

Case Number:

62-HQ-10382 44

Serial(s):

135, 136



~~SECRET~~

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

372

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

REGISTERED

234

DATE: October 7, 1999

TO: Ms. Elizabeth K. Lockwood
Access Staff
Records Declassification Division
National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 6350
College Park, Md. 20740-6001

FROM: John M. Kelso, Jr., Section Chief
Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOI/PA) Section
U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

SUBJECT: MANDATORY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW REQUEST
JAMES EARLY RAY (PROJECT NUMBER NNF94-15)

Reference is made to two letters, dated October 24, 1994, and February 8, 1995, in which you requested a mandatory declassification review of 7 documents.

Our review of four documents pertaining to the above dated letters are described below:

Document Number 1: DOJ Task Force Report on MLK
(classified pages only)

62A-HQ-1038244-135

~~SECRET~~ MATERIAL ENCLOSED

THIS COMMUNICATION IS UNCLASSIFIED
UPON THE REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURES

Dep. Dir. _____
Chief of Staff _____
Off. of Gen. Counsel _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Crim. Inv. _____
CJIS _____
Finance _____
Info. Res. _____
Insp. _____
Lab. _____
National Sec. _____
OPR _____
Personnel _____
Training _____
Off. of EEOA _____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. _____
Director's Office _____

MAIL ROOM ☐

NLS/ACM

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED BY Buc60390 Bce 11/8/00
ON 2-10-01 2001
913504

File in 62A-HQ-1038244
with attached enclosures

~~SECRET~~

Ms. Elizabeth K. Lockwood
College Park, Md. 20740-6001

Document Number 2: DOJ TF Report on MK, Appendix A
(classified pages only)

Document Number 3: DOJ TF MLK, Appendix B, Index C
(classified pages only)

Document Number 4: DOJ TF on MLK, "King Material",
Folder 88

Our review determined that certain portions of document 1 and 4 continue to warrant classification at the "Secret" level pursuant to Executive Order 12958, Section 3.4(6). The documents have been appropriately marked, with a date for declassification to be determined by the originating agency.

The researcher may submit an appeal from any denial contained herein by writing to the Office of Information and Privacy, United States Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, within 60 days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal".

We are returning the documents to you.

Any questions regarding this request may be directed to Supervisory Paralegal Specialist Anna L. Miller, FTS (202)324-0454.

Enclosures (7)

~~SECRET~~

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

~~TOP SECRET~~

October 24, 1994

Margaret Irving
Office of Information and Privacy, Rm. 7238
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Requestor's Name: James E. Ray
Project Number: NNF94-15

Dear Ms. Irving:

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, James E. Ray requested access to several documents from the records of the Department of Justice, Office of Professional Responsibility Task Force on the FBI's investigation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination in our custody, which we believe may be of interest to your agency. Enclosed are copies of Mr. Ray's request letter and of the items for your review for possible declassification. Please note that we referred these documents to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well.

If exemptions are made under the (b)(3) provisions of the FOIA, please cite the pertinent statute in your response. Also, please specify the number of days in which the researcher, if necessary, may appeal your agency's decisions. We will notify the researcher that your agency's time limitations for an appeal will commence from the date of NARA's letter to the requestor. Please send your review determinations, including all sanitizing instructions, to this office and refer to our project number NNF94-15. The National Archives will notify the researcher of your decision and of any appeal rights. If you have any questions regarding this case, please contact me at (202)501-5638 before December 15, 1994, or (301)713-7348, after that date.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth K. Lockwood

ELIZABETH K. LOCKWOOD
Access Staff

Enclosures

~~TOP SECRET~~

Becomes unclassified when enclosures are removed

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY PRC 60290BCE/HG/EDC

National Archives and Records Administration

918504

National Archives at College Park



8601 Adelphi Road College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

~~TOP SECRET~~

February 8, 1995

Mr. Kevin O'Brien
Section Chief, FOIA/PA Section
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Room 6296
Washington, DC 20536

Re: Requestor's Name: James Earl Ray
Project Number: NNF94-15

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, James Earl Ray requested access to several documents from the records of the Department of Justice in our custody, which we believe may be of interest to your agency. We initially referred documents relevant to this request to you on October 25, 1994, but inadvertently neglected to send these three documents. We are hoping that you might append these to the original request. Enclosed are copies of Mr. Ray's request letter and of the items for your review for possible declassification.

If exemptions are made under the (b)(3) provisions of the FOIA, please cite the pertinent statute in your response. Also, please specify the number of days in which the researcher, if necessary, may appeal your agency's decisions. We will notify the researcher that your agency's time limitations for an appeal will commence from the date of NARA's letter to the requestor. Please send your review determinations, including all sanitizing instructions, to this office and refer to our project number NNF94-15. Please note, our new address is: Room 6350, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. The National Archives will notify the researcher of your decision and of any appeal rights. If you have any questions regarding this case, please contact me at (301)713-7345 or 713-7348.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth K. Lockwood

ELIZABETH K. LOCKWOOD
Access Staff

2-17-95 Enclosures
PS/PS
9/1

~~TOP SECRET~~

Becomes unclassified when enclosures are removed

Docs. detached in FOIPA

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY 60290BCE/AG
98504

Received from National Archives PATH 2/14/95

13 October 1994

National Archives & Records Admin.
ATTENTION: FOIA OFFICER
Washington DC 20408.

James E. Ray #65477
7475 Cockrill Bend Ind. Rd.
Nashville, TN. 37209-1010.

