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Class / Case #	Sub	Vol.	Serial #
0190 709		10	231 ONLY

8/19/351239



RRP00AUQTH

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

☒ XEROX 6/28/77 *deaf.*

☒ REVIEWED 7/6/77 *jmr*

☒ EXCISED & XEROXED 7/6/77 *Hyd.*

☐ OTHER _____

☒ COMPLETED

December 5, 1975

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Peelman

① - Mr. McDonoug
1 - Mr. Lawn
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Wannall

Reference is made to Departmental memorandum dated December 4, 1975, which set out for the information of this Bureau that the Department has initiated a review of all material pertaining to Martin Luther King, Jr.

You can be assured of the complete cooperation of this Bureau pertaining to this review. I have instructed that Supervisors Edward J. McDonough and John C. Lawn be available to respond to any requests emanating from the Department and to assist in every way possible in this regard.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

JCL:bap (15)

44-38861

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

The Attorney General

NOTE: Attached is a copy of a letter from the Office of the Attorney General dated 12/4/75, which sets out that the Department is conducting a review of all material relative to Martin Luther King, Jr. The Attorney General's letter requested Bureau cooperation in making available Headquarters and field office files for review and personnel for interview.

As requested by the Department, the General Investigative Division has designated Supervisors Edward J. McDonough and John C. Lawn to handle any inquiries and requests as they relate to the MURKIN investigation.

A log will be maintained by the GID listing all requests received from the Department pertaining to the MURKIN investigation, which will set out the dates requests are received, the nature of the requests and the dates requests handled.



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

December 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *7*
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Assoc. Dir.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dep. A.D.-Adm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dep. A.D.-Inv.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comp. Syst.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ext. Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Files & Com.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gen. Inv.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ident.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspection	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intell.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan. & Eval.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spec. Inv.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Legal Coun.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Telephone Rm.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director's Sec'y	<input type="checkbox"/>

On November 24, 1975, I directed Assistant Attorneys General J. Stanley Pottinger and Richard L. Thornburgh to review the files relating to Martin Luther King at once in the light of recent testimony, and make a recommendation as to whether the assassination case should be reopened.

Mr. Pottinger's office is undertaking the initial review of all material in the Department of Justice in order to comply with my directive.

I have asked that this review be conducted thoroughly but with dispatch. Both Messrs. Pottinger and Thornburgh understand, I believe, that this investigation is of the highest Departmental priority. I am sure that you will cooperate with them to facilitate their access to Bureau files both here and in the field, as they may request them, and to make available personnel of the Bureau for interviews and such other assistance as may be necessary.

I am also requesting that you assign one person responsible for assisting in this investigation.

- (1) - J. Stanley Pottinger
- (1) - Richard L. Thornburgh

*1 Xerox made + held for Director
12-4-75
edm*

~~Reproduction of Material Form~~
Congressional Inquiry Unit

5-

Date 6/28/77

The following material has been reproduced
for excising and review at FBIHQ by representatives of
the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No. Departmental Requests

Section 1

Serials _____ through _____

(except following serials not in
file on this date:

Enclosure Behind File or Bulky Enclosure:

No. Copies 2 By _____

RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

The Deputy Attorney General

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Wannall
① - Mr. ~~Gallagher~~
1 - Mr. Cleveland
December 8, 1975
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Farrington

Materials and Documents Received
from James A. Wilderotter, former
Associate Deputy Attorney General,
Department of Justice

By memorandum dated December 2, 1975, from J. Stanley Pottinger, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, captioned "Surreptitious Entries", a request was made to forward to Mr. Pottinger the documents and materials received from Mr. Wilderotter. Also, by memorandum dated December 4, 1975, from Mr. Pottinger, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr.", another request was made to make these documents available in connection with their review of the Martin Luther King, Jr. matter. This is to advise you that we are prepared to deliver these materials to your office immediately for the dissemination to the Civil Rights Division, and will do so by close of business, December 8, 1975. A separate response will be made replying to the remainder of the requests outstanding in both of the above-referenced communications.

1 - Assistant Attorney General,
Civil Rights Division
Attention: Mr. Robert A. Murphy

JCF:mtm
(8)

NOTE: Documents and materials previously received from Mr. Wilderotter are located in the office of Legal Counsel and arrangements will be made to have these hand delivered to the Deputy Attorney General's Office today, since our prior correspondence relative to disposition of these documents has been with the Deputy AG.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: DEC 2 1975

FROM : J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

JSP:WLG:vap

SUBJECT: Surreptitious Entries

Reference is made to my letter dated August 19, 1975, to your memoranda dated September 3 and 18, October 16 and 23, and November 14, 1975, and to my memorandum dated November 11, 1975.

In addition to the information and materials previously furnished us, please forward the following:

1. The materials and documents formerly in the possession of Associate Deputy Attorney General James A. Wilderotter which were transferred to the Bureau and which we understand are presently in your possession. These materials would be those referred to in the 11 page memorandum dated June 17, 1975 and captioned:

Inventory of Documents Received from
James A. Wilderotter, former Associate
Deputy Attorney General, Department of
Justice

The above was also the caption on the cover memorandum which you sent to the Attorney General dated June 26, 1975, furnishing the 11 page memorandum referred to above. If in your view it is not desirable to release these documents outside the Bureau, members of my staff who have the appropriate security clearance could review the materials in your office. I



5010-108

1 c/c detached for INTD
WLG 12/5/75

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5 DEC 4 1975
NINE FIVE SIX

have assigned Frank Allen and Bill Gardner of this Division to this responsibility, and will desire to review the materials personally. This portion of my request will also confirm my telephone conversation of November 26 with John Mintz, who agreed to make the Wilderotter materials available to us during the week of December 1.

2. FBIHQ File 105-222880 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents;

3. San Francisco File 134-5772 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents;

4. Any and all information, materials, documents, etc., physically maintained by the Bureau, whether in files or not, pertaining to the entry dated March 20, 1972 into a residence in San Francisco, California, as referred to on page 6 of your memorandum of November 14, 1975.

5. FBIHQ File 105-230322 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

6. Jackson File 157-11666 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

7. Any and all information, materials, documents, etc., physically maintained by the Bureau, whether in files or not, pertaining to the entry dated September 8, 1972 into a residence in Jackson, Mississippi, as referred to on page 7 of your memorandum of November 14, 1975.

8. FBIHQ File 105-242520 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

9. Chicago File 105-35613 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

10. Any and all information, materials, documents, etc., physically maintained by the Bureau, whether in files or not, pertaining to the entry dated March 28, 1973, into a residence in Chicago, Illinois, as referred to on page 10 of your memorandum of November 14, 1975.

11. FBIHQ File 105-251284 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

12. San Francisco File 105-32598 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

13. Any and all information, materials, documents, etc., physically maintained by the Bureau, whether in files or not, pertaining to the entries dated August 20, 21 and 22, 1974, into a residence in San Francisco, California, as referred to on page 13 of your memorandum of November 14, 1975.

