

LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Page 1 of 9

Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
04a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	12/22/65	A
not open yet 02a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>closed under "B" USDC, DC, Civil Action Nos. 76-1185 + 76-1186</i>	S	2	11/22/65	A, C, B
03a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	11/5/65	A
04a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	10/12/65	A
05	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 8:50 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	10/1/65	A
05b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	3	9/30/65	A, C
06a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>closed under "B" USDC, DC, Civil Action Nos. 76-1185 + 76-1186</i>	S	1	9/30/65	A, C, B
07	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 7:25 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	9/17/65	A
07b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	9/16/65	A, C
08	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 8:20 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	9/15/65	A
08b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	S	3	9/15/65	A
09	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	S	2	9/10/65	A

Collection Title Office Files of Mildred Stegall

Folder Title "King, Martin Luther"

Box Number 32

Restriction Codes

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Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
10	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	9/9/65	A
11a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	9/9/65	A, C
12	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 7:10 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	9/7/65	A
12a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	9/7/65	A
13	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	9/3/65	A
14	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 7:05 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	8/26/65	A
14b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	8/26/65	A, C
15	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 9 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	8/23/65	A
15b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	8/23/65	A
16a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	3	8/16/65	A
17a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>permitted 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i> <i>same date 6-27-03 NLJ 01-235 Appeal</i>	C	1	8/12/65	A
18	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	8/5/65	A

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Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
19	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 7:31 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	7/23/65	A
19a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	7/23/65	A
20	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 7:18 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	7/20/65	A
20b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	S	1	7/20/65	A
21	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 7:36 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	7/19/65	A
21b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	7/19/65	A
22	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Lee White <i>sanitized 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	7/16/65	A
23	memo	Marvin Watson to the President, 11:48 am <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-236</i>	PCI	1	7/7/65	A
23b	report	re the Position of Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	5	7/7/65	A
24	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	6/17/65	A
25	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	6/8/65	A
26a	report	re Communist Influence <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	5/15/65	A

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Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
27	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	4/15/65	A
28a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	3/30/65	A
29	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	4/2/65	A
30a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	3/9/65	A
31	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	3/5/65	A
32	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Lee White <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	C	2	2/10/65	A
33a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	2/8/65	A
34a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	2/8/65	A
35	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	2/4/65	A
36	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	2/3/65	A
37	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	PCI	2	1/22/65	A, C
38	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>closed under "C" 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	1/8/65	A, C

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Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
39	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	12/31/64	A
40	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	12/21/64	A, C
41	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	12/17/64	A, C
42	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	12/17/64	A
43	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	12/9/64	A
44	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	12/2/64	A
45	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to the President <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	PCI	2	11/30/64	A, C
46	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	C	1	11/25/64	A
47a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	11/23/64	A
48	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	11/23/64	A
49	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	11/12/64	A
49a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	5	11/12/64	A

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Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
50	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	11/6/64	A
51	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	11/6/64	A
52	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	11/3/64	A
53	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	C	1	11/3/64	A
54	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	10/28/64	A
55	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	10/27/64	A
56	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	10/26/64	A
57	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	10/22/64	A
58	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	10/21/64	A
58a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	4	10/21/64	A
59	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	10/20/64	A
60	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Bill Moyers <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	10/20/64	A

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Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
61	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	10/2/64	A
62	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	8/19/64	A
63	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	8/18/64	A
64	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	8/14/64	A
64a	report	re Communist Party <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	8/14/64	A
65	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	8/11/64	A
66a	report	re the Communist Party <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	3	8/10/64	A
67	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	2	8/8/64	A
68	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	8/7/64	A
69	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	S	1	7/30/64	A
70	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLS 01-235</i>	PCI	1	7/23/64	A, C
71a	report	re the Communist Party <i>declassified 11/29/01 NLS 01-235; closed under "B" U.S.C., DC, Civil Action #76-1185</i>	TS	2	7/17/64	A, C, B

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76-1186

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Page 8 of 9

Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
72	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	7/10/64	A
73	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	3	6/10/64	A
74	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	6/3/64	A
75	report	re the Communist Party <i>declassified 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235; closed under "B" USDC, DC, Civil Action # 76-1185</i>	TS	4	6/1/64	A, C, B
76	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	4/27/64	A
77	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	4/24/64	A
78	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	4/17/64	A
79	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	TS	2	4/14/64	A, C
80	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	3/17/64	A
81	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	3/9/64	A
82	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	TS	1	3/5/64	A, C
82a	report	re the Communist Party <i>declassified 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235; closed under "B" USDC, DC Civil Action # 76-1185 + 76-1186</i>	TS	8	3/4/64	A, C, B

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83	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	2/28/64	A
84	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	2/13/64	A
85	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	2/11/64	A
86	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	2	2/10/64	A
87	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	S	1	2/5/64	A
88	report	re the Communist Party <i>declassified 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235; closed under "B" USDC, DC, Civil Action #76-1185</i>	TS	8	1/10/64	A, C, B
89	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Walter Jenkins <i>open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-235</i>	TS	2	12/3/63	A
100	memo	SAIC Young to SAIC Youngblood		1	8/4/65	B

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~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

December 22, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information has also been
furnished to the Attorney General and other
interested officials of the Government.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

December 22, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

On December 16, 1965, a Mr. George Hauser (phonetic) advised Dora E. McDonald, Secretary to the President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Martin Luther King, Jr., that he would like King to send a telegram to President Lyndon B. Johnson urging that the United States support present British economic measures against Rhodesia. Hauser stated King should emphasize discontinuance of shipping oil to Rhodesia by American companies. Hauser added that pressure needs to be brought on the Government to stop shipments of all commodities to Rhodesia.

