

OGC 78-1353

3 March 1978

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Bill Ashbaugh  
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Merrill McCollough -- Contact with House Select  
Committee on Assassinations

1. Subject, an Office of Security employee under Department of Defense cover, was contacted by a staff member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations on 27 February 1978. Mr. Jeremiah Aker arranged a meeting with the subject to take place on 2 March 1978 in order to discuss subject's knowledge of the Dr. King assassination. Subject came to work for the Agency in 1974 but worked for the Memphis Police Department at the time of the assassination. Subject has previously been questioned about his knowledge of the Dr. King assassination by the Department of Justice.

2. Subject came to the Office of General Counsel for guidance concerning protection of his cover while dealing with the Committee. It was the initial opinion of the undersigned that a member of this Office should accompany the subject to the 2 March meeting in order to advise those present of subject's true employer and ask that such cover be protected since current employment was not material to their investigation.

3. The undersigned notified Pat Carpentier of the Office of Legislative Counsel of subject's meeting of 2 March 1978. Mr. Carpentier is acting as the Agency liaison with the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Coincidentally, present at the time in Mr. Carpentier's office was Gary Cornwell who is the Associate Counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations. After explaining the situation to both men, it was their opinion that the undersigned should not accompany the subject and that subject should stick with his Department of Defense cover during the questioning. Mr. Cornwell is aware of subject's true employer and feels that his knowledge is sufficient notice to the Committee at this stage of the inquiry. The undersigned passed this advice along to the subject.

[REDACTED] 63574

4. Subject subsequently advised the undersigned that he was questioned on 2 March by four attorneys and one investigator from the Committee staff. He was not placed under oath, but was asked about his employment to which he responded using his Department of Defense cover. Subject will notify the undersigned if he is contacted by the Committee in the future.

*Bill Ashbaugh*  
Bill Ashbaugh

cc: OLC

OGC: BA:bm (6 March 1978)

Distribution:

Original - INVESTIGATIONS - King, Martin Luther, Jr.

1 - BA Signer

~~1~~ - Chrono

OGC 76-3865  
12 July 1976

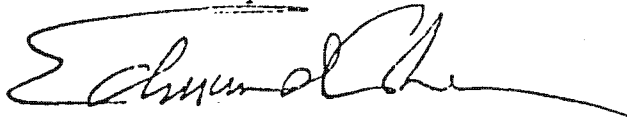
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Marrell McCollough - Contact by Department of Justice Attorney

REFERENCE: Memo fm Edwal Jones, DD/S, to Director of Security, Same Subj., dtd 2 July 76

1. The circumstances surrounding the death of Reverend Martin Luther King are being reinvestigated. Pursuant to this reinvestigation, Department of Justice attorney James Walker sought to interview Mr. McCollough who, at the time of the assassination, was a Memphis police officer and the first to respond to the shooting. Mr. McCollough is now an Agency employee under Department of Defense cover and referent memorandum requested that OGC so advise the Department of Justice.

2. In accordance with this request, the undersigned accompanied Mr. McCollough to the Department of Justice interview. Mr. Walker was informed of Mr. McCollough's Agency employment and cover status and it was agreed that these facts would be protected.



EDMUND COHEN  
Assistant General Counsel  
Operations & Management Law Division

cc: Mr. Edwal Jones

ECohen:am (13 July 76)

Original - SUBJ: SECURITY

1 - Mr. Jones

~~1~~ EC signature file

~~1~~ Chrono

6/15/76

McCollough, Marrell

OGC 76-3865

12 July 76

OGC 76-3722

2 July 76

**SECURITY**

Memo for Record, Subj: Marrell McCollough-Contact  
by DOJ Attorney, orig & signed by ECohen, cc: E. Jones  
King assassination being reinvestigated. Subj. was  
Memphis policeman & first at scene, he now CIA empl.  
DOJ was informed of above and it agreed that Subj's  
cover would be protected.

McCollough, Marrell

Justice Department

King Assassination

Registry has no record of the 2 July 76 document

~~SECRET~~  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Reply, Please Refer to  
 No.

(IS) 100-106070

Date: August 12, 1964

To: Director  
 Bureau of Intelligence and Research  
 Department of State

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

① Subject: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
 SECURITY MATTER - C

Information has previously been furnished to your agency, as well as to the Central Intelligence Agency, in respect to the contemplated travel of captioned individual to Amsterdam, Holland; Paris, Fr., or London, England; and Berlin, Germany. The travel to Germany will be approximately September 17, 1964; the other travel will be for the period of approximately August 15-18, 1964.

This Bureau is not requesting that any investigation concerning the subject while abroad be conducted. However, it would be appreciated if any information coming to the attention of your agency or the Central Intelligence Agency concerning subject's activities abroad is furnished to this Bureau.

