

To: News Editors
City Editors
Metropolitan Editors

April 12, 1979

From: August 8th Brigade Defense Committee

For: Immediate Release

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New York - April 16 has been set as the date for the opening trials of the August 8th Brigade. The August 8th Brigade is a group of prisoners facing felony charges stemming from the August 8, 1977 takeover of the Eastern New York Correctional Facility at Napanoch, N.Y. by over 200 prisoners. The prisoners were protesting vicious Ku Klux Klan terror and organizing among guards inside the prison. The rebellion came after three years of writing suits and filing petitions against Ku Klux Klan guard brutality without any action being taken by the Department of Corrections to resolve the prisoners' complaints. A special judge, John Clyne, is being brought in from Albany to hear the case in Ulster County, the stronghold of Ku Klux Klan activity in New York state. Judge Clyne, nicknamed "Maxie," is notorious throughout the state for giving maximum sentences in the cases he hears. Members of the Brigade include Andre Nieves, Lorenzo Perez, Frank Abney, Ronald Tacardon and Eddie Pacheco.

The announcement of the trial dates was made during an April 5 hearing on a motion by defense lawyers demanding that all charges against members of the Brigade be dismissed due to the state's denial of the defendants' right to a speedy trial. With Ulster County Judge Lewis Scheinman presiding, defense law-