King, on December 16, 1965, instructed Andrew J. Young, Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to forward a telegram over his signature to President Johnson on that date. King told Young that this telegram should urge the United States Government to take a stronger position in support of British opposition to the policies of the Government of Ian Smith of Rhodesia. King said this telegram should also urge strengthening of economic action by the United States against Rhodesia, including an embargo on oil shipments to that country.

King advised Young he wished to point out that the action he recommended in this telegram was in the interest of peace and democracy in the hope that a strong stand by the United States at the present time might prevent needless bloodshed in the future.

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj NARA, Date 8-29-01

RECEIVED
W. MARVIN WATSON

1965 DEC 22 PM 5 33

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

It is noted that on a prior occasion one George Hauser, who identified himself as a representative of the American Committee on Africa, was in contact with Andrew J. Young to arrange for King to appear at a meeting sponsored by that Committee in New York City on December 10, 1965, to raise funds for South Africa. The United Press International, on December 11, 1965, reported that King spoke in New York City on December 10, 1965, at a meeting to raise funds for victims of South Africa's stringent racial policies.

~~SECRET~~

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2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 12, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information has also been furnished
to the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney
General.

~~SECRET~~

756464

RECEIVED
W. MARVIN WATSON

General

to the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney
General. The Commission has also been interested

1965 NOV 15 AM 9 23

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
[Signature]

Enclosure

Investigation

Investigation into the activities of the
American Communist Party, Inc.

A committee on the subject of the
American Communist Party, Inc.

Dear Mr. Watson:

Enclosure: D. C.

The White House

Special Assistant to the President

Honorable Walter Watson

BY DIVISION

November 13, 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

756464

~~SECRET~~

3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 5, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

A handwritten mark, possibly initials, enclosed in a circle, located to the right of the recipient's address.

Dear Mr. Watson:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "J. Edgar Hoover".
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information is also being
furnished to the Attorney General and other
interested officials of the Government.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

3a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

November 5, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A confidential source of this Bureau, who is in a position to furnish reliable information, has advised that the following claims have been made by Robert M. Shelton, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan:

According to Shelton, Martin Luther King, Jr., and his organization (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) are "broke" and King recently approached the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York to arrange for a loan of \$500,000 which was turned down. King has now arranged through "the Deacons" to create a racial disturbance in Chicago, Illinois, within the next two or three weeks which will be similar to the riots in Los Angeles, California, this past summer. "The Deacons" will bring their forces out of Pennsylvania and New Jersey to participate in the Chicago disturbance. King will then step in and put down the disturbance. It is Shelton's claim that King is doing this to raise funds as he always obtains money after racial incidents and marches in which he is involved. Shelton also claimed that King will be the Democratic Party nominee for Vice President in the next election.

This Bureau has not received any information from any other source which would serve to corroborate Shelton's claims.

"The Deacons" referred to by Shelton may be a reference to the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., an all-Negro militant organization which was organized in Louisiana in 1964 and incorporated under the laws of Louisiana for the purpose of its members defending themselves against Klan violence and to provide protection not given by local police authorities. Its leaders have encouraged Negroes to arm themselves and have formed roving patrols in an effort to discourage Klan-type violence. The October 15, 1965, issue of the "Chicago Daily News" reported a statement by the Vice President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., to the effect that a Chicago chapter was being formed and that it would be the organization's first chapter in the North.

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By 8j NARA, Date 8-29-01

RECEIVED
W. MARVIN WATSON

1965 NOV 5 PM 7 06

~~SECRET~~

4



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

October 12, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information is also being furnished
to the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney
General.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

October 12, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Previous memoranda from this Bureau have advised of the position which Martin Luther King, Jr., has taken relative to the Vietnam situation. The following additional information has been supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past:

On October 10, 1965, King conferred with Clarence Jones who is a frequent advisor to King. During the mid-1950's, Jones held a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Jones told King that a committee of lawyers, not further identified, had prepared a brief concerning Vietnam and that Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska and Senator Wayne Lyman Morse of Oregon had placed the brief in the Congressional Record during the past week. (It is noted that the Congressional Record for September 23, 1965, identifies the group to which the Senators had made reference as the Lawyers' Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam, 38 Park Row, New York City.) The basis of the brief is that there is no legal basis for the United States Army being in Vietnam in that there has been no Congressional authorization for it and it is not in conformity with statutory procedures. Jones said that on the basis of this brief Senators Gruening and Morse had prepared a resolution to be introduced in the Senate. The basis of the resolution is that no American draftee can be sent to Vietnam unless he consents or unless there has been prior Congressional authorization for sending him.