1 - Director  
 Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

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INSPECTOR GENERAL

76-3124

OGC 76-5635

10-13-76

12 OCT  
1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of General Counsel

ATTENTION : Richard H. Lansdale

FROM : John H. Waller  
Inspector General

SUBJECT : Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

REFERENCE : OGC 76-5403 (same subject, dated 4 October 1976)

1. Pursuant to Reference, the files of this Office have been reviewed and reflect the following information relative to contacts with CIA by the FBI regarding Subject:

a. The names of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King appear in a 57-page document entitled "Dissident Activity--January 1966 through January 1973" prepared by the Office of Security and provided to the Inspector General on 28 April 1975. Portions of this document are derived from an FBI monograph concerning the New Left Movement, dated December 1967.

✓ b. On 10 August 1964 the FBI sent a memorandum to the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, with a copy to CIA the subject of which was Martin Luther King. This memorandum sets forth the European itinerary of Subject and points out that the FBI is not requesting any investigation concerning his activities abroad. It did mention, however, that they would appreciate being provided any information which might come to the attention of addressees concerning Subject's activities abroad (copy attached).

✓ c. On 30 November 1964 CIA made one dissemination to the FBI on a possible activity of Subject while he was in Rome, Italy during September 1964 (attached).

2. In addition to the above, the files of this Office also include a copy of an Office of Security memorandum dated 1 July 1968, Subject: Coretta Scott King. Also on file in this Office are copies

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CL BY 055636

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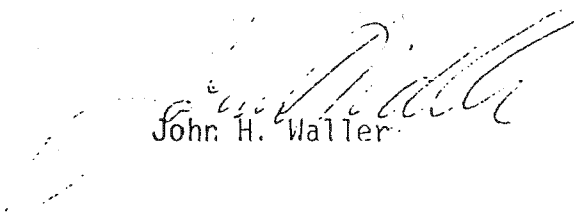
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of CI intercept letters 63F19AS, 65C30AZ, 68D29BW, 69J25B and 70H03B (copies attached).

NO 3. Attached hereto also (as Attachment E) is a copy of a 6 September 1975 Memorandum of Conversation which Mr. Colby had with Messrs. Dan Rather and Les Midgley of CBS regarding a series of programs dealing with the assassinations of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Rev. King and the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace. Also attached (Attachment F) is a copy of a 1 October 1975 letter to Mr. Colby from Dan Rather of CBS which is self-explanatory.

4. If this Office can be of further assistance to you in this matter, please advise.

  
John H. Waller

Attachments:

- A. FBI memo to Dept of State dtd 10 Aug 64
- B. Memo to FBI from DDP dtd 30 Nov 64
- C. Cy O/S memo re Mrs. King dtd 1 July 68
- D. CI intercept letters
- E. Memo of Conv. dtd 6 Sep 75
- F. Memo fr Dan Rather to Colby dtd 1 Oct 75

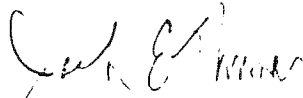
DCI/IC-76-1427  
7 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Richard H. Lansdale  
Associate General Counsel

FROM : Major General Jack E. Thomas, USAF (Ret.)  
Special Assistant to the D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT : Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reference your memorandum of 4 October 1976, subject as above, the ICS Staff has no information in its files on contacts with CIA by the FBI in regard to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

  
Jack E. Thomas



OGC 76-5403  
4 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR : Associate Deputy Director for Administration  
Attn: Chief, Security Analysis Group, OS ✓  
Director of Personnel ✓  
✓ Associate Deputy Director for Science and Technology ✓  
✓ Associate Deputy Director for Operations ✓  
Attn: ISS/IP/EIS  
✓ /DCI/Intelligence Community ✓  
✓ /DCI/for National Intelligence Officers ✓  
✓ Legislative Counsel ✓  
✓ Inspector General ✓  
✓ Executive Secretary ✓

FROM : Richard H. Lansdale  
Associate General Counsel

SUBJECT : Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. At the Attorney General's direction, a task force was established in May 1976 by the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Justice Department to review the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in relation to the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., his assassination and the Bureau's investigation of that murder.

2. Pursuant to the Attorney General's directive, Justice is canvassing those investigative agencies of the Government which might have been contacted by the FBI to secure or deliver information for intelligence, for investigative assistance (before or after the assassination), or for any form of counterintelligence action in relation to Dr. King.

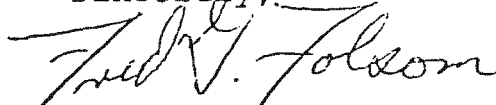
3. It is requested that a check be made of your records to determine the extent and nature of any contacts with CIA by the FBI in regard to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

4. DoJ has expressed some urgency in responding to their request. Therefore, please advise this Office of the results of your search at your earliest convenience, but no later than close of business, 21 October 1976.