Dear Sir:

This is a request under the federal "Freedom of Information Act", 5 U.S.C. §552 as amended. Apparently in April 1993 the US Dept. of Justice transferred to the National Archives records generated by a "Task Force to Review the FBI Martin Luther King, Jr., security and Assassination Investigation".

Further, it has come to the Requester's attention that before said transfer the Justice Department had declassified a large portion of the 'Task Force file. What was not, and has not been, released into the public domain apparently are the appendixes (A-B-C), to the Task Force investigation. However, I assume the Department of Justice would know which sections of the Task Force Report is still classified, and those are the records the Requester is requesting. If any of the records are released to Requester he will pay whatever statutory fee required.

Sincerely:

James E. Ray

in NW 10/18/94
11/1/94
No NR94-1031
NN-F

PS/PR

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY SP6C/290BCE/AB/cdc
918504

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

~~TOP SECRET~~

October 24, 1994

Mr. Kevin O'Brien
Section Chief, FOIA/PA Section
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Room 6296
Washington, DC 20536

Re: Requestor's Name: James E. Ray
Project Number: NNF94-15

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, James E. Ray requested access to several documents from the records of the Department of Justice, Office of Professional Responsibility Task Force on the FBI's investigation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination in our custody, which we believe may be of interest to your agency. Enclosed are copies of Mr. Ray's request letter and of the items for your review for possible declassification. Please note that we referred these documents to the Department of Justice as well.

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth K. Lockwood
ELIZABETH K. LOCKWOOD
Access Staff

Enclosures

~~TOP SECRET~~

Becomes unclassified when enclosures are removed

enclosures detached and placed in safe, Unit I,

National Archives and Records Administration

13 October 1994

National Archives & Records Admin.
ATTENTION: FOIA OFFICER
Washington DC 20408.

(R1)
James E. Ray #65477
7475 Cockrill Bend Ind. Rd.
Nashville, TN. 37209-1010.

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Sincerely:

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in NW 10/18/94
11/1/94
NN94-1031
NN-F

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY AUC 60290BCE/AG
918504

13 October 1994

Mr. David G. Paynter
National Archives
Washington DC 20408.

James E. Ray #65477
7475 Cockrill Bend Ind. Rd.
Nashville, TN. 37209-1010.

re: Task Force Review of MLK case.

Dear Mr. Paynter,

I have your letter dated 29 September 1995; Thank you for the document.

I have enclosed a copy of a 'Freedom of Information Request. Since I don't know which segment of the Task Force documents have been declassified I won't use the folder you sent in identifying any particular documents.

I do have a current interest in (Box 32, Folder 85) & (Box- 34 Folder 88). But if it isn't possible to send them now I assume they could be sent with any other documents that might be declassified in the enclosed request.

Sincerely:

James E. Ray

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2/6/04 BY AUC60290BCYAG/1
918504

National Archives



To Admin
OPEN 10/28/94
NY

rec'd OIP
10/25/94

Washington, DC 20408

~~TOP SECRET~~

October 24, 1994

Margaret Irving
Office of Information and Privacy, Rm. 7238
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Requestor's Name: James E. Ray
Project Number: NNF94-15

Dear Ms. Irving:

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, James E. Ray requested access to several documents from the records of the Department of Justice, Office of Professional Responsibility Task Force on the FBI's investigation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination in our custody, which we believe may be of interest to your agency. Enclosed are copies of Mr. Ray's request letter and of the items for your review for possible declassification. Please note that we referred these documents to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well.

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth K. Lockwood

ELIZABETH K. LOCKWOOD
Access Staff

Enclosures

~~TOP SECRET~~

Becomes unclassified when enclosures are removed

National Archives and Records Administration

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY AUC60290BCE/AG
918504 edc

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT ACCOUNTABILITY RECORD

DATE

October 25, 1994

SECTION I - GENERAL

TO:

Margaret Irving
Office of Information and Privacy, Rm. 7238
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

FROM:

Elizabeth K. Lockwood
Access Staff
National Archives
Washington, DC 20408

CONTROL, LOG, OR FILE NUMBER (a)	CLASSIFICATION (b)	NUMBER OF PAGES (c)	DESCRIPTION (Type File reference, Unclassified Subject or Short Title, and Number of Indorsements/Inclosures) (d)	DATE OF DOCUMENT (e)	ORIGINATOR (f)
94-15-001	Top Secret	24	DOJ Task Force Report on MLK (Classified pages only)	1/11/77	DOJ
94-15-002	Top Secret	6	DOJ TF Report on MLK, Appendix A (Classified pages only)	1/11/77	DOJ
94-15-003	Secret	7	DOJ TF MLK, Appendix B, Index C (Classified pages only)	1/11/77	DOJ
94-15-004	Top Secret	77	DOJ TF on MLK, "King Material", Folder 8	n.d.	FBI

SECTION II - DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE (Check appropriate box)

MATERIAL DESCRIBED HEREON HAS BEEN

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OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

PRINTED NAME OF CUSTODIAN OR
REPRESENTATIVE

SIGNATURE

DESTRUCTION RECORD NUMBER

DATE

PRINTED NAME OF CERTIFYING/
DESTRUCTION OFFICIAL

SIGNATURE

PAGE OR COPY NUMBER

DATE

PRINTED NAME OF WITNESSING
OFFICIAL

SIGNATURE

SECTION III - RECEIPT/TRACER ACTION (Check appropriate box)

☐

RECEIPT OF DOCUMENT (S) ACKNOWLEDGED

☐

DOCUMENT (S) HAS (HAVE) NOT BEEN RECEIVED

☐TRACER ACTION: SIGNED RECEIPT FOR MATERIAL
DESCRIBED ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED

DATE

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COMMENTS (Use reverse if necessary)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

*U.S. GPO: 1992-331-652/68214

NA 2011 (2/88)

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DATE 2/06/04 BY 60621 BCC/AG/ec
918504

13 October 1994

National Archives & Records Admin.
ATTENTION: FOIA OFFICER
Washington DC 20408.