Jones further told King that President Lyndon B. Johnson heard about the resolution and asked Senator Gruening to come to the President's office. The President asked Senator Gruening that the resolution not be introduced. Jones told King that the important thing was that Senator Gruening was asked by the President to hold off the resolution because, as Jones quoted the President,

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I promise that we will be out of Vietnam by the first of January, and if we are not, then you and the supporters of that resolution can move forward." Jones said that he wanted King to have this information so that when King is faced with criticism on King's position relative to Vietnam, King would know of this as a background. King and Jones agreed with this. King then stated, "As I have said all along, there is much more support for my position than the press is willing to admit." King concluded by stating, "There is no doubt about it, the position of our Government is wrong and it is getting wronger every day."

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5

October 1, 1965
8:50 p. m.

(2) 10/1
NR

Mr. President:

Other information that Martin
Luther King is attempting to back-
track from his position of writing
letters to North Viet Nam.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-236
By SLH NARA, Date 11-28-01

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5a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

September 30, 1965

BY LIAISON

**Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.**

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

**The enclosed information is also
being furnished to the Attorney General
and to other interested officials of the
Government.**

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 30, 1965



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By memoranda dated September 15 and September 16, 1965, information was furnished concerning meetings which Martin Luther King, Jr., had with his advisors regarding the Vietnam situation, with specific reference to a contemplated change in King's public expressions on the matter. The following additional information has been supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

On September 28, 1965, King again conferred with his advisors, including Stanley Levison, Bayard Rustin and Harry Wachtel.

King stated that the main thing he wanted to discuss was the Vietnam situation and the question of the letters concerning peace in Vietnam which he had previously indicated he intended to send to the leaders of the nations involved. King said that if he did not write the letters he would need a reason for not writing them. King said that he has several reasons for not writing the letters and felt that these reasons should be made known by a press release rather than a press conference. King indicated that he might say that after consulting with his attorneys about the Logan Act it was felt that he should not write the letters because he would not want to violate the Logan Act, which was a law about which he knew nothing when he first announced his intention to write the letters. King said that another reason for not writing the letters is that they would not serve any useful purpose. He indicated that he was trying to avoid criticism to the effect that he was forced to "back up" and that some of the criticism he anticipates will be to the effect that President Lyndon B. Johnson or Arthur Goldberg, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, had persuaded him to abandon the idea of writing letters.

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declassification

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

It is to be noted that the Logan Act proscribes United States citizens from carrying on correspondence, without the authority of the United States, with any foreign government with intent to influence the conduct of such foreign government in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States.

Levison expressed the view that King could say that in his, King's, judgment he felt the time was not right and that King might wait and send the letters later as the occasion arises. By doing this Levison feels that King would not be backing up, but just waiting to determine that the time would be right.

Both Levison and Rustin suggested that the gist of King's statement should indicate that King's original thought regarding his comments on Vietnam and his proposal to correspond with world leaders was that some worth-while purpose would be served. However, in view of recent developments, King should indicate that he now feels that his proposed letters would "no longer be necessary." In explanation of "recent developments" it was suggested that King point out that he felt that the United Nations previously was not functioning properly, but that the recent United Nations participation in the India-Pakistan conflict indicates that the United Nations is functioning properly.

Rustin stated that he did not like the Logan Act which he described as a "stupid law" and that it should be broken by someone.

Wachtel opined that for King to say that he did not know about the law would cause people to snicker at him. Wachtel believes that what King originally said expressed King's views fully and carried out King's original purpose.

Rustin then went on to state that if the question of the letters is brought up at some future press conference it should be brushed aside by King. Rustin believes that to have a press conference or press release concerning Vietnam is a mistake because it does not relieve the pressure which King desires released. (The reference to the "pressure" is an apparent reference to considerable criticism which King has

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

been subjected to for having expressed himself concerning the Vietnam situation.) Rustin said, in reference to King, "We want him to be a civil rights leader." Levison concurred in this view by commenting that King should remain basically a civil rights leader and not a peace leader.

Stanley Levison is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963.

Harry Wachtel has been a member of the National Lawyers Guild, an organization which has been designated as a communist front by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives.

During the early 1940's Bayard Rustin was a member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has been designated subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. The records of this Bureau's Identification Division contain the following arrest record for Bayard Rustin. On January 12, 1944, he was arrested for violation of the Selective Service Act and on February 17, 1944, received a sentence of three years. On September 15, 1948, he was arrested in New York City on a disorderly conduct charge and was sentenced to 15 days. On January 21, 1953, he was arrested at Pasadena, California, for offering to engage in an act of sex perversion of a homosexual nature, which he admitted and for which he was sentenced to serve 60 days.

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6



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

September 30, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information has also been furnished
to the Attorney General and other interested
officials of the Department of Justice.

~~SECRET~~

L

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

(2) 17
N

September 17, 1965
7:25 p. m.