14. FBIHQ File 105-221993 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

15. Pittsburgh File 105-7733 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

16. Any and all information, materials, documents, etc., physically maintained by the Bureau, whether in files or not, pertaining to the entries dated October 27, 28 and 31, 1974, as referred to on page 14 of your memorandum of November 14, 1975.

17. FBIHQ File 105-135976 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

18. San Francisco File 105-20738 -- the original file or a copy of all its contents.

19. Any and all information, materials, documents, etc., physically maintained by the Bureau, whether in files or not, pertaining to the entries dated October 28 and 29, 1974, into a residence in San Francisco, California, as referred to on page 15 of your memorandum of November 14, 1975.

20. All written memoranda, guidelines, procedures, instructions or documents which outline the policies and procedures respecting authorizations by Bureau officials for agents to conduct surreptitious entries, break-ins, or physical intrusions into premises, either to determine the feasibility of installing microphones, or for any other purpose, which have been in effect since 1970.

21. In your prior memoranda you have furnished lists of many surreptitious entries conducted by Bureau personnel, some of which preceded and some of which followed Attorney General authorization for installation of microphones or listening devices. Please furnish us with a list of all instances since 1970 when Attorney General permission for the installation of listening devices was denied. If in any of these instances entries into premises were conducted prior or subsequent to the decision of the Attorney General, please provide us with the same information with respect to those entries which we requested in our memorandum of August 19, 1975.

22. Your memorandum of November 14, 1975 lists entries conducted in connection with installation of microphone surveillances prior to the authority of the Attorney General. In each of these situations Attorney General authorization was eventually obtained. Please furnish us with a list of all surveys (entries made to survey the feasibility of installation of a microphone or other surveillance) made since

1970, involving physical entry or trespass, which did not result in the Bureau's requesting permission of the Attorney General to install or activate a microphone or other electronic listening device.

23. Your memorandum of November 14, 1975 lists 14 situations involving surreptitious entries in connection with feasibility surveys and microphone installations made prior to authorization of the Attorney General. In line 5 involving the "specific purpose for the surreptitious entry" you have listed "survey for microphone installation" in 12 of the 14 situations. In two, you have listed "survey and microphone installation." Please furnish us copies of all written memoranda, documents, instructions, guidelines or procedures governing the procedures and policies to be followed when Bureau officials authorize agents to conduct physical entries or trespass either for the purpose of installing microphones or, particularly, for any other purpose. We are interested in knowing what written or oral policies have been in effect since 1970 respecting whose authorization is required before agents may enter private premises in a surreptitious or trespassory manner, whether seeking to determine the feasibility of microphone installation or seeking to obtain other information, including, but not limited to, the copying of documents or items, or the acquisition of any physical material.

This request, and item number 20 above, apply to all entries, whether conducted pursuant to Title III or whether involving national security, domestic security or foreign intelligence. Also, if written policies were not in effect, please furnish us with a memorandum outlining such verbal policies.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King, Jr.

DATE: DEC 2 1975

JSP:RAM:vap
DJ 144-72-668

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. A.D. Adm.	_____
Dep. A.D. Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

As you know, the Attorney General has instructed this Division and the Criminal Division to look at all actions taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with respect to Martin Luther King, Jr. I have assigned Deputy Assistant Attorney General James P. Turner and Criminal Section Chief Robert A. Murphy to assist me in this review. Therefore, I request that you make the following material available to this Division.

1. All material concerning Dr. King, his family, relatives and friends, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that has been provided to the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence.

2. All other material in your files relating to the same individuals and organization, either directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to:

a. all COINTELPRO proposals, actions and results of actions;

b. all requests, approvals and results, including tapes, transcripts and logs, of electronic surveillance, whether wiretap, microphone or otherwise;

c. all intelligence files.

EXP. PROC.

DEC 4 1975



*1 Xerox made + held for Director 12-4-75
edm*

3. The documents which were retained in the office of former Associate Deputy Attorney General Wilderotter (which documents we are presently reviewing).

4. Your complete file on the investigation of the assassination of Dr. King, including internal and administrative Bureau memoranda.

It should be clear that we are interested in reviewing every single item in your files which relates in any way to Dr. King, his family, friends, associates or SCLC. Please provide us with an inventory which indicates the file number or other identifying characteristic of each file, the location of those files, including those which might be in your field offices, and a brief description of what is in each file.

The Attorney General has assigned this task the highest priority. Therefore, please expedite this request.

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: Mr. J. S. Peelman)
12/19/75

Mr. W. R. Wannall

J. G. Deegan

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Egan
LANN

In connection with the Department's current review of FBI files concerning Martin Luther King, Jr., and related matters, it asked that we furnish inventories of all main files (Headquarters and all field offices) concerning King, immediate family members, and other specified matters.

On 12/18/75, Supervisor S. F. Phillips, INTD, personally furnished James P. Turner, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, a set of the Headquarters-prepared inventories (originals attached). He was told that these inventories did not include those files that are on microfilm. Phillips also furnished Turner Xeroxes of all the teletypes received from all field offices containing field inventories. Noted that prior to Xeroxing, we deleted the top ^{LWO} lines of all teletypes in order to preserve the security of our cryptographic system. In order for the Department to better understand the field replies, we have also furnished Turner a copy of our teletype to all offices requesting the inventories (copy attached). Because of the volume of these teletypes, they are not being attached herewith, but the originals are all being filed in the instant case file.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information and record purposes.

Enclosures
100-106670

SFP:eks
(7)

CODE

TELETYPE

1 - Mr. N. P. Callahan
1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. T. J. Jenkins
1 - Each Assistant Director

TO ALL SACS

DECEMBER 9, 1975

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (100-106670)

1 - Mr. J. S. Peelman
1 - Mr. J. C. Lawn
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BUDED: DECEMBER 12, 1975.

1 - Mr. J. T. Aldhizer

FOR INFORMATION OF ALL OFFICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

HAS INITIATED AN EXTENSIVE REVIEW EFFORT "TO LOOK AT ALL

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FBI WITH RESPECT TO MARTIN LUTHER

KING, JR." IT HAS INSTRUCTED BUREAU MAKE AVAILABLE FOR

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW ALL MATERIALS CONCERNING KING, HIS FAMILY,

RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES, AND THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) (ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS HEADED UP

BY KING), AS WELL AS THE FILE RELATING TO THE ASSASSINATION OF

KING. ("ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; CIVIL RIGHTS,"

CODE NAME MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-38861.) MATERIAL TO BE MADE

AVAILABLE TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, ALL COINTELPRO

PROPOSALS, ACTIONS AND RESULTS OF ACTIONS; AND ALL REQUESTS,

SFP:lhb

(23)

SEE NOTE PAGE 5

PAGE TWO 100-106670

APPROVALS AND RESULTS, INCLUDING TAPES, TRANSCRIPTS AND LOGS, OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCES, WHETHER WIRETAP, MICROPHONE OR OTHERWISE.

