STANDARD FORM NO. 64 Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DATE: May 31, 1956 : DIRECTOR, FBI TO CHARLOUTE (17-942) PROM : SAC SUBJECT: BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, Black Mountain, North Carolina (00: Charlotte) On April 3, 1956, Mr. CECIL PATE, Chief Attorney, Veterans Administration Regional Office, Winston-Salem, N. C., arranged a conference between himself, Mr. JAMES DRUMMOND of the Vocational and Rehabilitation Division of the Veterans Administration, and SA CARMON J. STUART. Mr. PATE advised that his office was in the process of conducting a Compliance Inspection of the subject college and that he felt that the information which had been developed might involve a matter of internal security and that for this reason he desired SA STUART to sit in on the Mr. DRUMMOND advised that a Summary of Compliance Survey Report was being compiled and that it would be submitted to Mr. PATE in the near future. Mr. DRUMMOND furnished no specific information indicating subversive or disloyal activity on the part of the students or instructors at the school. Mr. PATE advised that when the Summary Report became available he would examine it with respect to possible fraud violations and if any were apparent he would refer this information to the Charlotte Division of the FBI. On May 9, 1956, Mr. PATE made available a copy of the Summary Compliance Survey Report, referred to above, and a memorandum synopsis of this Survey. Mr. PATE advised that on the busis of the information set out in the Survey Report he felt that the facts of this case should be discussed with the United States Attorney at Asheville, N. C., and that he would arrange for a conference with the United States Attorney and requested that an Agent be present at the conference. He stated that he would make all necessary records of his office available at the proposed conference.

The Summary Compliance Survey nets out information indicating that false statements regarding attendance of students at subject college have been made by college officials and that the veterans do no attend classes in the normal sense. The college has been certifying that certain

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Director, FBI May 31, 1956

BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE VAM

veterans have been regularly attending but keeps no record of such attendance. Veteran Administration officials have taken steps which have resulted in the school's approval by the State Board of Education of North Carolina being withdrawn, thus cutting off subsistence of veterans. School officials have advised that they are conducting a very unusual type of school, for example, a student may do nothing all day and in the middle of the night may decide he wants to paint or write, which he does, and he may call upon his teachers at this time for guidance. They advised that everything is left to the desires of the individual. The Survey Report indicates that there are 23 students in the college, 9 of them are veterans.

This Office will open individual cases on each of the 9 students if the USA indicates that he contemplates prosecution and requeste additional investigation.

SAC, Charlotte (17-942)

June 8, 1956

Director, FBI (17-New)

BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA; VAM

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Reurlet 5-31-56.

EX. 130

Individual cases on each of the students involved in this matter should not be opened, but only one case regarding the school should be opened. If prosecution relative to the students is considered by the United States Attorney you may make appropriate additions to the title. The character of this case should include SPA or VRAA whichever is applicable.

You should assure there is no misunderstanding in connection with the procedure of referral of these matters to your office by VA. The chief attorney of the VA Regional Office at Winston-Salem should refer matters of these types directly to your office promptly in order that appropriate preliminary inquiries may be made by your office and a discussion with the United States Attorney may be had by your office. It is not necessary for VA to arrange a conference with the United States Attorney, but there is no objection to the United States Attorney inviting a VA representative to be present when you confer with the United States Attorney regarding prosecution. The Bureau has sole jurisdiction of the criminal aspects and your office should control all action in connection with the criminal investigation.

On the basis of irregularities indicated by the VA report, an investigation should be conducted in accordance with the Manual of Instructions, Section 96, Paragraph (f) at the top of Page 4. Other instructions in the Manual should be followed in this case.

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Surep without delay.

Office Memorandum · United States Government

DIRECTOR, FBL

DATE: 6/26/7/

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room : SAC, CHARLOTTE (17-94?)

SUBJECT: BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, BLACK MOUNTAIN. N. V. VAM

> He Bulst June 3, 1956 and Charlotte Letter to Bureau, 5/31/96.

This motter was referred to this office by VARO, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, upon the complation of its Summary Compliance Survey of Black Mountain College.

On June 6, 1956 a preliminary conference was held with United States Attorney JAMES M. BALEY, JR., Wastern District of North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. C. E. HEMINGWAY, Chief of Vocational Rahabilitation and Education Division, and CECIL PATE. Chief Attorney, VARO, Winston-Salem, North Carolina were present with SA during the discussion.