Mr. President:

Harry Wachtel, advisor of Martin Luther King, will try to get the New York Times to print an editorial supporting King's right to speak on Vietnam. Also another advisor, Bayard Rustin, will try to get Senator Douglas to issue a statement in behalf of King's right to express his opinion.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLI 01-236
By sj/th NARA, Date 11-28-01

~~SECRET~~

7a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

(W)

September 16, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

The attached information is also being
furnished to the Attorney General and to
other interested officials of the Government.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

(u)

September 16, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

By memorandum dated September 15, 1965, information was furnished about a meeting on September 12, 1965, between Martin Luther King, Jr., and a group of his advisors concerning the Vietnam situation. The following additional information has been supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past:

On September 13, 1965, King again conferred with a group of his advisors, including Bayard Rustin, Stanley Levison, Harry Wachtel, Clarence Jones, Andrew Young and Cleveland Robinson.

The conference opened with an agreement that King would not write letters concerning the Vietnam situation to the leaders of the countries having a prime interest in the Vietnam conflict.

In the main, the conference dealt with the possibility of obtaining statements from persons of influence backing King's right to speak out on the Vietnam situation as he did and counter-acting the criticism he has received for so doing.

It was agreed that Harry Wachtel should attempt to persuade "The New York Times" to print an editorial supporting King's right to speak out on Vietnam. Also, publications such as "The Nation," "Saturday Review" and "The Christian Century" will be requested to print editorials supporting King.

It was further agreed that Bayard Rustin would contact Senator Paul H. Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, to attempt to get Douglas to issue a statement in behalf of King's right to express his opinions.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj, NARA, Date 8-24-01

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Martin Luther King, Jr.

King, after listening to the various opinions and decisions of his advisors, stated that it should be made clear that he is not turning his attention from the civil rights movement. However, he said he realized that his "star is waning" because of his statements concerning Vietnam. He declared that he wants to temporarily put that issue behind him, that the central issue before him is civil rights, but that he will speak out when necessary.

During the early 1940's, Bayard Rustin was a member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has been designated subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. The records of this Bureau's Identification Division contain the following arrest record for Bayard Rustin. On January 12, 1944, he was arrested for violation of the Selective Service Act and on February 14, 1944, received a sentence of three years. On September 15, 1948, he was arrested in New York City on a disorderly conduct charge and was sentenced to fifteen days. On January 21, 1953, he was arrested at Pasadena, California, for offering to engage in an act of sex perversion of a homosexual nature, which he admitted and for which he was sentenced to serve sixty days.

Stanley Levison is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, U.S.A., has been established as recently as July, 1963. Harry Wachtel has been a member of the National Lawyers Guild, an organization which has been designated as a communist front by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives. Clarence Jones reportedly held a position of leadership during the mid-1950's in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. Andrew Young is a member of King's staff with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Cleveland Robinson is Secretary-Treasurer of District 65, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations.

~~SECRET~~

J

8

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1965
8:20 p.m.

L

Mr. President:

Martin Luther King is convinced that you persuaded Senator Dodd to criticize his public stand after his conference with Ambassador Goldberg. King says that he is not strong enough to carry on two struggles at the same time, the civil rights battle and the Vietnam peace struggle. He says that he had to conceive some graceful means whereby he can withdraw since he is convinced that his plea would be rebuffed by Ho Chi Minh. King says that he must get back to civil rights.

One of King's advisers is still Stanley Levison who is a long-time Communist.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NJ 01-236
By sj/th NARA, Date 11-28-01

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8a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

September 15, 1965

BY LIAISON

**Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.**

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

**This information has also been furnished
to the Attorney General and other interested
officials of the Government.**

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

September 15, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

By memoranda dated August 5, 12 and 16, 1965, information was furnished regarding proposed letters from King to President Lyndon B. Johnson and to Ho Chi Minh, President of North Vietnam, concerning the Vietnam situation. The following additional information has been supplied by a confidential source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past:

On September 12, 1965, a conference took place between King and some of his advisors concerning the position King had taken after his meeting on September 10, 1965, with United States Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur J. Goldberg. Among those present at the conference, besides King, were Stanley Levison, Harry Wachtel, Clarence Jones, Andrew Young and Wyatt Walker.

King stated he had been criticized for the position he had taken and he specifically had in mind the criticism leveled at him by Senator Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut. King declared he was convinced that President Johnson had persuaded Dodd to criticize him since he, King, feels that the Administration considers he is going too far in urging the seating of Red China in the United Nations and the ending of the bombings of North Vietnam. In addition, King felt the press was being stacked against him. King said the average mind is not sophisticated enough to analyze Dodd's statement and what it means. If they were, they would know that Dodd is the "strongest supporter of the FBI and its invasion of privacy" and of the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives.

"The Washington Post," a daily newspaper published in Washington, D.C., issue of September 12, 1965, reported that Senator Dodd had stated that King is alienating much of the

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NJ 01-235
By Sj NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~-SECRET-~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.

support he has enjoyed in Congress by speaking on foreign policy matters and urging the admission of Communist China to the United Nations. King "is a man of unquestioned competence in the field of civil rights," Dodd reportedly said, "but he has absolutely no competence to speak about complex matters of foreign policy."

