Will Censure of Malcolm X Lead to Split in Muslims?

Will there soon be a split within the ranks of the Black Muslim movement? Is Malcolm X, the self-styled Messenger of Allah Elijah Muhammad? The question arose among observers as Malcolm X, the second-in-command of the movement, was sharply criticized by his superior.

The reason: Malcolm X's refusal to support the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Calling the President's slaying a case of 'chickens coming home to roost,' he said, 'This is not my idea of an upstanding, professional Negro.'

Mr. Muhammad found Malcolm's remarks an inaccurate reflection of Muslim business.

He said: 'With the rest of the world, we are very shocked at the assassination of our President.'

Mr. Muhammad's statement was that Malcolm X is not a member of the general public.

He added: 'Mr. Muhammad has been suspended from public speaking for the time being.'

Malcolm X, a few days later, told the newspaper that he 'hadn't heard what I said.'

He continued: 'I never said anything that Mr. Muhammad does. I believe in his wisdom and his authority.'

Malcolm X said he would undergo the suspension but he is not going to continue speaking about the affair of his mosque in New York which he said 'is enough to occupy me.'

There's speculation that the movement is moving towards a split into two movements, one led by Malcolm X and another led by Mr. Muhammad.

Malcolm X also accused Mr. Kennedy of 'tweaking his thumbs' at the killing of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu. Kennedy is said to have never forsaw the development.

Will the split lead to a split in Muslims?