Mr. PATE explained to Mr. BALEY that monthly dertification of training, VA Form VB7-1996B, had been submitted to the Veterans Administration by the subject and the veterans for each month of attendance by the veteran at the college and that these certificates showed no absences of veterans except in one instance. Mr. PATE further explained that enrollment certificates, VA Form 71999, had been submitted by the College on each veteran actting up a proposed course of study and indicating that the veteran had been in attendance five or six hours per day on five or six days per week. Mr. PATE stated that these documents were the basis on which the Veterans Administration relied in making subsistence payments to the veterans.

Mr. PATE stated that he felt that the information reported in the Compliance Summary Report raised a doubt as to the accuracy and truthfulness of the information to the Veterans Administration in the two documents described above.

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DIRECTOR, FBI

BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C.

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Mr. HEMINGWAY stated that this matter had been discussed with officials of the College and that they claimed they had complied in substance with the provisions of these documents but had indicated that they did not comply in detail in that their scheduling of classes was on an irregular basis.

Mr. HEMINGWAY advised that the Collage had been re-approved for Veterans Administration students on a limited basis by the North Carolina Department of Education as a result of a conference. held on June 6, 1956 between officials of the College. representatives of the state, and the Veterans Administration. The approval was limited to completion by the veterans presently enrolled of their courses. Mr. BALEY stated that it was his opinion that this was a matter which could in all probability be better handled by administrative action taken by the Veterans Administration. However, he suggested that a preliminary investigation be made to see if any evidence of intent to furnish false information could be developed. Mr. BALEY requested that he be kept advised of developments as the investigation proceeded so that he could determine whether or not he would contemplate prosecution.

On June 20 and 21, 1956, three of the veterans were interviewed and advised that they had received instruction equalling or exceeding the amount indicated on their respective certificates of enrollment and that they had no absences from classes which had not been made up. They each stated they knew of no attendance records being kept by the school but explained that the total enrollment was only about 26 students and that absences would have been noticed if there had been any

Mountain College, Black Mountain, North Carolina, advised on June 21, 1956 that he realized that the enrollment certificates indicated that five or six hours of instruction per day for five or six days per week were to be furnished to the veterans.

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June 26, 1956

DIRECTOR, PBI

BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C. VAM

He said he knew that this instruction had not been given on a regular basis of five or six hours per day but that all veterans received at least 30 hours per week of instruction. He stated that he was orally informed by Veterans Administration representatives at the outset of the program that 30 hours of instruction per week was what was required, and that in submitting the ancellment certificates he arbitrarily allotted this time on a five or six hours per day five or six days per week basis. He stated that he had no intention of misleading the Veterans Administration or of furnishing false information to it.

advised that there has been no attendance records kept by black Mountain College in the past. He exhibited a form which he said had been agreed upon between himself and the Veterans Administration for recording attendance in the future.

Investigation determined that all voterons except the three who have been interviewed are presently residing at addresses which are outside the Charlotte Division while on summer vacation.

Mr. BALEY stated that he felt that the requirements of attendance established by the documents mentioned above were non-specific and indefinite and that any affort to prove non-compliance could be successfully met by the claim that substantial compliance was had evan though the compliance was not on a regular basis. He stated that it would be necessary to show the facts indicating that a student was not in the College during a long pariod of time in order to prove a case against the College. He felt that the facts developed thus far pays no indication that such was the case and, therefore, stated that he believed no further investigation was necessary.

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SEACE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE SEACE FOUNTAIN. N. O. VAM

Since those vaterans not yet interviewed are presently outside this Division and since the United States Attorney has indicated he does not contemplate presention, no slittlenal investigation is being conducted. A closing report will be subsitted UACE.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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	Office of Origin	Date	11/3,11,11,30;5 6/6,11,20,21;	/9.31:
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On 5/9/56 CE	CCIL PATE, Chief Att	orney, VAR	O, Winston-Sale	m, N. C.,
Turnished re	sults of compliance	survey con	nducted by VA u	nder
provisions o	of PL 550, 82nd Cong	ress. Inf	ormation develo	ped
during surve	y indicated possibi	lity that :	Calse statement	s had
been given t	o VA regarding atte	ndance of	veterans at Bla	ck Moun-
carn correse	on 6/6/56, USA J	AMES M. BA.	LEY, JR., WDNC,	Ashe-
VA sttendene	, after review of i	niormation	in survey repo	rt and
tive ection	was best remedy, bu	t requests	a lett va admin	1.SUPA-
before rende	ring an opinion reg	erding uro	secution Two	veterans
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ion equallin	g time indicated on	certifica	te submitted to	VA. but
not on regul	ar basis.	Treas	urer. Black Mou	ntain b6
College admi	tted information fu	rnished VA	was inacurate	but claimed b7C
all / vetera	ins in attendance re	ceived ins	truction equali	ng or ex-
ceeding cloc	k hours reported to	VA but no	t on a regular	basis as
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prosecution since VA attendance requirements were non-specific and indefinite and that any effort to prove non-compliance could be successfully met by the claim that substantial compliance was had even though compliance was not on a regular basis.