King stated he is not strong enough to carry on two struggles at the same time, the civil rights battle and the Vietnam peace struggle. In view of this, King requested the opinions of his advisors on three things: how to get across to the public that he is not alone in his position; how to deal with the Dodd statement; and finally, concerning his plan to write letters to the heads of the countries involved in Vietnam. With regard to the letters, he said he had to conceive some graceful means whereby he can withdraw since he is convinced that his plea would be rebuffed by Ho Chi Minh.

King stated he must forget the peace issue and get back to civil rights since he had concluded that he cannot battle "these forces who are out to defeat my influence." King continued, "They will take the Communist China thing and what Dodd said and use it to say I am under the influence of communists, which may confuse some of our supporters and contributors."

Following King's statements, his advisors expressed their opinions. However, it was the position of Levison and Wachtel which was well received. They said King should answer by stating that he had spoken his part and had never "purported to lead this struggle and I'm going back to my regular work."

The group agreed that a national campaign would be started to enlist the aid of prominent government, church and civil rights leaders to answer Dodd's criticism.

Stanley Levison is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, U.S.A., has been established as recently as July, 1963. Harry Wachtel has been a member of the National Lawyers Guild, an organization which has been designated as a communist front by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives. Clarence Jones

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Martin Luther King, Jr.

reportedly held a position of leadership during the mid-1950's in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. Andrew Young is a member of King's staff with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Wyatt Walker is a former staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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W. MARVIN WATSON

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9



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 10, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The following information which was furnished by a source who has supplied reliable information in the past may be of interest to the President as indicative of the continuing relationship between Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Stanley David Levison. Levison, a frequent advisor of King's, is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963.

On September 6, 1965, King conferred with Levison regarding an article which is scheduled to appear in "The New York Times Magazine" sometime in the future. The article which will be attributed to King will deal with the civil rights movement in general and the recent riot in Los Angeles, California, in particular.

Levison requested King's comments regarding the draft of this article which he had prepared at King's request. King stated that he thought the article was good but he indicated that he desired to change a few points. Specifically, King mentioned the statement at the end of the article which inferred that the only way to solve the Negro problem was to have a march of 100,000 people and the statement that none of the major cities have good mayors. King felt that the latter statement should read "Only a few major cities have good mayors, Mayor Allen of Atlanta, Georgia, being one of them." King further referred to the statement that the riots

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ NARA, Date 8-29-01

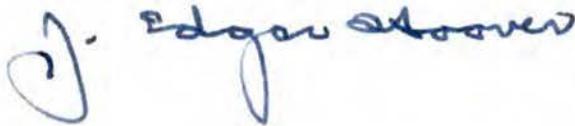
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Honorable Marvin Watson

cast light on the imperfections of the civil rights movement. King commented that this statement was too strong and would expose him to the criticism of other civil rights leaders. King and Levison agreed that this statement should be modified and should read that the riots exposed the imperfections of the civil rights movement as well as those factions in the "social-economic" life of the community.

The above information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and interested officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "H".

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10



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

①

September 9, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The following information concerning the continuing relationship between Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Stanley David Levison, may be of interest to the President. Levison is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963.

On September 2, 1965, a source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that King is to address the convention of District 65 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Congress of Industrial Organizations, and that King had instructed Levison and Clarence Jones to prepare a speech for him. King did not indicate where the convention will be held. Clarence Jones is a frequent advisor to King and, during the mid-1950's, held a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The source further advised that King desired that Levison and Jones prepare an additional speech for him to be entitled "The Dignity of Family Life." The source indicated that King will deliver this speech in the near future, but did not know the date nor the occasion on which this latter speech was to be delivered.

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Group 1

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declassification

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

Honorable Marvin Watson

The above information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and other interested officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

September 9, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information has also been furnished
to the Attorney General and other interested
officials of the Government.

~~SECRET~~



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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

(u)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 9, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

By memorandum August 23, 1965, information was furnished regarding the proposed meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and United States Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur J. Goldberg during which United States foreign policy relative to Vietnam would be discussed.

A confidential informant of this Bureau, who has supplied reliable information in the past, has advised that this meeting will take place on the morning of September 10, 1965, in New York City and that King will be accompanied by two of his advisors, Bayard Rustin and Harry Wachtel.

During the early 1940's Bayard Rustin was a member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has been designated subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. The records of this Bureau's Identification Division contain the following arrest record for Bayard Rustin. On January 12, 1944, he was arrested for violation of the Selective Service Act and on February 14, 1944, received a sentence of three years. On September 15, 1948, he was arrested in New York City on a disorderly conduct charge and was sentenced to fifteen days. On January 21, 1953, he was arrested at Pasadena, California, for offering to engage in an act of sex perversion of a homosexual nature, which he admitted and for which he was sentenced to serve sixty days.