AS AN EARLY STEP IN THE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW, IT HAS ASKED FOR AN INVENTORY OF ALL MATERIALS AVAILABLE BOTH AT HEADQUARTERS AND IN ALL FIELD OFFICES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO SOLICIT THE NECESSARY FIELD INVENTORIES. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT HAS NARROWED THE REQUEST AS TO "FAMILY, RELATIVES" TO INCLUDE ONLY IMMEDIATE FAMILY. AS TO "FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES," DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED THAT AS THE REVIEW PROGRESSES, IT WILL DESIGNATE THE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS IT IS INTERESTED IN FOR REVIEW OF MATERIALS. THE FIRST SUCH INDIVIDUAL, ALREADY DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT IS STANLEY DAVID LEVISON, BUFILE 100-392452. WHILE DEPARTMENT IS APPARENTLY CONSIDERING FILE REVIEWS IN THE FIELD, ALL THAT IS IMMEDIATELY DESIRED ARE FIELD INVENTORIES RELATING TO PERTINENT MAIN FILES ONLY.

FOLLOWING ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF INVENTORIES BY ALL FIELD OFFICES.

PAGE THREE 100-106670

FILES TO BE INCLUDED ARE:

1. MURKIN - BUFILE 44-38861.
2. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - BUFILE 100-106670.
3. IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS (EXCLUDING CHILDREN).
 - A. WIFE, CORETTA KING.
 - B. FATHER, MARTIN LUTHER KING, SR.
 - C. MOTHER, (DECEASED) ALBERTA WILLIAMS KING.
 - D. BROTHER, (DECEASED) ALFRED DANIEL WILLIAMS KING;

MOST COMMONLY USED NAME A. D. KING.

- E. SISTER, CHRISTINE KING FARRIS, AKA MRS. ISAAC FARRIS.

OF INDIVIDUALS LISTED UNDER 2 AND 3 ABOVE, PRINCIPAL BUFILE NUMBER ONLY FOR KING, JR., IS LISTED. THERE ARE NUMEROUS OTHER MAIN FILES ON KING, JR., AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, MANY WITH THE INDIVIDUAL LISTED AS THE VICTIM RATHER THAN SUBJECT SUCH AS 9- AND 44- CASES. INSURE FIELD INVENTORY INCLUDES ALL MAIN FILES ON THESE INDIVIDUALS.

4. COMINFIL OF SCLC - BUFILE 100-438794.
5. COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS (CIRM) - BUFILE 100-442529.
6. CPUSA-NEGRO QUESTION - BUFILE 100-3-116.
7. STANLEY DAVID LEVISON - BUFILE 100-392452.

PAGE FOUR 100-106670

IN PREPARING FIELD OFFICE INVENTORIES FOR ALL MAIN FILES RELATING TO ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ITEMS MUST BE INCLUDED: (A) FIELD OFFICE FILE NUMBER, INCLUDING OFFICE PREFIX; (B) TITLE AND CHARACTER OF FILE; (C) VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FILE CONTENTS, INCLUDING WHETHER IT CONTAINS ANY TAPES, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE LOGS AND/OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, BULKY EXHIBITS AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR MATERIAL WHICH IS IN ADDITION TO ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE. IF ANY OF THE ABOVE (TAPES, ETC.) IS NOTED, VERY BRIEFLY DESCRIBE. INCLUDE STATEMENT DESCRIBING ALL SUBFILES RELATING TO THE MAIN FILE; (D) ACCOUNT FOR SIZE/SCOPE OF FILE AND RELATED MATTERS. FOR EXAMPLE, INDICATE NUMBERS OF SECTIONS AND SERIALS IN FILE; VOLUME OF LOGS/TRANSCRIPTS AND BULKY EXHIBITS; ETC.

CONFINE INVENTORY AT THIS TIME TO MAIN FILES ONLY AND DO NOT INCLUDE FILE REFERENCES.

FOLLOW OUTLINE AS ABOVE WITH APPROPRIATE HEADINGS.

PREPARATION OF INVENTORY MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IMMEDIATELY AND GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. REPLIES TO BE SUBMITTED BY NITEL NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 12, 1975, USING CAPTION AS ABOVE

PAGE FIVE 100-106670

(NO CHARACTER TO BE USED), ATTENTION: INTD. IMPERATIVE
DEADLINE BE MET AS ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ASSIGNED PROJECT
DEPARTMENT'S HIGHEST PRIORITY.

NOTE:

Basis for above is letter dated 12/4/75 from J. Stanley Pottinger, AAG, Civil Rights Division, to Bureau (copy attached), modified by Bureau letter to Pottinger 12/8/75 (copy attached) and discussion 12/6/75 between Pottinger's Deputy, James P. Turner, and representing Bureau J. S. Peelman, Section Chief, Civil Rights Section, General Investigative Division, and S. F. Phillips, INTD.

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
① - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz

12/11/75

Mr. W. R. Wannall

J. G. Deegan

- 1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Memorandum from W. O. Greger to Mr. W. R. Wannall
12/8/75, "Senstudy 75" recorded the fact that S. F. Phillips of INTD had orally briefed Assistant Attorney General R. L. Thornburgh, Criminal Division, and two members of his staff on 12/3/75, concerning what we have in our records and what Phillips personally recalls in the way of information bearing on the alleged mailing of a tape and anonymous letter to Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1964. A key item is the alleged anonymous letter and the possibility that the original of that letter is the one which was found in papers left behind on the retirement of former Assistant to the Director W. C. Sullivan. Utilized in the briefing which Phillips gave were his "notes" in the form of a Work Paper. (Copies of the Work Paper and the letter found in Sullivan's papers were appended to referenced memorandum).

In connection with the current Civil Rights Division's inquiry into the King and related cases, Assistant Attorney General J. S. Pottinger asked Phillips that his people be given the same type of oral briefing as was given to the Criminal Division people. This is to advise, for record purposes, that on 12/10/75, Phillips orally briefed Pottinger's Deputy, J. P. Turner and R. A. Murphy, Criminal Section Chief. Pottinger was not present.

We are also taking the opportunity in this memorandum to emphasize a particular point which was made in the briefing. As you are aware, there have been allegations that a copy of the letter left behind by Sullivan was received by Mrs. King. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence personnel have alluded to this "fact." It should be significantly noted that we have

100-106670

SFP:mjg
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

never conducted any outside investigation on the letter found in Sullivan's papers. We do not know for a fact that it was a copy of this particular letter that was received by Mrs. King. At this time, we do not contemplate any outside investigation which would probably entail interviews with Mrs. King and some of her associates who may have seen the letter she received. It might also be noted that, as in the briefing of the Criminal Division, we included in the briefing of the Civil Rights Division the important point that any mailing of a tape and/or anonymous letter to Mrs. King was not an official FBI action documented in official FBI files.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information and record purposes.