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7475 Cockrill Bend Ind. Rd.
Nashville, TN. 37209-1010.

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in NW

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11/1/94

No

NN94-1031

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NN-F

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13 October 1994

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Washington D.C. 20408.

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James E. Ray

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DATE 2/06/04 BY AUC60290 BDE/
118504 1A
etc

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT ACCOUNTABILITY RECORD

DATE
October 25, 1994

SECTION I - GENERAL

TO: J. Kevin O'Brien Chief, FOIA/PA Section, Room 6296 Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, DC 20536	FROM: Elizabeth K. Lockwood Access Staff National Archives Washington, DC 20408
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94-15-004	Top Secret	77	DOJ TF on MLK, "King Material", Folder 88	n.d.	FBI
PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN					

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☐ TRACER ACTION: SIGNED RECEIPT FOR MATERIAL
DESCRIBED ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED

DATE	PRINTED NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	SIGNATURE
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COMMENTS (Use reverse if necessary)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

U.S. GPO: 1992-331-652/68214

NA 2011 (2/88)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY 918504
918504

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT ACCOUNTABILITY RECORD

DATE

October 25, 1994

SECTION I - GENERAL

TO:

J. Kevin O'Brien
Chief, FOIA/PA Section, Room 6296
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20536

FROM:

Elizabeth K. Lockwood
Access Staff
National Archives
Washington, DC 20408

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DATE	PRINTED NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	SIGNATURE
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COMMENTS (Use reverse if necessary)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

*U.S. GPO: 1992-331-652/68214

NA 2011 (2/88)

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY 60270 BEE/AJ/EDC
918504

RG 60

OPR/FBI/M.L. KING
TASK FORCE

Folder 88

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/04 BY AUC 6029084/H6/ede
918504

~~TOP SECRET~~

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bland

July 17, 1964

BY LIAISON 1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Phillips

100-3-116-1866

REC-117

Honorable Walter W. Jenkins
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2ALM/KIS

ON 11/27/98

NNF 94-15

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Enclosed is a memorandum dated July 17, 1964, which is marked ~~TOP SECRET~~ and contains information concerning Martin Luther King, Jr. The memorandum is classified "Top Secret" because of the extremely sensitive nature of the source from which the information was obtained. The source was in a position to furnish reliable information.

Upon removal of the classified enclosure, this communication becomes unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

Enclosure

100-3-116

1 - 100-106670 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

NOTE: See memo Baumgardner to W. C. Sullivan 7/17/64 captioned "Communist Party, USA, Negro Question, Communist Influence in Racial Matters, IS-C;" SFP:kmj. Source is CSLA 4523-S*.

SFP:kmj
(12)

RECEIVED DATE 106

~~TOP SECRET~~

B

W.C.

100-106670

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

JUL 29 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
1 - Mr. D. M. Wells

March 1, 1968

REC-15

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS ~~DECLASSIFIED~~
DATE 11/17/97 BY SP2ALM/KS

this copy only

The following information has been supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

Recently, Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones were in conference. Both men are advisors to Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. At this meeting, they discussed King's massive civil disobedience campaign called the "Washington Spring Project" and the issues King should raise during the demonstrations.

Jones informed Levison that Harry Wachtel, another advisor to King, had drafted some material in this regard which calls for full employment, a guaranteed wage, and a guaranteed annual income. Also, the Reverend Frederick Kirkpatrick, a coordinator in the New York area for King's project, had furnished Jones with a pamphlet entitled "Declaration of Principle on the March in April." Jones commented that this item was three to four pages in length and was being distributed under the auspices of the "Committee of National Negro Churchmen."

Levison mentioned to Jones that he had sent out a mailing to 80,000 individuals, who have contributed to King's organization in the past two years, soliciting funds. Levison remarked that the returns are running ahead of last year's response with \$15,000 being received in one day. Levison advised this letter soliciting funds was

DMW:lmr
(23)
100-106670
1 - 157-8428

SECRET

Group 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE.

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure

Subject to Criminal Sanctions

PART 41-23

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

carefully written to center on the "Washington Spring Project" and to explain the rationale for it. Because of the success of this letter, Levison advised he will send it to 250,000 more people in the middle-class income group.

Levison told Jones that things are going well in the mobilization for the "Washington Spring Project." King informed Levison recently that people from Alabama and Mississippi are "just raring to go."

Another source advised on February 23, 1968, that Bernard Lafayette, project Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, had informed him that King's organization is experiencing difficulty recruiting demonstrators for the "Washington Spring Project." Because of this, the demonstration would not start the first week of April as originally planned.

A third source learned from Anthony Henry, assistant to Lafayette, that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference had held a secret meeting and tentatively set a date of April 27, 1968, for the start of the "Washington Spring Project." According to this source, Henry indicated this date can be moved up or back depending on future developments.

A fourth source advised in April, 1964, that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, USA, in July, 1963. ~~_____~~

A Sensitive Foreign Intelligence Operation

~~_____~~ Stanley Levison is the owner and operator of the Park Management Realty Company, 1341 Broadway, New York, New York.

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A fifth source advised on February 26, 1957, that he identified a photograph of Clarence Jones as a person whom he knew during late 1953, or early 1954, to be a member and in a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League.