  
Richard H. Lansdale

It will be appreciated if you will advise us of the results of your search at your early convenience. We would be glad to discuss with your office how this information may best be disseminated to the task force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred G. Folsom".

Fred G. Folsom  
Director

Martin Luther King, Jr., Task Force

OGC 76-5324

9-28-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

24 September 1976

Anthony A. Lapham, Esquire  
General Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Lapham:

Reference is made to my telephone conversation on September 22, 1976, with Mr. John Morrison of your office. As I explained to Mr. Morrison, at the Attorney General's direction a task force was established in May of this year by the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Justice Department to review the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in relation to the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., his assassination, and the Bureau's investigation of that murder.

As a part of our inquiry pursuant to the Attorney General's directive, we are canvassing those investigative agencies of the Government which might logically have been contacted by the FBI to secure or deliver information for intelligence, for investigative assistance (before or after the assassination), or for any form of counter-intelligence action in relation to Dr. King.

It is, accordingly, respectfully requested that a check be made of your records to determine the extent and nature of any contacts with your agency by the FBI in regard to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

OGC 78-1353

3 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Bill Ashbaugh  
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Merrill McCollough -- Contact with House Select  
Committee on Assassinations

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2. Subject came to the Office of General Counsel for guidance concerning protection of his cover while dealing with the Committee. It was the initial opinion of the undersigned that a member of this Office should accompany the subject to the 2 March meeting in order to advise those present of subject's true employer and ask that such cover be protected since current employment was not material to their investigation.

3. The undersigned notified Pat Carpentier of the Office of Legislative Counsel of subject's meeting of 2 March 1978. Mr. Carpentier is acting as the Agency liaison with the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Coincidentally, present at the time in Mr. Carpentier's office was Gary Cornwell who is the Associate Counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Mr. Carpentier explained the situation to Mr. Cornwell. It was agreed, in accordance with established procedures, that the undersigned should not accompany the subject and that subject should stick strictly with his DDO cover during the questioning. Mr. Cornwell is aware of subject's true employer and feels that his knowledge is sufficient notice to the Committee at this stage of the inquiry. The undersigned passed this advice along to the subject.

4. Subject subsequently advised the undersigned that he was questioned on 2 March by four attorneys and one investigator from the Committee staff. He was not placed under oath, but was asked about his employment to which he responded using his Department of Defense cover. Subject will notify the undersigned if he is contacted by the Committee in the future.

*Bill Ashbaugh*

Bill Ashbaugh

cc: OLC

OGC:BA:bm (6 March 1978)

Distribution:

~~Original~~ - INVESTIGATIONS-King, Martin Luther, Jr.

1 - BA Signer

1 - Chrono

~~SECRET~~

14 November 1978


MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Edmund Cohen  
Assistant General Counsel

SUBJECT: Merrill McCollough--Testimony Before  
the House Select Committee on Assassinations

1. On 6 November 1978 Mr. Merrill McCollough, an Office of Security employee under Department of Defense cover, informed the undersigned that he had received a subpoena compelling his testimony before the House Select Committee on Intelligence on 20 November regarding his knowledge of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Mr. McCollough at the time of the assassination had worked for the Memphis Police Department.

2. Mr. Pat Carpentier, OLC, Mr. Scott D. Breckinridge, Principal Coordinator, HSCA and Mr. Jack Scanlon, OS, were consulted about procedures which would be used to protect Mr. McCollough's cover while fully cooperating with the House investigation.

  
Edmund Cohen

EC:jz (10 Nov 78)

Distribution:

Original - INVESTIGATIONS - King, Martin Luther, Jr. (WGS-c.f.)  
1 - EC Signer  
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2  
E IMPDET CL BY 835774

NOTE FOR: Pat Carpentier, OLC/C&R

FROM: Gary M. Breneman, OGC

Mr. Ashbaugh's memorandum of 3 March 1978 has been revised per your suggestion. While it is not the intention of OGC to interfere in your relationship with the Committee's investigation, this Office has an interest in seeing that the cover of Agency employees is protected while at the same time advising the employee concerning the perils of perjury. This interest, of course, becomes a duty when the employee, as in this case, comes to OGC for guidance on these matters. It would seem particularly important to have OGC input in this matter given the sensitive nature of the Committee's investigation vis-a-vis the Agency in an attempt to avoid even the appearance of providing misleading information.

  
Gary M. Breneman

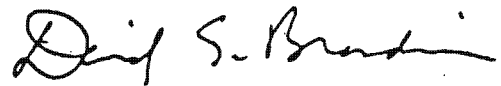
24 March 78

~~INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

14 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of General Counsel  
ATTENTION : Mr. Richard H. Lansdale  
SUBJECT : Results of Search for Any Information  
Whatsoever Re: FBI and Rev. Martin  
Luther King, Jr.  
REFERENCE : OGC 76-5403, 4 October 1976  
(DDS&T #4507-76, 5 October 1976)

The Office of Technical Service has completed a thorough search of its files and records concerning the possibility of any contacts made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in relation to the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Department of Justice may be advised that this Office has no records or information of any kind pertaining to this matter.