In the late 1940's Harry Wachtel was a member of the National Lawyers Guild, an organization which has been cited as a communist front by the Committee on

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ NARA, Date 8-29-01

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives. On March 5, 1944, a confidential source advised that the name Harry Wachtel was on a list of names, significance not known, which was maintained at the headquarters of the Kings County Communist Party at 26 Court Street, Brooklyn, New York.

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B

12

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1965
7:10 p.m.

Mr. President:

Martin Luther King, Jr., seeking an assistant in the event King undertakes a syndicated newspaper column and a radio program.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-236
Bj/th NARA, Date 11-28-01

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 7, 1965

BY LIAISON

(W)

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The following information, which was supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past, may be of interest to the President.

On August 25, 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and his Executive Assistant Andrew J. Young discussed King's need for an assistant in the event King undertakes a syndicated newspaper column and a radio program. King indicated that he felt there had been so much criticism of and misunderstanding in the civil rights field that a newspaper column and a radio program would be of considerable assistance to the civil rights movement. King commented that he believed that he should get started with both a newspaper column and a radio program and he instructed Young to find someone to assist him in these endeavors.

On August 27, 1965, Young contacted officials of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., and in Connecticut in an effort to secure the services of someone who might be in a position to assist King in connection with his proposed syndicated newspaper column and radio program.

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Group 1

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declassification

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NJ 01-235
By SJ, NARA, Date 8-29-01

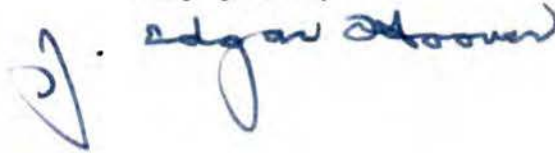
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Honorable Marvin Watson

You will be kept advised of further pertinent developments in this matter.

The above information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and interested officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" at the beginning.

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~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 3, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The following information concerning the current relationship between Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Stanley David Levison may be of interest to the President. Levison, a frequent advisor of King's, is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963. This information was supplied by sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

On August 27, 1965, Levison and Andrew J. Young, Executive Assistant to King, were registered at the Hilton Inn Motel, Hapeville, Georgia, and were working on an article for King which is to appear in "The New York Times Magazine." On August 27, 1965, Special Agents of this Bureau were in a position to discreetly observe Levison and King in the same room at the Hilton Inn Motel.

On August 30, 1965, information was received that a meeting of the "Research Committee" of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference would be held on that date in the office of Harry Wachtel, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, New York. Harry Wachtel is the Executive Vice President of the Ghandi Society for Human Rights, New York, New York, an organization which serves to raise funds for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The following observations were made by Special Agents of this Bureau on August 30, 1965. At 12:55 p.m., King and

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ, NARA, Date 8-29-01

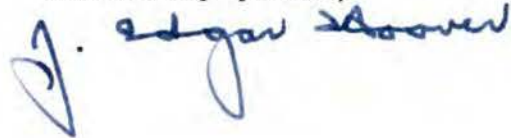
~~SECRET~~

Honorable Marvin Watson

Bernard Lee, King's assistant, entered the building at 575 Madison Avenue. At 1:02 p.m., Bayard Rustin, a key advisor of King's and former Assistant Secretary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, entered the building, followed by Stanley Levison who entered at 1:15 p.m. At 1:32 p.m., John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, entered the building, followed by Clarence Jones, General Counsel of the Ghandi Society for Human Rights. King, Lee, Rustin and Lewis were observed leaving the building at 6:18 p.m. and at 6:24 p.m., Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones left the building together. The nature of the meeting was not known to the source.

The above information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and interested officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is stylized, with a large "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

~~SECRET~~

14
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1965
7:05 p.m.

Mr. President:

Information on proposed meeting
between Ambassador Goldberg
and Martin Luther King that you
may find of interest.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-236
By sj/h NARA, Date 11-28-01

~~SECRET~~

14a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

August 26, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information has also been
furnished to the Attorney General and
other officials of the Government.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

August 26, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

It has been previously reported that an assistant to the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur J. Goldberg was in touch with the office of Martin Luther King, Jr., on August 17, 1965. It was indicated by the assistant that Ambassador Goldberg is interested in the views held by King concerning Vietnam and wished to discuss Vietnam with King. Arrangements were made whereby this assistant would be advised as to when King would be in New York City. A confidential informant of this Bureau who has supplied reliable information in the past has furnished the following information:

On August 25, 1965, King stated he wished to arrange a conference with Ambassador Goldberg for 10 a. m. on August 31, 1965, and desired that two of his advisors, Bayard Rustin and Harry Wachtel, be permitted to attend this conference. King instructed that as soon as the conference with Ambassador Goldberg is confirmed, a press release should be made to the wire services and New York newspapers regarding the conference as he feels this will lend dignity to his recently stated stand regarding Vietnam.