The Labor Youth League has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In March, 1944, a sixth source advised the name Harry Wachtel was on the list of names, significance not known, which was maintained at the headquarters of Kings County Communist Party, Brooklyn, New York. The same source advised at the same time that the name and address of Leonora Wachtel, wife of Harry, were on a list of names of newly elected officers of the Bath Beach Club of the Kings County Communist Party.

XEROX COPIES TO MRS. MILDRED STEGALL AT THE WHITE HOUSE;
SECRETARIES OF LABOR, AGRICULTURE, DEFENSE; MR. WILLIAM WELSH;
SECRET SERVICE; AG; DAG; AAGs POLLAK, YEAGLEY AND VINSON;
INTER-DIVISION INFO UNIT; ARMY; NAVY; AND AIR FORCE.

cc to Leonard T. Perkins, NSA by Courier 3/6/68.

NOTE:

Classified "~~Secret~~" inasmuch as the concealed sources for the above information are highly sensitive sources operating in the racial field whose disclosure would seriously damage our intelligence coverage and be injurious to the national defense.

See cover memorandum G. C. Moore to W. C. Sullivan, dated 2/29/68, captioned as above, prepared by DMW:lmr.

~~SECRET~~

- 3 -

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 2/29/68

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

FROM : G. C. Moore *GC*

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

PURPOSE:

Attached for your approval for dissemination are copies of a communication containing plans of the advisors to Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), pertaining to his massive civil disobedience campaign to be held in Washington, D. C., in April, 1968.

BACKGROUND:

King in the past has publicly announced he will conduct a massive civil disobedience campaign he calls the "Washington Spring Project" in early April, 1968, to pressure Congress into passing legislation favorable to the Negro.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

ELSUR

[REDACTED] advised recently that Stanley David Levison and Clarence Jones, both advisors to King with subversive backgrounds, were in conference concerning King's project. Jones informed Levison that Harry Wachtel, another advisor of King's with a subversive background, had drafted some material that King could use during the campaign calling for full employment, a guaranteed wage, and a guaranteed annual income. Also, the Reverend Frederick Kirkpatrick, a New York coordinator for the project, had furnished Jones with material entitled "Declaration of Principle on the March in April." This pamphlet was being distributed by the "Committee of 100" National Negro Churchmen.

Enclosure *sent 3-1-68*

DMW:lmr

(6)

100-106676

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings of your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

REC-15

MAR 7 1968

CONTINUED OVER

PACIAL INT. SEC.

Memorandum G. C. Moore to W. C. Sullivan
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Levison told Jones that he had received an excellent response to a recent mailing. The solicitations were running ahead of last year with \$15,000 being received in one day. Levison informed that the letter soliciting funds was carefully written explaining King's project and, because of the success, he was sending it to 250,000 more people.

Levison also told Jones that things are going well in the mobilization for the project and King informed him that people from Alabama and Mississippi are "just raring to go."

OBSERVATIONS:

On February 28, 1968, a WFO informant informed us that Bernard Lafayette, project Director for SCLC, had informed him King's organization is experiencing difficulty with recruiting demonstrators for the "Washington Spring Project." Because of this, the demonstrations would not start the first week of April as originally planned.

Another WFO informant learned from Lafayette's assistant, Anthony Henry, that a secret meeting had been held by King's group and they had set April 27, 1968, as the date for the project to start. Henry indicated this date can be moved up or back depending on future developments.

It is felt that the President would be interested in receiving information showing the communist help King is receiving in his proposed "Washington Spring Project."

RECOMMENDATION:

That copies of the enclosures be forwarded to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at the White House; Mr. William Welsh, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President; Secretary of Agriculture Freeman; Secretary of Labor Wirtz; Secretary of Defense; Secret Service; the Attorney General; the Deputy Attorney General; Assistant Attorneys General Pollak, Yeagley, and Vinson; the Inter-Division Information Unit of the Department; and to the Departments of Army, Navy, and Air Force.

DMW

cc to Leonard T. Sklar, GSAS, by Courier 2/1/68

ph msh - 2 -

D Jhs



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 1, 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2AM/KUS
ON 10/17/97 #111111-75

The following information has been supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

Recently, Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones were in conference. Both men are advisors to Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. At this meeting, they discussed King's massive civil disobedience campaign called the "Washington Spring Project" and the issues King should raise during the demonstrations.

Jones informed Levison that Harry Wachtel, another advisor to King, had drafted some material in this regard which calls for full employment, a guaranteed wage, and a guaranteed annual income. Also, the Reverend Frederick Kirkpatrick, a coordinator in the New York area for King's project, had furnished Jones with a pamphlet entitled "Declaration of Principle on the March in April." Jones commented that this item was three to four pages in length and was being distributed under the auspices of the "Committee of National Negro Churchmen."

Levison mentioned to Jones that he had sent out a mailing to 80,000 individuals, who have contributed to King's organization in the past two years, soliciting funds. Levison remarked that the returns are running ahead of last year's response with \$15,000 being received in one day. Levison advised this letter soliciting funds was

SECRET

Group 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

ENCLOSURE

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

carefully written to center on the "Washington Spring Project" and to explain the rationale for it. Because of the success of this letter, Levison advised he will send it to 250,000 more people in the middle-class income group.

Levison told Jones that things are going well in the mobilization for the "Washington Spring Project." King informed Levison recently that people from Alabama and Mississippi are "just raring to go."

Another source advised on February 28, 1968, that Bernard Lafayette, project Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, had informed him that King's organization is experiencing difficulty recruiting demonstrators for the "Washington Spring Project." Because of this, the demonstration would not start the first week of April as originally planned.