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of information furnished by CECIL PATE, Chief Attorney, Veterans Administration Regional Office, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on May 9, 1956. PATE furnished this Office a copy of a compliance survey conducted by the Veterans Administration under the provisions of Public Law 550, 82nd Congress, which reflected information indicating the possibility of false statements having been given to the Veterans Administration regarding attendance of veterans at Black Mountain College.

The summary compliance survey indicated that Black Mountain College had been approved to offer a program of training under the provisions of Public Law 550, 82nd Congress, effective from June 21, 1954, by the appropriate approving It was indicated that the appropriate approving agency is the North Carolina Department of Education. The survey indicates the veterans do not attend the classes in the normal sense and on a regular basis. The survey sets out information indicating that one veteran, who enrolled from July 12, 1955 through September 3, 1955, and from January 3, 1956, through March 9, 1956, maintains his residence at which is approximately ninetytwo miles from the institution. The report indicates that it was determined that this veteran is in the printing business and that he does a certain amount of printing for the institution. The survey report indicates that it was the belief of the Veterans Administration Investigators that this veteran was absent from the institution on the dates when they made their compliance survey.

The survey indicates that the monthly certificates submitted in behalf of this veteran indicated perfect attendance during both periods of enrollment, and that for this

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reason it is bolleved that some of these certificates are erroneous. The survey further indicates that no absences for any of the veterans enrolled at this institution have been reported on monthly attendance certificates except one instance during which time the veteran was a patient in a hospital. The survey also indicates that because of a lack of attendance records at the institution it was impossible to determine whether other absences were incurred and not reported.

AT ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

On June 6, 1956, a preliminary conference was held with United States Attorney JAMES M. BALEY, JR., Western District North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. C. E. HEMINGWAY, Chief of Rehabilitation and Education Division, and CECIL PATE, Chief Attorney, Veterans Administration Regional Office, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, were present with SA during the discussion with Mr. BALEY.

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Mr. PATE explained to Mr. BALEY that monthly certification of training, Veterans Administration Form VB7-1996B, had been submitted to the Veterans Administration by the subject and the veterans for each month of attendance by the veterans at the college and that these certificates showed no absences of veterans except in one instance. Mr. PATE further explained that enrollment certificates, Veterans Administration Form 71999, had been submitted by the college on each veteran satting up a proposed course of study and indicating that the veteran had been in attendance five or six hours per day on five or six days per week. Mr. PATE stated that these documents were the basis on which the Veterans Administration relied in making subsistence payments to the veterans.

mation reported in the Compliance Summary Report raised a doubt as to the accuracy and truthfulness of the information furnished to the Veterans Administration in the two documents described above.

Mr. HEMINGWAY stated that this matter had been discussed with officials of the college and that they claimed they had complied in substance with the provisions of these

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documents but had indicated that they did not comply in detail in that their scheduling of classes was on an irregular basis.

Mr. HEMINGWAY advised on completion of the Summary Compliance Survey that the colloge had been re-approved for Veterans Administration students on a limited basis by the North Carolina Department of Education as a result of a conference held on June 6, 1956, between officials of the college, representatives of the state, and the Veterans Administration. The approval was limited to completion by the veterans presently enrolled in their courses.

Mr. BALEY stated that it was his opinion that this was a matter which could in all probability be better handled by administrative action taken by the Veterans Administration. However, he suggested that a preliminary investigation be made to see if any evidence of intent to furnish false information could be developed. Mr. BALEY requested that he be kept advised of developments as the investigation proceeded no that he could determine whether or not he would contemplate prosecution.

