

Several hours later, Mayor Walter E. Washington asserted that "the BUF resolution with respect to the slaying of Officer (Stephen A.) Williams . . . is inflammatory, irresponsible and unfortunate."

"If this community is to thrive and prosper, it must do so within the framework of law," the Mayor said in a brief statement. "As citizens, we must continue to work together—black and white, policeman and civilian—so that law and order, with justice, will be the code for all."

The Mayor declined to elaborate on the statement, which was issued after a two-hour meeting with his principal aides.

Director of Public Safety Patrick V. Murphy called the Black United Front's resolution "very dangerous" and "not well-founded" in a statement recorded by WTOP-TV last night.

He said the resolution could not "help but be inflammatory," and he said he did not think that it spoke for "any significant number" of citizens.

Murphy asserted that Police Department evidence suggests nothing like justifiable homicide and that anybody with different evidence has a responsibility to come forward.

"I think it's tragic that such a statement should be made concerning a policeman who has given his life protecting other citizens," Murphy added.

The BUF statement was adopted unanimously Wednesday night by "about 450" persons at a meeting at Douglas Memorial Church, 11th and E Streets ne., according to Charles Jones, a co-chairman of the Front.

The BUF was formed last January as a civil rights coalition of moderates and militants by Stokely Carmichael, now its other co-chairman.

Williams, 22, and his partner, Pvt. Frederick L. Matteson, 38, who was critically wounded, were shot in a struggle with a robbery suspect, the latter's son and the suspect's wife.

Both officers were shot with their own revolvers in the 1300 block of Columbia Road nw. about 8 p.m. after attempting to arrest Johnnie White, 38. White, his son Dwayne, 19, and his wife, Ethel R. White, have all been charged with homicide.

The Rev. Channing Phillips, the Democratic National Committeeman from Washington and a member of the board of the BUF, was asked whether he approved of the Front's statement.

"Well, I was there and the vote was unanimous," Mr. Phillips said. "Both the officer and the citizen deserve protection from the system that provides for the deaths of both."

Mr. Phillips said that some people were getting "hung up" on the language of the statement. But when dealing with the problems of extreme deprivation, he said, extreme language is used to express hostility.

"The attempt to police the community from the outside," Mr. Phillips said, "produces hostility from the person policed."

"The officers, historically, have not seen the black citizen as a human being," he added.

The Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, vice chairman of the City Council and a member of the board of the BUF, said he had not read the statement and had no comment. Mr. Fauntroy said he would issue a statement today.

C. Sumner Stone, a BUF board member, former assistant to Adam Clayton Powell and once editor of the Washington Afro-American newspaper, said he was not present when the BUF statement was drawn up and would not comment.

Asked if there was any division between Negro moderates and black militants within the group, co-chairman Jones said the resolution was passed at a duly notified and called meeting.

"When we have a unanimous vote," Jones said, "the Front takes a position itself."

"When there is a majority vote," he said, "the Front requires those in the minority" not to oppose the decision publicly.

Criticizing the role of the press Jones said "the problem with the white community in understanding what goes on in the black community is its apparent need to identify and play up divisiveness."

TEXT OF RESOLUTION ON SLAYING OF POLICE

This is the resolution the Black United Front passed Wednesday night:

Resolution in support of the black family accused of the alleged slaying of a honky cop by the Black United Front.