A third source learned from Anthony Henry, assistant to Lafayette, that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference had held a secret meeting and tentatively set a date of April 27, 1968, for the start of the "Washington Spring Project." According to this source, Henry indicated this date can be moved up or back depending on future developments.

A fourth source advised in April, 1964, that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, USA, in July, 1963.

A Sensitive Foreign Intelligence Operation

Stanley Levison is the owner and operator of the Park Management Realty Company, 1841 Broadway, New York, New York.

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A fifth source advised on February 26, 1957, that he identified a photograph of Clarence Jones as a person whom he knew during late 1953, or early 1954, to be a member and in a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League.

The Labor Youth League has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In March, 1944, a sixth source advised the name Harry Wachtel was on the list of names, significance not known, which was maintained at the headquarters of Kings County Communist Party, Brooklyn, New York. The same source advised at the same time that the name and address of Leonora Wachtel, wife of Harry, were on a list of names of newly elected officers of the Bath Beach Club of the Kings County Communist Party.

~~SECRET~~

- 3 -



~~SECRET~~

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

JUNE

January 3, 1968

Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Memorandum to: Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From: *pc* Ramsey Clark
Attorney General

Re: Communist Infiltration
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Your memorandum dated January 2, 1968

I am declining authorization of the requested installation of the above telephone surveillance at the present time. There has not been an adequate demonstration of a direct threat to the national security. Should further evidence be secured of such a threat, or re-evaluation desired, please resubmit.

Other investigative activities should be undertaken to provide intelligence necessary to the protection of the national interest.

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/21/98 BY SP2HLM/KIS

REC-51

EX 101

6 JAN 9 1968

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON 11/13/78

Counselor to the Attorney General
Michael Kelley

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/28/97 BY SP2HLM/KIS
#111F94-15

~~SECRET~~

6 JAN 16 1968

[Best Copy Possible]

OBSCENE
TOP SECRET

June 1, 1964

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
REDACTED
COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS
INTERNAL SECURITY - COMMUNIST

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2AM/KS
ON 2/5/98
#NMF 94-15

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past and who holds a responsible position was made available a written statement dated May 10, 1964, prepared by an investigator of that agency. The investigator will hereinafter be referred to as Source A. In his statement Source A advised that he had received information that during the early morning hours of April 17, 1964, Martin Luther King had been "laying up" with a local white prostitute and the prostitute had received \$100.00 for her services. After learning the identity of the prostitute as one Call, last name unknown, Source A met with her at 3 a.m., May 16, 1964, and obtained the following information which is set forth below as it appears in Source A's written statement:

"Call stated that about 2 a.m. on April 27, 1964 she was called by the bellman of one of the local hotels and told to go to the New Frontier Hotel and see Clara Ward, who has the Clara Ward Singers, a Negro girl group singing at the New Frontier Hotel. Call proceeded to the New Frontier Hotel and approached Clara Ward in the lobby. After introducing herself to Call, Clara Ward handed her \$100 and said 'I have a couple of friends in town that would like to meet you and have you take care of them.' Clara Ward then stated that the reason she did not believe in paying a girl for her services and for Call to keep quiet about receiving any money.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2AM/KS
ON 11/26/98
#NMF 94-15

OBSCENE
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downgrading and
declassification
OBSCENE

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

ON SCENE

TOP SECRET

"Clara Ward then took this prostitute, Gail, to the room where they had a drink, then Clara Ward made a phone call and shortly thereafter, Rev. Martin Luther King approached them at the bar and they both accompanied him to his room in the Lorch Hotel. Clara Ward introduced Gail to the Rev. King as a very good friend who worked as a dancer in the line at the Tropicana.

"Gail stated that she, the Rev. King and Clara Ward all sat down in his room and started drinking beer and ate dinner and the Rev. King started talking about his 'tricks' around the country, which was a very long story. Gail then told him that she was a bit of a bitch and the Rev. King was. After a short time drinking and listening, the Rev. King called, by phone, to another room where he said, 'my partner is staying, sleeping off a drunk', and asked to 'his partner', with the following remark, 'Don't call me a black son of a bitch but get your ass down to my room because I have a beautiful white broad here'. He then hung up and told Gail that he, the partner, told him he would be down pretty soon.

"At this time both the Rev. King and Clara Ward stripped naked and told Gail to do the same. Gail stated that she had another drink and then stripped naked and sat down on a chair. At this time, the Rev. King went down on his knees and started nibbling on her right breast, while Clara Ward did the same with her left breast. Gail then stated, 'I guess the Reverend got tired of that and put his head down between my legs and started nibbling on that'. After a while he got up and told Clara Ward to try some of it, so Clara Ward went down on Gail for awhile. Gail stated, 'I think Clara Ward is queer'.

"The Rev. King then told Gail on the bed and had intercourse with her while Clara Ward sat by in the chair and watched the action. After a while Gail started to feel a little better, King rolled off and had intercourse with her. Gail then told Clara Ward to go around. After awhile King rolled off again and about that time, King's partner, a Negro male, came

TOP SECRET
ON SCENE

CONFIDENTIAL
TOP SECRET

unknown, entered the room and had a drink and then returned to the invitation of King and he had intercourse with Gail on the bed while both Clara Ward and the Rev. King watched the action in the privacy of the room. During the momentary breaks in the action, Clara Ward would do a little singing and dancing of her own.