David S. Brandwein  
Director  
Office of Technical Service

cc: SA/DDS&T

~~INTERNAL USE ONLY~~



INSPECTOR

75-37

Dear Mr. Colby:

October 1, 1975

Yet another problem to heap on your shoulders!

When Les Midgley and I came to see you, you were explicit in your denials of CIA involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy, and my recollection is that your denial applied to the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., and the attempt on the life of Governor Wallace, as well.

In our reporting and interviewing connected with our program on the murder of Dr. King, we have heard and filmed accusations against the CIA as the "conspirator". The charges have come from Ray's former defense lawyers and one of his present attorneys, his brother and from some black civil rights figures.

We have a responsibility, obviously, to report the charges.

We have an equal responsibility to give you and the Agency an opportunity to reply to them.

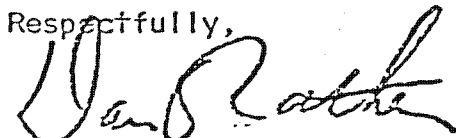
I realize that the demands on your time are great. Still, this is something I suspect you may want to give your personal attention.

What we would appreciate is a filmed interview with you -- a brief one -- dealing with the charge of CIA involvement in the alleged plot to murder Dr. King.

If this is impossible, we would appreciate your comment in some other form on the charge.

We will contact your office shortly to find out how you feel you should deal with our request.

Respectfully,



Dan Rather  
CBS News Correspondent

Mr. William E. Colby  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20502

TO : Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM : Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT : Martin Luther KING, Jr.

1. Reference is made to a communication from your Bureau dated 26 August 1964 concerning proposed travel to Western Europe of Martin Luther KING, Jr. Reference noted that Subject planned to visit Rome, Italy, on 18 and 19 September 1964.

2. This Agency has received the following information on Subject from a source who is considered unreliable. Dr. Martin Luther KING met with various leaders of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), and of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) on 18 September 1964 in Rome. He discussed with these Italian politicians the program of demonstrations against segregation in the United States which are to be organized in Italy during the months immediately ahead. Dr. KING reportedly conferred with PCI Senators Vito SPANO and Ugo BARTESAGHI, with PSI Senator Paolo VITTORELLI, and with Deputy Indro MONTANO of the Italian Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity (PSUP).

3. This Agency is unable to evaluate the above report.

4. The information in paragraph two has been made available to your Bureau's representative in Rome.

100-315/02051-64

RE/L/CE/ R. Brockmeyer: amc (21 November 1964)

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - CI

1 - CI/REA

1 - FI (201-760966)

2 - WL/L/CE

Encd en: OMA-6733 dated 20 October 1964

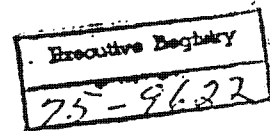
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30 Nov 1964	

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28 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Inspector General

SUBJECT : Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. This memorandum is for your information only.

2. The following documents on Subject and his wife are held in CI Staff:

Memorandum, 1 July 1968, prepared in Office of Security, Subject: Coretta Scott King.

CI Intercept Letters:

63719AS - Letter, 14 June 1963, to Dr. King, Birmingham, Alabama, City Jail, from Huldah Clark, a US student in Moscow.

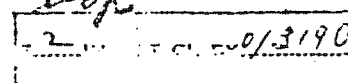
65C30A2 - Letter, 23 March 1965, to Dr. King from All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Moscow (Russian language with translation included).

68D29BW - Letter, 24 April 1968, to Dr. King from Viktor Fomin, Leningrad (Russian language, Project translation attached).

69J25B - Letter, 17 September 1969, to Mrs. Martin Luther King, from Raya Orlova, Moscow.

*Mail Intercept  
P.M. Yan [signature]*

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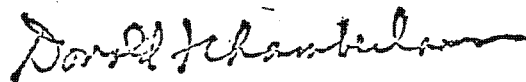


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70H03B - Letter, July 1970, to Mrs. King  
from Bernice Robinson, Leningrad.

Copies of these documents are attached herewith.

3. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated (4 April 1968) prior to the implementation of the MHCHAOS program (4 July 1968). However, a review of other material available in OPS/ITG shows that one dissemination was made to the FBI on a possible activity of Dr. King while in Rome, Italy, in September 1964 (copies attached). We have no indication of any Agency surveillance on Dr. King. Further, there is no indication that the Agency ever requested any of its representatives abroad to report on Dr. King or to be alert to any of his activities.



Donald F. Chamberlain  
Inspector General

Attachments A/S