Mr. W. R. Wannall

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
① - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: J. S. Peelman)
12/22/75

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

Peelman
L. J. W.

Letter from Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger, Civil Rights Division, to the Director, 12/12/75 (original attached) contained Attorney General's authorization for Pottinger's access to tapes and other materials relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 12/19/75, during the approximate period 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Pottinger listened to tapes and examined transcripts and other related materials in secure Bureau space. He was assisted, in addition to INTD personnel, by Supervisor W. D. Campbell of the Laboratory who is the incumbent employee most familiar with the tapes and transcripts.

At the outset, Pottinger stated that the Attorney General wanted him to make the necessary checks to ensure that transcripts are correctly supported by tapes. In making the spot checks which Pottinger chose, he first reviewed a rather thick bound folder which contained the transcript of tapes at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D. C., in January, 1964, and which also contained a letterhead memorandum dated 3/4/64 reporting the events at the Willard, as well as reports of similar coverage at a Los Angeles, California, hotel in early 1964. He next listened to reel number eight of the Willard incident and read portions of the transcript, comparing for accuracy. This reel had particularly obscene material in it. At his request, Pottinger read material concerning a Las Vegas incident in which King was involved. Pottinger also scanned transcripts of a New York City incident when King met with Stanley David Levison. Finally, Pottinger scanned the

100-106670

SFP:lek
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

transcript of the Los Angeles incident wherein King and his associates made considerable jest of the funeral of the late President Kennedy; and the transcript of a New York City hotel incident where King and an intimate associate, Dolores Evans, discussed the birth of her child. Pottinger indicated that he will not want to hear any more tapes.

It should be significantly noted that Pottinger at the outset had indicated a desire to perhaps cross-check a few tapes against transcripts, but after making such a check of the Willard incident he seemed sufficiently satisfied with the accuracy of our work that he did not ask to hear any more tapes.

There also commenced on 12/19/75 the review by two members of Pottinger's staff, James Turner and Robert Murphy, of particularly sensitive material concerning King and related matters which is maintained along with the tapes in my office.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information and record purposes.

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
1 - Mr. W. E. Wannall
12/16/75
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

Mr. W. E. Wannall

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

[Handwritten signatures]

This informative memorandum to record for the file discussion held 12/15/75 by Supervisor S. F. Phillips, Intelligence Division, with Robert Murphy, Criminal Section Chief, Civil Rights Division of the Department, concerning a project underway involving Departmental review of King and related files.

Inasmuch as we have canvassed all field offices, at the Department's request, for inventories of pertinent files, inquiry was made of Murphy as to whether or not the Department visualized some time reviewing field files. He stated that this might occur but, if so, it would likely be on a limited basis. For example, Departmental personnel might visit some key offices such as Atlanta and New York.

Attempt was made by Phillips to obtain some assessment as to how long this project would continue. Murphy advised that early next week, definitely before Christmas, the Civil Rights Division will furnish the Attorney General a status report which will emphasize the enormity of the task given them if all relevant files were actually to be reviewed. It is intended that the Attorney General be told that it is impossible for the limited number of personnel now assigned to this project (three individuals, including Assistant Attorney General Pottinger), to complete the task of reviewing all serials in all files unless they were given years to do so. Murphy visualized the possibility that the Attorney General might assign a staff of attorneys who would work on the file review for several months.

Because the Department requested as the first file to be reviewed that of King's former close advisor, Stanley David Levison, Phillips inquired as to the reason for the

100-106670

CONTINUED - OVER

SFP:bkb
(7)

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

Department's extreme interest in this particular file and how it is visualized that the Levison investigation would have any bearing on the completeness of our investigation of the assassination of King. Murphy responded that its interest in the Levison case stems only from their interest in insuring we originally had a firm basis for the King investigation. Their interest is also tied in with an earlier suspicion that Levison might have been a Bureau informant. (This matter was covered in a prior memorandum reporting Pottinger's inquiry on this point and Phillips' dispelling any such thought to Pottinger.) Murphy indicated that if and when tapes are to be listened to, it is their intention that it be done only by Pottinger.

Murphy was advised that because the Department's original request in this matter dated 12/4/75 asked for inventories "in your field offices," we had canvassed only field offices, to the exclusion of Legats. He was told of our procedure on file destruction by Legats, but that there might be some material in some Legats' offices, particularly in Mexico City. He indicated that for the time our canvass of field offices only is sufficient and that we should take no action as to inventoring Legats' offices.

Finally, Murphy was briefed concerning certain material in our files in late 1963 and early 1964 which refer to some differences between Mr. Hoover and the then Domestic Intelligence Division on the King and related investigations. Murphy was told that some of Mr. Hoover's remarks written into the files were of a sarcastic nature and for a full understanding he should be aware of the atmosphere then existing between Hoover and then Assistant Director William C. Sullivan in that they apparently disagreed on the interpretation of communist RECOMMENDATION: influences in racial matters.

None. For information and record purposes.

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
① - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: J. S. Peelman)
12/22/75

Mr. W. R. Wannall

J. G. Deegan

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

This informative memorandum concerns media account of the status of the Department's current project to review FBI files concerning Martin Luther King, Jr. and related matters; and the Department's suggestion it may be necessary for an independent review by other than Department personnel.

The Department's review commenced 12/6/75. Since then, its review has been sporadic and mostly by only two Civil Rights Division officials with a third, Assistant Attorney General Pottinger, assisting to only a minimal extent. My memorandum to you 12/16/75, reported comments of Robert Murphy, Criminal Section Chief, Civil Rights Division, that before Christmas a status report on its review would be given the Attorney General (AG) which would emphasize the enormity of the task given them if all relevant files were to be actually reviewed. Murphy visualized the possibility that the AG might assign a staff of attorneys who would work on the file review for several months.

Attached article from the 12/21/75, "The Washington Post" quotes a Department source as saying that the review is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ completed and so far has produced no evidence that the original FBI investigation of King's slaying was deficient. It reports that the review consists of reading through some 96 volumes of FBI files on King and that it would not be completed until early February, at which time the Civil Rights Division will decide whether to recommend to the AG that an independent examination be established, or the review may determine that no further scrutiny is necessary. Appearing on the "Face the Nation" TV program 12/21/75, the AG similarly reported on the status of the Department's file review, anticipated completion of same, and possibility of a further independent review.