"Gail then stated that she was getting scared as they were really drunk and all using filthy language and at last she told Clara Ward she would have to go. Clara Ward then told King that as Gail had to rehearse the following morning, they would

Gail's car, 'I would like to try you sometime again if I could get you away from Clara'. At this time Gail and Clara Ward had another drink at the bar in the lounge before parting company.

"Gail stated to this investigator that 'that was the worst orgy I've ever gone through' and that after a few days later Clara Ward called her on the phone and asked her to come up to her, Clara's, room for a few drinks later in the evening, which Gail stated she refused to do."

On May 23, 1964, the following additional information was orally obtained from Source A. He stated that he contacted Gail again on May 23, 1964, and learned the following additional information from her.

Gail's full name is Gail LaDue (phonetic). She is 30 years old and married to one Harvey LaDue and resides with her husband in the Baltimore Arms Apartments, 131 Baltimore Avenue, Los Vegas. She has previously been married and has 4 children by her first marriage who are presently living in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Source A stated that in return for a \$100.00 cash payment with Gail was to return himself that there was no contact in the investigation of King. He stated that Gail is absolutely certain that the circumstances leading to the murder of April 4, 1968, at the time of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were very similar to the circumstances of the assassination of Dr. King. He stated that it was Dr. King's father who was the catalyst in the assassination of Dr. King in the Memphis area.

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TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
2025

Source A said that he knew very little concerning Clara Ward other than the fact that she appears as an entertainer at the Elks Club Hotel and Casino with a Cuban female lounge singer. According to him, the rumor around Las Vegas is that Clara Ward is a prostitute.

Source A also furnished the following additional details concerning the King - Gail association as revealed to him by Gail on May 13, 1961. Gail said that when Clara Ward, King and Gail arrived in the Sands Hotel, King and Ward immediately started drinking gin and vodka. Within 10 minutes Gail arrived in the room, King had Gail completely disrobed. King and Ward also disrobed. King had Gail lie on the bed and King then started to perform oral sex on her. King then called another Negro male, unknown to Gail, who was in a nearby room and told him to come in and join the party. Shortly thereafter this individual appeared and he too disrobed. King then began having intercourse with Gail and while this was occurring the other two male comrades on the bed on his knees and tried to place his sex organ in her mouth. While King was having intercourse with Gail, Clara Ward had her hand on King's back and was stimulating Gail's sex organ. After King completed the intercourse the other two men then had intercourse with Gail and King got on the bed on his knees and told Gail to "eat this also." The source stated that the two men continued to change places. Gail stated that she complied with this request, to "eat" the sex organs, but Source A stated she was not too emphatic in her denial.

According to Source A, Gail stated that she was in the King suite in the Sands Hotel until about 4:45 a.m. She stated that she was quite "soured" with the activities going on since King, Ward and the other Negro male were all very drunk. She said that she was actually afraid to indicate that she wanted to leave but finally was so disgusted with the activity that she did. She stated that she had agreed initially with Clara Ward that she could not stay any longer than one hour.

The following is noted concerning King's presence in Las Vegas from April 11, 1961, to April 13, 1961. King was in Las Vegas from April 11, 1961, to April 13, 1961, accompanied by his executive assistant, Mrs. J. B. King, and a female companion, Mrs. J. B. King, of the name of Mrs. J. B. King, who is known to have spent some time in King's suite around midnight, April 13, 1961.

DECLASSIFIED
2025

BSC LETTER 11-7-75

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK OFFICE INDICATING CPUSA MEMBERSHIP
OF STANLEY DAVID LEVISON**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/18/97 BY SP2HUM/KIS
#NNR#9475
F

*Attachments to Mr. to Ch. 26
dated November 26, 1975*

Rept.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~TOP SECRET~~

TO : SAC (100-111180)

DATE: 4/17/64

FROM : SA [REDACTED] (414)

SUBJECT: STANLEY LEVISON
IS-C

Sensitive Foreign Intelligence Operation (SFIO)

On 4/9/64, [REDACTED]
CP status of STANLEY LEVISON:

LEVISON has been an important Party member for many years

SFIO

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP2ALM/KLS*
ON *11/23/98*
NNF94-15

this copy only

SFIO

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

JMK:rmnd
(1)

Classified by *2116*
Exempt from GDS, Category *1*
Date of Declassification Indefinite

~~TOP SECRET~~

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1964	
FBI - NEW YORK	

~~TOP SECRET~~

NY 100-111180

SF10

~~TOP SECRET~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SAC, NEW YORK (100-111180)

DATE: 7/26/63

SA [REDACTED]

STANLEY DAVID LEVISON
IS-C

The following is being submitted as a revised characterization of the subject:

STANLEY LEVISON is a secret member of the Communist Party, United States of America (CPUSA).

NY T-

July 16, 1963

NY T-

is

Informant
[REDACTED]

A three by five card has been prepared containing the above characterization and will be filed in the library of the NYO.

this copy only
DECLASSIFIED BY SP2AM/KW
ON 1/23/98
NMF 94-15

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

NY (100-111180) (414)

FEL:rmv

(1)

134-91-3549

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 26 1963	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Classified by 2116
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite

~~TOP SECRET~~

SAC, NEW YORK (100-111180)

8/30/62

SA [REDACTED] (415)

8/31

STANLEY LEVISON
IS-C

The following characterization is being submitted
for approval with respect to the subject:

NY T- who has furnished reliable information in
the past, advised on August 28, 1962, that STANLEY LEVISON
is a secret member of the Communist Party, United States of
America (CP, USA), and [REDACTED]

SENSITIVE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OPERATION

NY T- is [REDACTED]
(informant)

this copy only

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2AUM/KIS
ON 1/23/98
NAF94-15

SF10

1 - NY 100-111180 (415)

FTL: GMM
(2)

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

1-4-7-5296

8/11/62

2/16
2

BSC LETTER 11-7-75

**NY LETTER DATED 8-21-62 CAPTIONED "COMMUNIST
INFILTRATION OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE, IS-C"**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/19/97 BY SP2ALM/KLS
#nn 99-15

Dept.