AT WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

	NAME	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	TOTAL AMT. SUB- SISTENCE PAID VETERAN	NO. HKS. PER WEEK FROM VA FORM VB7-71996B	PROM VA FORM 7-1999	
[9/19/5% to 12/3/55;	\$557.34	6	6	b6 b70
·		1/3/56 to 3/19/56 1/19/56 to	223.67	5	6	
Γ		3/19/56 9/23/51 to 6/3/55; 6/20/55	718.67	6	6)
		to 9/3/55; 9/19/ -55 to 12/3/55; 1, -3/56 to 3/19/56		6	6	
		10/2h/55 to 12/3/55; 1/3/56 3/19/56	h29.01	5	6	
		7/12/55 to 9/3/5 1/3/56 to 3/19/5	5; 473.01	6 5	6 6	
		8/18/54 to 9/4/51 9/20/54 to 12/4/ 3/28/55 to 6/11/ 6/20/55 to 9/3/5 9/19/55 to 12/3/ 1/3/56 to 3/19/	54; 55; 5; 55;	7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	6 6 6 6 6	
		9/20/54 to 12/4/ 3/28/55 to 6/11/	54; 1375.00 55	6 6	6	

NAME	DATES OF TOTAL ANT. 30B- ATTENDANCE SISTENCE PAID VETERAN	NO. HRS. PER WEEK NO. DAYS PER WEEK FROM VA FORM PROM VA FORM VB7-71996B 2-1999
(continued)	6/20/55 to 9/3/55; 9/19/55 to 12/3/55; 1/3/56 to 3/19/56	6 6 b7c 6

oy S	AS E	The following investigation was conducted be broken
		AT HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA
оу 🗌		The following signed statement was furnished on June 20, 1956:
		"June 20, 1956 Highlands, North Carcline

"I,	make the	following
voluntary statement to	and	
who have identified thoms	elves to	me as spe-
clai agents of the Federal Bureau	of Trungt	it was fan
no circates, promises, or offers of	manand b	parra hain
made to me to induce these stateme	nte Th	מתחת החורם
advised that I have a right to con	haal and	the anse
soatement I do make may be used no	ainst me	in a court
of law.		

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"I am years of age and have completed three years of college at Princeton University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, and Black Mountain College.

"I enrolled at Black Mountain College on July 12, 1955, under the GI Bill. I had previously attended the college without the aid of the Bill. I was enrolled until September 3, 1955; and re-entered January 3, 1956. I discontinued my enrollment on March 19, 1956. For these periods I was compensated under the GI Bill in an amount of approximately \$1,70.00.

"During the periods of my enrollment under the GI Bill I periodically signed monthly certifications of training. I signed these documents without a careful examination of their contents. I did, however, understand that they pertained to my attendance record at the college.

"Attendance to satisfy the requirements of attendance; namely, 30 hours of class work and supervised study per

usely use especial of with he muself and
week' was compared water by myseri and
tutor, in advanced verse and professional writing. These book
periods of work were scheduled for the convenience of
and myself, varying in day and hour, but never
Tailing to meet the minimum requirements of the Bill.
One exception to this schedule, approved by the college,
was a field-trip of one week's duration to New York for
manuscript criticism by of the Brock-
lyn Polytechnic Institute, with the result that
wrote an introduction to a volume of verse
to be presented this summer to the Paculty of Black
Mountain College as evidence for a Certificate of Gradu-
ation. During this period, in February, 1956, I also
maintained the 30-hour requirement.

"All other times I was in residence at the college, except for occasional weekend trips to Highlands, N. G., and possibly four or five nights during the semester, when I might leave in the afternoon and return the following morning. These few occasions were for purposes associated with my writing courses—to secure library materials, correspondence, manuscripts, etc. I do not feel that such brief absences interfered with the orderly process of work, as and I viewed it.

"While there may appear to be some laxity in the keeping of records by the college, I do not feel that there,
has ever been any intend to misrepresent anything to
the Veterans Administration. Because of the free nature
of the college the student is equally responsible for
maintenance of requirements, and, in my own mind, I
consider that this has been done at all times; albeit;
more flexibly than in an institution with rigidly proscribed hours and schedulings.

"Finally, I am unawares of what statements may or may not have been made by the Black Mountain College concerning the matter at hand.

"I have read this two-page statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

			/s/			
WITNESSES:		S	pecial	Agent, F	BI, Ash	oville
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printing business which he operates pertains to preparing booklets of poetry composed by himself and by his instructor, Rector, Black Mountain College, which are distributed usually free of charge to a selected group of people who are interested in this type of poetry. He stated that he is not engaged in the printing or publishing business in the commercial sense and that he has never received any compensation, with the exception of small amounts received as prizes in literary contests which he has entered.

AT BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA
On June 21, 1956, furnished the following signed statement:

"June 21, 1956

"I, make the following voluntary statement to and who have identified themselves to me as special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We threats, promises, or offers of reward have been made to induce me to make this statement. I have been advised that I do not have to make a statement, that I have a right to an attorney, and that any statement I do make may be used against me in a court of law.

"I am of age and I can read and write the English Language.