100-106670

Enclosures

CONTINUED - OVER

SFP:lek (7)

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

It is obvious that the news account, as well as the AG's comments relate to the principal King security file which is 94 sections in size and which has been about $\frac{1}{2}$ reviewed to date. The only other significant file reviewed by the Department has been the file concerning King's close advisor, Stanley David Levison. Most of the file on him, which totals 14 sections, has been reviewed. Significantly, the file on the assassination of King, investigation conducted under the Civil Rights character, is 84 sections in scope and none of it has yet been reviewed by the Department. To give you a better feel for the enormity of the files yet to be reviewed, there is attached a chart setting forth the identities of pertinent files and their size in terms of numbers of sections and numbers of serials. It should also be borne in mind that the Department might also consider looking at field files. The chart also depicts the size of some of the more important files in the field.

It is interesting to note the Department's current thinking as respects a possible further review be an "independent" group. This would, of course, pose some problems for us should it come to pass because of the sensitive nature of some of these files. We need not, for the time being, address ourselves to any such problem.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information and record purposes.

MR. BASSETT

12/10/75

J. A. CONLEY

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

*P. J. [unclear]
Lowe
McDonough*

Reference is made to Butel to all SACs, 12/9/75, as captioned, requesting inventory of all material concerning King, including tapes, transcripts and logs of electronic surveillances.

This is to advise that Bureau file 62-116406, serial 18, maintained in the Special File Room of the Files and Communications Division, is the original handwritten log maintained by SAs John Patrick Devlin and John J. Connolly, then assigned to the Newark Office, regarding coverage of tesur of rooms 1902 and 1923 at the Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, in August, 1964. King was in room 1923 and one Bernard Lee was assigned room 1902 at instant hotel. This coverage was placed in effect in connection with the 1964 Democratic National Convention held at Atlantic City.

In January, 1975, the Inspection Division conducted inquiry concerning our coverage at the Democratic National Convention in 1964, and Newark, by airtel dated 1/26/75, hand delivered to the Inspection Division on 1/27/75 the entire original handwritten logs as maintained in the Newark Office (Newark file 100-47520, Sub I). This log is still maintained at FBIHQ as set forth above.

The handwritten log consists of 78 pages and generally reports numerous telephone calls made by people attending the National Convention in various capacities, as well as reporting contacts with King and his associates by the news media.

SAC, Newark, has been telephonically advised that this particular Newark file is maintained at FBIHQ.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this memorandum be forwarded to SA Seymour F. Phillips, Intelligence Division.

- 1 - Mr. Callagher (Attn: Mr. Peelman)
- 1 - Mr. McDermott (Attn: Mr. Brady)
- 1 - Mr. Wannall (Attn: Mr. S. F. Phillips)

JAC:jmh

(5)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King, Jr.

DATE: DEC 2 1975

JSP:RAM:vap
DJ 144-72-668

Assoc. Dir.	___
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	___
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	___
Asst. Dir.:	___
Admin.	___
Comp. Syst.	___
Ext. Affairs	___
Files & Com.	___
Gen. Inv.	___
Ident.	___
Inspection	___
Intell.	___
Laboratory	___
Plan. & Eval.	___
Spec. Inv.	___
Training	___
Legal Coun.	___
Telephone Rm.	___
Director Sec'y	___

As you know, the Attorney General has instructed this Division and the Criminal Division to look at all actions taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with respect to Martin Luther King, Jr. I have assigned Deputy Assistant Attorney General James P. Turner and Criminal Section Chief Robert A. Murphy to assist me in this review. Therefore, I request that you make the following material available to this Division.

1. All material concerning Dr. King, his family, relatives and friends, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that has been provided to the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence.

2. All other material in your files relating to the same individuals and organization, either directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to:

a. all COINTELPRO proposals, actions and results of actions;

b. all requests, approvals and results, including tapes, transcripts and logs, of electronic surveillance, whether wiretap, microphone or otherwise;

c. all intelligence files.



5010-110

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EXP. PROC.
DEC 4 1975

1 Xerox made + held for Director 12-4-75
edm

3. The documents which were retained in the office of former Associate Deputy Attorney General Wilderotter (which documents we are presently reviewing).

4. Your complete file on the investigation of the assassination of Dr. King, including internal and administrative Bureau memoranda.

It should be clear that we are interested in reviewing every single item in your files which relates in any way to Dr. King, his family, friends, associates or SCLC. Please provide us with an inventory which indicates the file number or other identifying characteristic of each file, the location of those files, including those which might be in your field offices, and a brief description of what is in each file.

The Attorney General has assigned this task the highest priority. Therefore, please expedite this request.

JIM TURNER
100-106670

464

Bill Gregory - no problems
Paul Daly

third agency relationship

no symbol informants

except possible symbol co-conspirator

Turner

no source identities
necessary at this point

check -

any sub files re
Murkin

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. W. O. Cregar

December 17, 1975

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Phillips
Down
gm

On December 3, 1975, a conference was held in the office of Criminal Division Assistant Attorney General Richard L. Thornburgh. Present for the Department were Mr. Thornburgh and Messrs. Kevin Maroney and Philip White, also of the Criminal Division. Present for the FBI were Deputy Associate Director James B. Adams and personnel of the FBI's Intelligence Division.

During this conference, FBI Supervisor Seymour Fred Phillips orally briefed the Department personnel concerning what we have in our records and what Phillips personally recalls about an alleged mailing of a tape and anonymous letter to Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1964. Utilized in that briefing were the notes of Phillips in the form of a Work Paper dated April 29, 1975.

In connection with the current inquiry by the Civil Rights and Criminal Divisions into the King and related cases, Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger requested that Phillips furnish his personnel a briefing similar to that given to the Criminal Division. On December 10, 1975, Phillips briefed Civil Rights Division Deputy Assistant Attorney General James P. Turner and Criminal Section Chief Robert A. Murphy.

There are enclosed for each recipient of this communication a copy of the aforementioned Work Paper and its enclosure.

100-106670

SFP:lhb
(13)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

The Attorney General

Your attention is invited to two significant points relating to the alleged mailing of a tape and anonymous letter to Mrs. King. There is no information in the official FBI files which directly identifies any such mailings as an official FBI action. To the contrary, from all the facts known, it appears primarily to have been the effort of a single individual not officially approved or condoned by any higher authority in the FBI. Further, while it appears that the letter found in the papers of former FBI Assistant to the Director William C. Sullivan (copy attached to the Work Paper) is the same one anonymously mailed to Mrs. King, the FBI has never conducted any outside investigation concerning the letter and therefore we do not know for a fact that it is the same letter allegedly received by Mrs. King.

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosures (2)**
Attention: Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.
Special Counsel for
Intelligence Coordination
- 1 - J. Stanley Pottinger - Enclosures (2)**
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
- 1 - Richard L. Thornburgh - Enclosures (2)**
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

NOTE: This communication to the Department is pursuant to instructions of Mr. J. B. Adams.