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. (IS) 100-442529

April 28, 1966

ST
C
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN
RACIAL MATTERS

A technical surveillance was instituted on the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 330 Auburn Avenue, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, on November 8, 1963. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is a racial-type organization headed by Martin Luther King, Jr.

This technical surveillance has provided considerable valuable intelligence information concerning

Some examples include the following:

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ON 2/4/98
#NNF 94-15

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

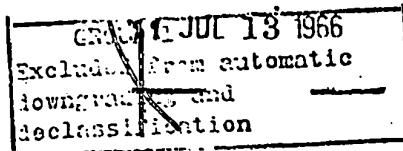
Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

Unless you instruct to the contrary, this technical surveillance will be continued for an additional six months.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

SECRET



73
53 JUL 14 1966

51027
I think this coverage should be discontinued, particularly in the light of possible changes of a civil nature against these individuals and possibly others.

BSC LETTER 11/7/75
VERBAL REQUEST IN SUPPLEMENT
TO 11/7/75 REQUEST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/19/97 BY SP8AUM/KIS
#111K94-15

Sept.



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 100-106670
100-3-116

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 7, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN
RACIAL MATTERS

Martin Luther King, Jr., resides at 563 Johnson Avenue, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, and is president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). The New York office of the SCLC is located at 312 West 125th Street, New York City. He is closely associated with Stanley Levison, a concealed member of the Communist Party, USA. Levison has described King as

SENSITIVE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OPERATION

In view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation, it is requested that authority be granted to place a technical surveillance on King at his current address or at any future address to which he may move.

It is further requested that authority be granted to place a technical surveillance on the SCLC office at the current New York address or to any other address to which it may be moved.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

ENCLOSURE

APPROVED *[Signature]*

DATE 10/10/63

5 NOV 7 1963

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION GROUP 1
Unauthorized Disclosure
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declassification

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2AUM/KIS
ON 1/26/98

#MNF94-15

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/20/82 BY SP2 JAP/ES

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: October 10, 1963

FROM : C. A. Evans

JUNE

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - C

Tolson	✓
Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
Casper	✓
Callahan	✓
Conrad	✓
DeLoach	✓
Egans	✓
Gale	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	✓
Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

The Attorney General was contacted at his request this afternoon. He had before him our memorandum of October 7, 1963, requesting authority for technical surveillances on Martin Luther King at his residence at Atlanta and at the office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which he is president, at New York City.

The Attorney General said that he recognized the importance of this coverage if substantial information is to be developed concerning the relationship between King and the Communist Party. He said there was no question in his mind as to the coverage in New York City but that he was worried about the security of an installation covering a residence in Atlanta, Georgia. He noted that the last thing we could afford to have would be a discovery of a wire tap on King's residence.

I pointed out to the Attorney General the fact that a residence was involved did not necessarily mean there was any added risk because of the technical nature of the telephone system. He was informed that the Bureau had had years of experience in this field and that we continually reviewed our procedures to insure that every measure possible to secure such installations was taken. It was nevertheless noted that of necessity we had to deal with established contacts in the telephone company to get the necessary leased lines, but once again we had procedures which minimized the risks to the nth degree.

REC-32

5 NOV 7 1963

After this discussion the Attorney General said he felt we should go ahead with the technical coverage on King on a trial basis, and to continue it if productive results were forthcoming. He said he was certain that all Bureau representatives involved would recognize the delicacy of this particular matter and would thus be even more cautious than ever in this assignment. He asked to be kept advised of any pertinent information developed regarding King's communist connections.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Donohue

CAE:vap

57 NOV 13 1963

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/20/82 BY SP2 JAP/ES

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

Our memorandum requesting authority for this surveillance
was signed by the Attorney General and handed to me. It is attached.

[Handwritten signature]

✓

[Handwritten mark]

ORIGINAL OF ENCLOSURE
REMOVED FOR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE -
SEE 100-106670-3596

Note: Orig. of Enclosure
12/13/73 (File # 62-115697)
RH:kd

CONFIDENTIAL

The Attorney General

July 16, 1963

Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Stanley

ST-103

REC-10

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SECURITY MATTER - C
RACIAL MATTERS

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 PWT/GAT
ON 11/10/88

SP2 ALM/KIS 11/19/97 #nnr#94-15

The following is a brief summary of information in this Bureau's files concerning Abner W. Berry, Aubrey Williams and Myles Horton:

Abner Winston Berry, a Negro, was born on [redacted] [redacted] the Communist Party in 1929, and from 1939 to 1950 he held high-level positions within the Party. In 1951 he relinquished editorship of the Harlem edition of "The Worker" in order to assume the position of Negro-Affairs Editor of the "Daily Worker." He held this position until the "Daily Worker" ceased operation in January, 1953. In September, 1953, Berry was reported to have left the Party; however, he attended the 17th Communist Party National Convention on December 9 - 12, 1953, at New York City. He resides in Newark, New Jersey, and is currently employed as an editor by the Antara Indonesian News Agency, with offices in the United Nations Building, New York City. This agency publishes a daily bulletin which has been described as an Indonesian propaganda outlet owned and operated by the Government of Indonesia; however, investigation indicates it actually appears to be a privately owned firm with no subsidization by the Indonesian Government. Upon being interviewed on three occasions by Special Agents of the FBI, Berry has refused to cooperate, indicating that he had severed his connections with the Communist Party because it became a futile organization.