During the early 1940's, Bayard Rustin was a member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has been designated subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The records of this Bureau's Identification Division, FBI Number 3 808 121, contain the following arrest record for Bayard Rustin. On January 12, 1944, he was arrested for violation of the Selective Service Act and on February 14, 1944, received a sentence of three years. On September 15, 1948, he was arrested in New York City on a disorderly conduct charge and was sentenced to fifteen days. On January 21, 1953, he was arrested at Pasadena, California, for offering to engage in an act of sex perversion of a homosexual nature, which he admitted and for which he was sentenced to serve sixty days.

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NIJ 01-235
By Sj, NARA, Date 8-24-01

~~SECRET~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the late 1940's, Harry Wachtel was a member of the National Lawyers Guild, an organization which has been cited as a communist front by the Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives.

~~SECRET~~

X

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 23, 1965
9:00 p. m.

Mr. President:

Ambassador Goldberg interested
in discussing Viet Nam with
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NJ 01-236
By SP/Th NARA, Date 11-28-01

~~SECRET~~

15a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

August 23, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This information has also been
furnished to the Attorney General and
other interested Government officials.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

15b



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

W

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

August 23, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

It has been previously reported that Martin Luther King, Jr., has made public expressions concerning the United States foreign policy relative to Vietnam. A confidential informant of this Bureau who has supplied reliable information in the past has furnished the following information:

An assistant to the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur J. Goldberg was in touch with the office of Martin Luther King, Jr., on August 17, 1965. It was indicated by the assistant that Ambassador Goldberg is interested in the views held by King concerning Vietnam and wishes to discuss Vietnam with King. Arrangements were made whereby this assistant will be advised as to when King will be in New York City.

~~SECRET~~

Group 1

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downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

16



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

August 16, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

~~SECRET~~



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

August 16, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

It has been previously reported that Stanley David Levison, a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963, has been influencing Martin Luther King, Jr., concerning the Vietnam situation. The following additional information has been supplied by a confidential informant of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past.

On August 13, 1965, Miss Dora McDonald, secretary to King, contacted Levison and advised that "The New York Times" had asked King to answer twelve questions. She said that King desired Levison to prepare answers to the questions. Levison subsequently contacted Miss McDonald and furnished proposed answers to the twelve questions which Miss McDonald said she would give to King for his approval. The questions and Levison's proposed replies are as follows:

(1) In a recent statement King noted that several peace organizations had approached him concerning Vietnam. What specific groups are they? Reply: Among others, the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and Women Strike for Peace. (These are pacifist organizations.)

(2) What is the text of the letter which King intends to send to President Johnson and to Ho Chi Minh, President of North Vietnam? Reply: When the text is finalized, a copy will be made available.

(3) How will the letter be sent? Reply: These details have not been planned as yet.

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.

(4) Should the United States remain in Vietnam if the South Vietnamese ask us to leave? Reply: "I believe we would have no moral or juridical basis for remaining if a sovereign government demands that we leave its territory."

(5) Can King be more specific concerning his attitude on escalation of the war? Reply: "Escalation is expressed in so many degrees and is related to escalation on the other side, so that I can discuss it only in concrete terms. It is impossible to generalize."

(6) King said that he is not blaming either government for the war. Who is to blame? Reply: "There is blame on both sides because each has made responses too readily through means of violence without an earnest search for reduction of violence. I am encouraged by the restraint President Johnson has manifested both in action and in words and I believe the exercise of restraint will ultimately lead faster to constructive negotiation than will the flexing of the muscles of military power which the whole world knows we possess in terrifying abundance."

(7) What specific proposals would King have to make? Reply: I have not formulated specific proposals for ending the war and I am not sure I have competence in that area.

(8) Is King seriously thinking of going to Vietnam and under what circumstances? Reply: "I have no plans to go to Vietnam."

(9) Will King's letter also be sent to the United Nations? Reply: There are no plans for a letter to the United Nations because it is not a combatant nor an ally of any combatant. This does not imply it has no role. Its role is substantial but different.

(10) Will King contact United States officials concerning his plans; for example, Governors, Senators, Representatives or diplomats? Reply: "I have no body of plans which could be the subject of discussions. I am expressing a point of view which will be self-explanatory and I sincerely hope useful for those who have the responsibility to make plans."

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.

(11) King states that he is following a path of non-violence but Reverend James Bevel recently made statements indicating that he is more militant. Can King reconcile this and is Bevel speaking for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference or as an individual? (Bevel is a member of King's staff on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which organization King heads.) Reply: "The emphasis James Bevel places on peace activity in relation to civil rights activity differs from mine because I am not presently proposing any change in the direction or the character of our civil rights work. He has the right to express his analysis and has done so."

(12) Reverend Bevel stated that the civil rights movement has been legislated out of business. Will King comment on this? Reply: "I do not agree with James Bevel's view that the civil rights movement has been legislated out of existence. We still have so far to go I cannot see the end of the road even now. I see the need for a multiplicity of additional legislative reforms which will take years of struggle fully to achieve."