April 29, 1975

WORK PAPER

Recollections of
SA Seymor Fred Phillips

RE: THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CASE

Three recent significant events suggest that I now reduce to writing by this informal Work Paper, certain of my recollections of events which occurred about 10 years ago when I supervised at Headquarters the FBI investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is emphasized that these are mere recollections and they should be viewed in that light. To set the stage for these recollections, the following are the three significant events of reference:

(1) On Sunday, 1/26/75, I was called into the office to assist in a "special" being coordinated by the Inspection Division, one aspect of which related to the King case. I, accompanied by J. G. Deegan, Section Chief, IS-1 Section, INFD, was instructed to obtain and inventory²/drawer full of folders pertaining to King then being maintained in a cabinet in a room adjoining Mr. J. B. Adams' office. We learned that the material in question had been maintained by former Assistant to the Director W. C. Sullivan and was left behind upon his retirement. In the inventorying of this material, which was primarily handled by P. E. Nugent of IS-1 Section (I having been redirected to another phase of the "special"), there was noted a document which I considered at the time of extreme significance.

The document involved (Xerox attached) is the original of what appears to be an undated letter addressed merely "King." It has no signature or other indication of the author. The letter indicates it is written by a Negro and suggests strongly that the letter is intended as a cover communication as evidenced by the following quotation therein, "Lend your sexually psychotic ear to the enclosure." Other language in

Enclosure

the letter reveals the writer to be referring to personal misconduct of a sexual nature and that recordings of same are available.

(It might parenthetically be noted at this point that even though the communication found is an original typing, it is my belief that if such a letter was intended to be sent anonymously to King by Sullivan, it would have been very logical to have prepared the letter with a carbon copy and that copy used as the cover communication for any enclosure, thus minimizing the likelihood of tracing through typewriter examination.)

(2) "The New York Times," 3/9/75, carried a lengthy article about the FBI investigation of King and included many allegations concerning technical coverage of King. Highlighted in the article is a claim that the FBI anonymously mailed to Mrs. King a tape depicting King's personal life adversely. The article claimed that a "former high FBI official" had brought the matter to the attention of "The New York Times" and asked to remain anonymous. Article alleged that in late 1964 a copy of a tape recording was made by the FBI Laboratory, wrapped in a small, plain unmarked package with no return address, and delivered to Sullivan's office. Allegedly, it was addressed to Mrs. King in Atlanta, Georgia. Another source described as "attached to the Bureau at the time" said he believed the recording was of a party held by King and others in the Willard Hotel in Washington, D. C. The article went on to state that the tape and package had been prepared so as to not be traceable and that Mr. Hoover wanted the tape mailed from somewhere in Florida. Sullivan ordered a Special Agent (SA) to fly to Tampa and mail the tape to Mrs. King, the source stressing that the SA had no idea of the contents. Article went on to state that Mrs. King said in a telephone interview (time not disclosed) that she recalled receiving a tape recording in 1/65 and that she and her husband had listened to it and found much of it unintelligible.

The appearance of the foregoing newspaper article caused me to do certain research in our files in an effort to determine whether or not we had any information to substantiate or dispute the allegations. We found that there was no information in Bureau files to confirm that a tape was mailed by Bureau

personnel, anonymously or otherwise, to either King or his wife. Neither was there anything in Bureau files to confirm the alleged trip of an SA to Tampa from where the tape was allegedly mailed.

I did find the following significant information which should be recognized in considering this matter. Serial 716 of the main King file (100-106670) is a teletype from our Atlanta Office 1/6/65 reporting information obtained 1/5/65 through technical coverage of King. On that date King had a conversation with an associate, Bernard Lee, and King said that "they" sent a tape to his home with a letter explaining the tape which was of a party in a hotel room. He said that his wife had read the letter.

(3) Retired FBI SA Lish Whitson has told us of an interview of him by Michael Epstein, a Staff Member of the Senate Select Committee (SSC) held 4/23/75 and added to by telephone call from Epstein to Whitson 4/24/75. Epstein told Whitson that he knew that Whitson had at one time mailed a package to Mrs. King from Tampa, Florida, and asked Whitson to relate the details concerning this matter. Thereupon, Whitson disclosed to Epstein that late in 1964 he had been ordered by Sullivan through a phone call on a Saturday to fly to Miami with a package which was delivered to Whitson at the National Airport. After arrival in Miami, Whitson phoned Sullivan for further instructions which resulted in Whitson addressing the package to King and mailing it without a return address. Although Sullivan told Whitson he would someday tell him what it was all about, Sullivan never did tell Whitson and Whitson did not know the contents of the package. Whitson attempted to determine from Epstein how the latter got the story but Epstein merely laughed and did not respond to the question.

In addition to the information Whitson furnished Epstein, Whitson has also told us some further details of the incident, particularly his (Whitson's) belief that Sullivan is the source for Epstein's information.

I have been able to check what available records there are in the Bureau at this time and found that Whitson submitted a travel voucher in 12/64 for travel in 11/64 and was paid \$19.40 per diem. Available is a memorandum copy of a GTR issued 11/21/64 to National Airlines for air coach travel, Washington, D. C., to Miami and return. (11/21/64 was a Saturday).

So much for the three matters of significance related above which now make important the occurrences of events about 10 years ago which are as follows:

I was in my office in what was then the Internal Security Section of the Domestic Intelligence Division (DID) in the Riddell Building, 1730 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. My office was directly across the hall from the office of W. C. Sullivan, then Assistant Director of the DID. Some of my coworkers were also present as we were engaged in some special work on the King case and related matters. This incident was on a Saturday.

Sometime during the morning Sullivan came into my office and asked me for some unwatermarked stationery. I secured some from my secretary's desk and after checking it through the light, I offered it to Sullivan. He asked me if I was absolutely certain that the paper was unwatermarked. I assured him that it was and he took it into his private office. Sometime later that morning he telephoned me for the address of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, and may also have asked me for King's home address in Atlanta, although my recollection of the latter is not as clear as the former. I procured the address or addresses, jotted them on a piece of paper and hand carried them into Sullivan's private office. He seemed to be busily at work at a typewriter on a stand next to his desk. I gave him the address or addresses and again he asked me if I was absolutely certain that the stationery I had given him was unwatermarked. My assurance to him was reiterated once again.

Some time later, I would estimate around noon, Sullivan called me into his office and handed me a sealed manila envelope which appeared contained something other than written matter as it was a solid package. He gave me a sum of money and asked that I have one of the men working with me immediately take the package by cab to the Justice Building and hand it over to Al Belmont (then Assistant to the Director). I feel quite certain that it was Belmont to whom the package was to be delivered but I would not discount completely

the possibility that it may have been Cartha DeLoach to whom it was to be delivered. I remember that one of the men working with me wanted to go downtown to do some shopping and it thus was convenient to have him perform the courier chore dictated by Sullivan.