Aubrey Willis Williams is Chairman of the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee; cited as an organization set up to lead and direct the Communist Party's "operation abolition" campaign. This committee was organized by Williams and Frank Wilkinson, an individual with a known and admitted past Communist Party membership. Over the years Williams has spoken before, and supported, a number of left-wing and communist-led groups, although he has publicly,

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
 - 1 - Mr. Rosen
 - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. McGowan
- NOTE: Information obtained from memo Jones to DeLoach, 7/16/63, captioned "Abner Winston Berry, Myles Horton, Aubrey Willis Williams." See Evans to Belmont memo 7/16/63, same caption, CHS:rap.

CHS:rap

CONFIDENTIAL

MAIL ROOM

CONTINUED PAGE 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Attorney General

and in appearances before Senate investigating committees, disclaimed any connection with, or knowledge of, the Communist Party. He has worked energetically to discredit the FBI and the Director. As of July, 1961, Williams was President and a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Incorporated, previously known as the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, cited as a communist front. A listing of the officers of the Southern Conference Educational Fund dated in January, 1963, indicates Williams is now president emeritus of this organization. According to a confidential informant, in June of 1966, during the time the Southern Conference for Human Welfare was in existence, Communist Party members were affiliated with it and worked actively in it. Since the formation of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, rank and file Party members have not been encouraged to work in it; however, certain Party members in the New Orleans area had been assigned to participate in the organization to further communist principles.

On June 29, 1963, Myles Horton identified himself to the FBI as Director of the Highlander Research and Education Center of Knoxville, Tennessee. This is the successor to the Highlander Folk School, originally at Monteagle, Tennessee, of which Horton was also the director. The latter school was supported primarily by donations from individuals and labor unions and it offered courses of instruction in labor organization, social economics and the general field of labor education. It was known to have Communist Party members on its staff and it followed the practice of securing communists as students. However, according to information received, it was never known to have offered courses of instructions in communism, nor was the Party known to have succeeded in gaining control of the school. There were many allegations that it represented the headquarters for communism in eastern Tennessee; however, these claims were never substantated. The Tennessee Courts revoked the Highlander Folk School's charter on the grounds that it violated the criminal laws of the state. A state charter for the Knoxville school was issued on August 23, 1961.

On April 21, 1942, a confidential informant advised that Myles Horton was a speaker before the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. On April 19, 1949, Paul Crouch, a self-admitted former Communist Party member, described Horton as

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Attorney General

a left-wing socialist who was always close to the Communist Party, meeting with officials and representatives to discuss policy and procedure during the period from 1939 to 1941. This informant also described Horton's wife, Zylphia, as being even closer to the Party in 1941. Another confidential informant advised this Bureau in 1950 that Horton continued to follow the Communist Party line during the period 1947 to 1950 and that he associated with known Party members. This informant doubted that Horton was actually a Communist Party member. In 1950 and 1951 a third confidential informant, who is a former member of the Party, advised that Horton was not a member even though he had close association with Party members. He stated Horton had been criticized by the Party members as an opportunist who used the Party for his own purposes.

Horton was reported to be listed as one of the speakers for a "Bill of Rights Dinner" which was to be sponsored by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee on December 15, 1959.

The above confirms information furnished to Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall on the morning of July 16, 1953.

1 - Mr. Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General

1 - Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General

NOTE: (CONTINUED) Classified confidential as information furnished from confidential informants whose revelation could cause harm to the national defense.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

June 16, 1969

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Gale (Attention: Mr. Devic)
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- BY LIAISON

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

JUNE

- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan (Attention: Mr. Rozamus)
- 1 - Mr. Patterson

Dear Mr. President:

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1963, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel almost practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such a surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that

WCP:ekw
(9)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~Group 1~~

~~Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification~~

SP6/5K/DB/drc

DECLASSIFIED BY

ON 5/22/80

SP2AUM/KIS

11/19/97

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~~TOP SECRET~~

The President

the feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

On July 25, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill-advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this surveillance, and a surveillance on any future residence of King, by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 6, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1964.

This information has been furnished the Vice President and the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE:

See memorandum G. C. Moore to W. C. Sullivan, dated 6/16/69, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist," prepared by TJD:fsh.

Classified "~~TOP SECRET~~" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Gale (Attn: Mr. Devic)
1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
1 - Mr. W. C. Patterson
(Attn: Mr. Rozamus)

June 16, 1969

JUNE

BY LIAISON

Honorable Spiro T. Agnew
The Vice President
Washington, D. C.

By Capt Mr. Vice President:

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1968, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of his domestic associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in court almost practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that the feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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ON 5/22/80

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11/19/97

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Honorable Spiro T. Agnew

On July 25, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill-advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this surveillance and a surveillance on any future residence of King by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 8, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

The President and the Attorney General have also been furnished this information.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE:

See memorandum G. C. Moore to Mr. C. D. DeLoach, dated 6/16/69, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist," prepared by TJD:fsb.

Classified "~~Top Secret~~" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

~~TOP SECRET~~

- 2 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

JUNE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. W. G. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

June 10, 1969

- 1 - Mr. Gale (Attention: Mr. Davis)
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
- (Attention: Mr. Rozamus)
- 1 - Mr. Glass

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1963, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel status practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such a surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that the feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

On July 23, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this 100-106570

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Group 1

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declassification

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ON 11/21/98

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