely false.

Captain Joseph of Muhammad's Mosque No. 7 here, working out of the local office of this newspaper, discovered that the "criminal records" of the two men, Omar Ahmed and Donald Washington, consist of minor cases of disorderly conduct. Both men have contacted Captain Joseph and denied any connection with any so-called "vengeance squad."

Further, it was learned that Ahmed and Washington are "champion fighters for their people." Washington has a long record of civil rights and political activities in the Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant areas.

Ahmed has been active on all levels of the human rights

struggle. He has worked with CORE and the March on Washington. He helped organize the Foley Square demonstration in sympathy with the Birmingham children and participated in sit-ins, school boycotts and rent strikes.

Although not followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Ahmed and Washington said they always have had "a warm spot" in their hearts for the Messenger and his teachings. They added that they consider Mr. Muhammad a true leader and "great teacher of Islam to his people in North America" and that they pray Allah will make him successful.



Omar Ahmed