At approximately the same point in time that the above event occurred, at Sullivan's direction, I arranged to gather into one place all the tapes we had of microphone coverage we had been conducting on King. All these tapes originated in various field offices and we had those mailed to the Bureau. Some that had already been mailed in were being maintained by Records. It was my task to gather all tapes from the field and those in Records and have them in one place. While they were technically charged to Sullivan and for the record being retained in Sullivan's office, as a practical matter, I was maintaining these tapes in my office across the hall from Sullivan's office. Among the tapes I was accumulating were some which for a short period of time were in the hands of SA John M. Matter (then a supervisor in the Radio Engineering Section of the Laboratory, now retired). I remember Matter telling me that he had been instructed on a very confidential basis to perform a particular task relating to some of the tapes we had. I am not now sure as to who gave him the instructions but am quite certain that it was likely to have been Sullivan, with an outside possibility that he may have got his instructions from Belmont. His own instructions concerned making some composite tapes and he sent over to me several reels with labels showing they were "edited composite" highlighting reels of tape from WFO and Los Angeles. Because of the very confidential nature of Matter's assignment I, of course, did not query him other than in respect to the following. From the labels on these tapes I gathered there were a specific number that he had prepared and it appeared to me that the number he sent me was one or two short of the number I had prepared. I was unable to get any exact accounting from Matter concerning the shortage.

Sometime shortly thereafter, I obtained the information discussed under number two above concerning a conversation 1/5/65 between King and an assistant indicating that a tape had been

mailed to King. When I learned this information, it appeared likely to me that if a tape had been mailed to King it might be the one which appeared to be "missing." I had an occasion at that time to bring to Matter's attention what I had learned from the overhear in Atlanta and I suggested that this was perhaps the answer to the "missing" tape. Still maintaining the confidentiality of the sensitive assignment that had been entrusted to him, Matter made no affirmative or informative replies to my suspicions but rather smiled "knowingly." As far as I was concerned at the time, we had something of an implied meeting of the minds and I was personally convinced, though I had no hard evidence to support my conviction, that Sullivan had some greater part in mailing a tape to King. I might add that I didn't at that time conceive of any communication being sent with the tape. The finding of the document discussed under number one above of course changed my thinking relative to a cover communication accompanying the mailing of the tape.

The foregoing represents my best recollections at this time on these matters.

I might also use this Work Paper to set out some further observation, for whatever value it might be.

The document addressed to King, a copy of which is attached, contains a statement in the closing paragraph "King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days in which to do (this exact number has been selected for a specific reason, it has definite practical significance). You are done. There is but one way out for you." I have often wondered what the significance of the 34 days quoted was. When I learned of Whitson's mission on 11/21/64 I used that date as a starting point. Thirty-four days after 11/21/64 was 12/25/64, Christmas Day. Recognizing King's position as a man of the cloth and having many, many times heard Sullivan decry King as a hypocrite because of his immoral activities although a preacher, it occurred to me that in Sullivan's mind he was probably trying to direct King's attention to Christmas Day.

KING,

In view of your low grade, abnormal personal behavior I will not dignify your name with either a Mr. or a Reverend or a Dr. And, your last name calls to mind only the type of King such as King Henry the VIII and his countless acts of adultery and immoral conduct lower than that of a beast.

King, look into your heart. You know you are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes. White people in this country have enough frauds of their own but I am sure they don't have one at this time that is any where near your equal. You are no clergyman and you know it. I repeat you are a colossal fraud and an evil, vicious one at that. You could not believe in God and act as you do. Clearly you don't believe in any personal moral principles.

King, like all frauds your end is approaching. You could have been our greatest leader. You, even at an early age have turned out to be not a leader but a dissolute, abnormal moral imbecile. We will now have to depend on our older leaders like Wilkins a man of character and thank God we have others like him. But you are done. Your "honorary" degrees, your Nobel Prize (what a grim farce) and other awards will not save you. King, I repeat you are done.

No person can overcome facts, not even a fraud like yourself. Lend your normally psychotic ear to the enclosure. You will find yourself and all your dirt, filth, evil and moronic talk exposed on the record for all time. I repeat - no person can argue successfully against facts. You are finished. You will find on the record for all time your filthy, dirty, evil companions, male and females giving expression with you to your hideous abnormalities. And some of them to pretend to be ministers of the Gospel. Satan could not do more. What incredible evilness. It is all there on the record, your sexual orgies. Listen to yourself you filthy, abnormal animal. You are on the record. You have been on the record - all your adulterous acts, your sexual orgies extending far into the past. This one is but a tiny sample. You will understand this. Yes, from your various evil playmates on the east coast to Dolores Evans and others on the west coast and outside the country you are on the record. King you are done.

The American public, the church organizations that have been helping - Protestant, Catholic and Jews will know you for what you are - an evil, abnormal beast. So will others who have backed you. You are done.

King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days in which to do (this exact number has been selected for a specific reason, it has definite practical significance). You are done. There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent act is bared to the nation.

J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. N. P. Callahan
1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall

December 8, 1975

1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. W. O. Cregar
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to your letter dated December 4, 1975, in the above caption, your reference DJ 144-72-668.

This is to confirm a telephonic communication on December 5, 1975, between Mr. Robert A. Murphy of the Department and Deputy Associate Director James B. Adams of this Bureau. Adams sought clarifying information concerning those portions of the referenced letter pertaining to "friends and associates" of King, particularly as mentioned in the summarizing statement (page two, penultimate paragraph). It was agreed between Murphy and Adams that initially, we will make available the files relating to King, his immediate family and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), as well as the file concerning the FBI's investigation of the assassination of King. In so far as "friends and associates" of King are concerned, as the review of the above-described files by the Civil Rights Division progresses, we will also make available additional files relating to "friends and associates" as the Civil Rights Division may designate and request same.

In the spirit of the completeness of your review which is so essential, we are also designating two additional files for immediate review as they contain numerous references to King, the SCLC and related matters. It was from these two files that many communications have already been furnished to the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence. These two files are entitled "Communist Influence in Racial Matters" and "Communist Party, USA - Negro Question."

In order to expedite your review, it is suggested that you commence with those files we maintain at our Headquarters. Meanwhile, we will solicit the necessary inventories from our field offices for your further consideration.

This matter has been designated within this Bureau as of the highest priority.

100-106670

① - 62-116395 (SENSTUDY 75)

SFP:dmf
(11)

DUPLICATE YELLOW

*Rec'd
L. J. Deegan
W. J. Deegan*
Mr. W. R. Wannall

Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz

12/12/75

J. G. Deegan

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

This informative memorandum is to advise of discussion 12/11/75 between Deputy Assistant Attorney General J. P. Turner of the Civil Rights Division and Supervisor S. F. Phillips who is coordinating the Bureau project relating to the Department's request to see all Bureau materials relating to Martin Luther King, Jr., and other related individuals and matters.