"I have attended Black Mountain College under the GI Bill of Rights since September 19, 1955. I have received a total of approximately \$440.00 in subsistence. This represents subsistence for two quarters from September 19, 1955, to Dec. 3, 1955, and from Jan. 3, 1956, to March 19, 1956.

"I recall signing monthly attendance reports which I understood were sent to the Veterans Administration and were the basis on which my subsistence was paid. I

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understood when I applied for the G. I. benefits that I was to receive approximately forty hours instruction per week. I followed a schedule during these two semesters which totaled approximately 34 hours of instruction the first semester and 44 hours of instruction. These hours were scheduled irregularly in that we did not have the same number of classes each day but we always had at least 3 hours per day Menday through Friday and some days I had 9 to 10 hours in classes. I also had a three hour reading class every Saturday or Sunday evening. I do not recall ever having been absent from any classes that were not made up. In addition to the hours spent in class I spent many hours of study and my instructors were readily available for consultation.

"I do not know what sort of statements were made to the Veterans Administration regarding attendance; however, I do know I spent from 34 to 44 hours in actual class work. As far as I know no actual attendence record was taken; by this I mean a formal roll call. This was not necessary since the class ranged from 6 to ten students.

"I do not recall specifically the schedule that I followed as to the exact number of hours per day; however, I am certain that the total hours mentioned above were spent in actual class work.

"I have read the above statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

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	lotte, N. C.	L. Agent, PBI,	Char-

Treasurer, Black Mountain College, advised on June 21, 1956, that he was aware of the fact that the Veterans Administration Compliance Survey had raised questions regarding the attendance certificates submitted to the Veterans Administration on the veterans enrolled at Black Mountain College. He stated that the college had

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b6 b7C never kept any attendance records of any kind. Ho stated that when the college was originally approved for vetorans he recalls having a conversation with someone from the Veterans Administration and being informed that it would bu necessary for veterans to attend classes for thirty hours a week. He stated that he realized that the enrollment certifications submitted to the Veterans Administration indicated that five or six hours of instruction per day for five or six days per week were to be furnished to the veterans. He stated that he knew that this instruction had not been given on a regular basis of five or six hours per day, but that all veterans had received at least thirty hours per week of instruction. He stated that when he submitted the enrollment certifications, he arbitrarily alloted the thirty hours on the five or six hours per week, five or six days per week basis. He stated that he had no intention of misleading the Veterans Administration or of furnishing false information to it.

exhibited a form which he said had been agreed upon between himself and the Veterans Administration for recording attendance in the future. advised that all of the veterans with the exception of sently residing at addresses which are outside the State of North Carolina, while they are on summer vacation. advised on June 21, 1956, that at Black Mountain College for four he has been semesters, having entered on August 18, 1954. He stated that his attendance has been uninterrupted, except for a period of time when he was in the hospital as a result of advised that he recalls an automobile accident. signing attendance certifications but that he did not check the attendance certifications sufficiently to fully understand what the certificate implied. _______stated that he realizes that he has not attended classes on a basis of five or six hours a day for five or six days per week; however, he stated that he is absolutely certain that he has received substantially more than thirty hours of instruction or supervised study during the entire period of his attendance, with the exception of the time he was in the hospital.

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declined to furnish a signed statement, stating that he was unfamiliar with the law and that he was packing, propering to leave for the West Coast where he intends to spend the summer vacation and that he would not have time to furnish the statement.

AT ASHEVILLE, NORTH CARGLINA

On June 21, 1956, the facts of this case were discussed with United States Attorney JAMES M. BALEY, JR., western District North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. BALEY advised that he felt that the requirements of attendance established by the documents mentioned above were non-specific and indefinite and that any effort to prove non-compliance could be successfully met by the claim that substantial compliance was had even though the compliance was not on a regular basis. He stated that it would be necessary to show facts indicating that veteran was not at the college during a long period of time in order to prove a case against the college. He felt that the facts developed thus far gave no indication that such was the case and therefore stated that he believed no further investigation was necessary and that he would decline prosecution in this matter.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (17-18506) DATE: 8/10/56

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (17-942)

SUBJECT: BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C.

VAM; VRAA

Re Bulet to Charlotte dated 7/30/56.

On this date this office advised CECIL PATE, Chief Attorney, Veterans Administration Regional Office, Winston-Salom, N. C., by letter, of the facts developed during the investigation of this matter and of the opinion furnished by United States Attorney, JAMES M. BALLY, JR., WDNC, Asheville, N. C., on 6/21/56.

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