

## RSVP

RSVP TO THE FBI

(On being subpoenaed to give information  
to a Federal Grand Jury  
investigating revolutionary movements  
inside the USA)

Thank you for handing me this invitation  
to talk to you

But I am otherwise engaged.

Thank you for offering me this opportunity  
to have a heart to heart  
with the murderers of Martin Luther King  
and Fred Hampton,  
not to mention Crazy Horse  
Michael Stewart and Eleanor Bumpurs  
and the nameless millions  
who do have and will have names

But I am otherwise engaged.

Thank you for inviting me  
to sit down with the brothers  
of the somocistas  
(as you describe yourselves)  
their long knives eager  
for the blood of teachers  
the blood of nuns  
the blood of Sandino  
which is right now running  
bright like a river in the veins of young  
Nicaragua

But I am otherwise engaged.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity  
to spit on the graves of Sacco and Vanzetti  
to dishonor the memory of the Rosenbergs  
or of my ex father in law  
who spent 10 years not being an actor  
rather than 10 minutes being a collaborator

But I am otherwise engaged.

Thank you for inviting me to run with the hounds  
howling through the ruined cities  
trying to hunt down the  
FALN, the BLA  
the ten or the hundred most wanted  
most ready and willing and able  
to resist with arms  
and heart and ideology  
your world  
wide crimes

But I am otherwise engaged.

And seriously, thanks  
for giving me this chance  
to stand fast with the Puerto Ricans  
who have gone to jail silent since 1936  
rather than drink from your bootprints  
To stand fast with the New Afrikans  
who like Nat Turner "never said a mumbling word"  
To stand fast with the Palestinians  
steadfast in Israeli prisons  
the Irish deep and defiant in Long Kesh,  
the Africans on Robben Island  
scorning your offers with songs  
To stand fast with the children of Lumumba  
and Che and Malcolm X  
not to mention my own children  
and your own as well

Thank you for this chance to stand  
not with the defeated but the defiant  
who pick up the gun  
who pick up the pen  
who pick up the baby and the struggle  
Thank you for this chance  
to stand with humanity against you

Don't mind if I do.

Terry Bisson  
April, 1985