Turner had indicated on 12/6/75, that he was interested in getting the identities of personnel, chain of command and organizational breakdown relating to the Bureau components engaged in the King and related investigations back in the 1960s. He then said the Department would send a request for this information in writing. On 12/11/75, Turner solicited some ideas from Phillips as to how he could best request the information. Phillips orally gave Turner a fairly complete briefing on the organizational breakdown and chain of command from Mr. Hoover on down through the supervisory level covering the Messrs. Hoover, Tolson and Belmont and then the pertinent personnel in what was then the Domestic Intelligence Division. Included in the information supplied by Phillips was whether or not named personnel were still in the Bureau. As to a breakdown in the pertinent field offices, Phillips supplied a lesser amount of information. In conclusion, much of what Phillips supplied did satisfy Turner and there is a likelihood we will not receive any further written requests; or, if we do, it will be limited to field personnel and the whereabouts of personnel which was not supplied in the oral briefing. As to former Assistant to the Director Belmont, Turner was fully briefed as to his current health status insofar as Phillips knew it. Turner did not indicate one way or the other whether the Department would interview Belmont but he did indicate that they are considering interviewing other personnel, current as well as former.

100-106670

SFP:mjg
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

One of the matters we have been considering relative to the Department's request which read "for all materials" has been that concerning the voluminous references (see references) in our Headquarters files. We are supplying inventories on all main files. To supply the necessary search slips and files relating to see references would be a monumental task. Turner agreed that for the present, there are so many main files we have made available which will require an extensive effort on their part for review, we need take no action at this time to develop see references.

The last item Turner initiated conversation concerning was W. C. Sullivan. Somewhat apologetically for raising the question, Turner asked if Phillips knew anything beyond scuttlebutt concerning reasons for Sullivan's retirement. Phillips responded that he knew nothing beyond the usual scuttlebutt, a good bit of which has been aired in the press. This scuttlebutt can be summed up to the effect that Sullivan and Hoover had differences in policy. Phillips asked Turner whether he was inquiring as to whether the King investigation was involved in Sullivan's retirement and Turner said he intended that as part of his question. Phillips pointed out that the King investigation was a closed matter at the time of Sullivan's retirement and that Phillips had never even heard any scuttlebutt to indicate that case had anything to do with Sullivan's departure.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information and record purposes.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE

DATE 3-25-25

FS4M45K51

~~SECRET~~

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
- 1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher

Mr. W. R. Wannall

12/10/75

J. G. Deegan

- 1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. J. S. Peelman
- ① - Mr. J. C. Lawn
- 1 - Mr. J. T. Aldhizer
- 1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

This informative memorandum is to record details of negotiations between Bureau and Department personnel relating to project just initiated by Department letter 12/4/75, requesting access for Departmental review of all Bureau materials relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. (Attached for ready reference is copy of the Department letter and Bureau letter to Department 12/8/75 confirming preliminary negotiations relating to project.)

At 10:00 a.m., Saturday, 12/6/75, Deputy Associate Director J. B. Adams met in his office with Deputy Assistant Attorney General James P. Turner of the Civil Rights Division who had come over to initiate the Departmental review of Bureau file on King. Also present were J. S. Peelman, Section Chief, Civil Rights Section, General Investigative Division and Supervisor J. C. Lawn of Civil Rights Section; and S. F. Phillips of INTD who you, Mr. Wannall, has designated to coordinate this project. At the outset, Adams expressed to Turner our intention of the fullest possible cooperation to the Department in this matter. Adams indicated to Turner a special problem relating primarily to the file on Stanley David Levison (King's principal advisor) and to a lesser degree the files on King and some other related files. The problem relates to the sensitivity of information bearing on the security of our SOLO operation. It was indicated to Turner that before full access would be given to these files, the matter of establishing policy and securing Director Kelley's approval would be taken up expeditiously on Monday, 12/8/75, and the Department further advised. Turner expressed full understanding and agreement with proceeding in this manner.

Enclosures

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100-106670

Classified by 2047

Exempt from GDS, Category Number 2

SFP:lek (9)

Date of Declassification Indefinite

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Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

Turner then met in Peelman's Office with Peelman, Lawn and Phillips and certain minor understandings arrived at concerning the requests in the 12/4/75 letter. As relating to King and certain other individuals, the Department asked first for access to all materials we have already provided to the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence. It next asked for all other materials. It was pointed out to Turner that if we gave access to all materials, there would appear to be no useful purpose served in separately giving access to just those materials provided to the Congressional Committees. Turner agreed and told us to withdraw Item Number One in the Department letter. He also added that it would be unnecessary for us to tell the Department what material we had already provided the Committees. In this respect, it should be noted that Turner was fully aware of a large volume of material which the Department already has, duplicates of material we have provided the Committees; and Turner had already reviewed some of that material.

Turner also clarified exactly what the Department desires in the inventories we are to prepare both at Headquarters and in all field offices of pertinent files the Department is interested in. We have already used the clarifying information in a teletype we have sent to all offices.

Turner spent the remainder of Saturday reviewing pertinent sections of the King file and Turner was also in all day Sunday, 12/7/75, continuing his review. On Sunday evening Robert A. Murphy, Criminal Section Chief, Civil Rights Division, continued in the review. We provided supervisors from INTD to be present during the review.

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At Mr. Adam's instruction, S. F. Phillips and Supervisor J. T. Aldhizer met in our space with J. S. Pottinger, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, on 12/8/75. Phillips relayed to Pottinger the Director's approval for Pottinger and Turner to have access to our sensitive material relating to Levison, et al. Pottinger asked if his Section Chief Murphy could be added. On 12/9/75 Adams advised that the Director had approved the addition of Murphy to the team having access to the sensitive material and Phillips telephonically relayed this to Pottinger on 12/9/75. He expressed appreciation.

The first question which Pottinger posed to Phillips was whether NY 694-S* (SOLO informant) is identical to Levison. Pottinger was told that under no circumstances would Phillips be able to identify for him the key sensitive informants involved in the Levison/King matter, one of whom was NY 694-S*. However, Phillips made it clear to Pottinger in unequivocal terms that Levison is not and never was a Bureau informant or source of any sort. Brief additional discussion was had concerning the very sensitive aspects involved, including the fact that people's lives were at stake. Pottinger indicated an awareness already that one of our informants travels to Russia. As Pottinger was departing to attend a conference with the Attorney General, he indicated that the scope of the review which the Department had started is far greater than anticipated and that there may be a necessity for adjusting their sights. Phillips reiterated the earlier expression of Adams that the Bureau would go all-out in cooperation and assistance to the Department in this matter.

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RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information and record purposes.

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REQUEST NUMBER: _____

DATE REQUEST RECEIVED: _____

NATURE OF INVESTIGATION:

DATE INFORMATION FURNISHED TO DEPARTMENT: _____