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

August 12, 1965

BY LIAISON *X*

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

17a

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

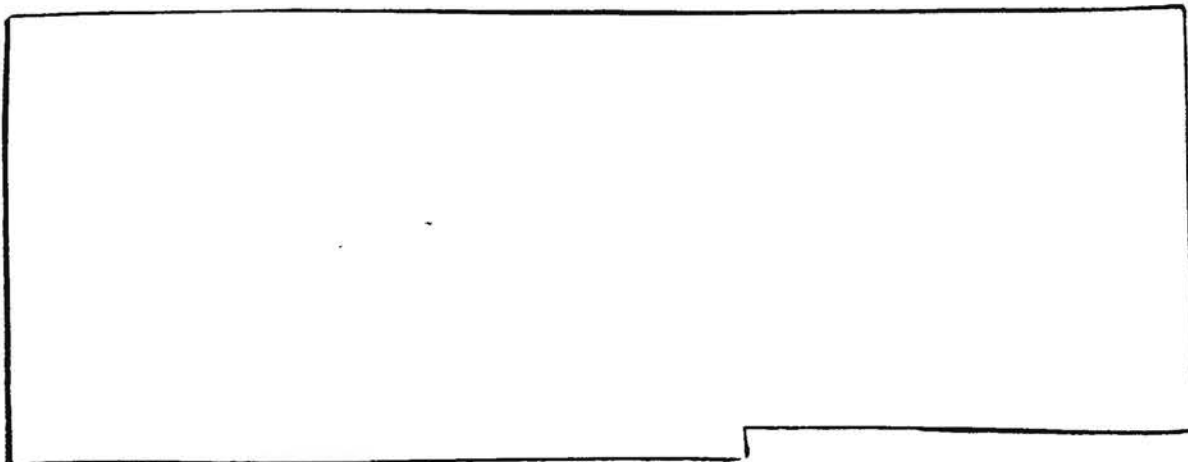
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

August 12, 1965

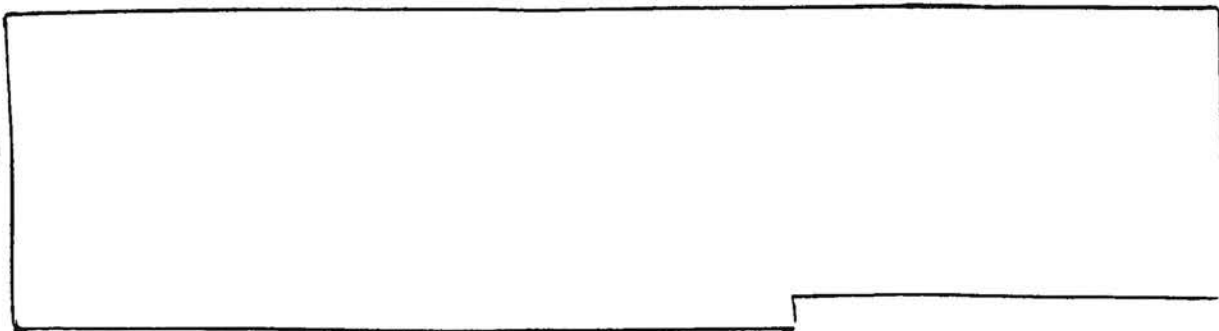
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

It has been previously reported that Martin Luther King, Jr., had under consideration the mailing of letters to President Lyndon B. Johnson and to Ho Chi Minh, President of North Vietnam, concerning the Vietnam situation. The following additional information has been supplied by confidential informants of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

3.4(b)(1)(b)



3.4(b)(1)(b)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUP 1

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downgrading and
declassification

SANITIZED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235 Appeal
By clm, NARA, Date 6-19-03



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

August 5, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

Confidential sources of this Bureau who have supplied reliable information in the past have furnished the following information.

Bayard Rustin and Harry Wachtel, advisors of Martin Luther King, Jr., recently conferred regarding the position of King on Vietnam. They both stated their fear that King might take some precipitous action before they are consulted. They, therefore, agreed to present an idea to King that is politically useful and through which they could creatively inject King into the crisis. Rustin's idea is to have King write President Lyndon B. Johnson stating that King was happy to have a chance to talk with the President about Vietnam and that "he was reassured that he was prepared to negotiate with all governments but that the situation is so grave, both morally and politically, that he should leave no stone unturned for the whole world to see that he is prepared to negotiate with anyone in an effort to bring the war to a close and that he would recommend that in order to deal with what has been a very confused matter, that he (the President) be prepared to include Ho Chi Minh and the leader of the Viet Cong in the negotiations." By doing this, Rustin said, the way would be paved for King to write a letter to Ho Chi Minh stating that he had talked with the President and written to him and that he felt that it was time for Ho Chi Minh to make clear that he was prepared to go to the negotiating table in the interest of humanity. Rustin said that King could write as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and King could read the letters he had written to the two leaders at a public affair, thereby casting an image of King as a great moral leader.

Wachtel indicated that before he would agree to the foregoing he would first desire to have a conference call with King on this matter.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - C

Rustin, during the early 1940's, was a member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. Wachtel has been a member of the National Lawyers Guild, an organization which has been described as a communist front by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

~~SECRET~~

20 11 5
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 23, 1965
7:31 p.m.

Mr. President:

Martin Luther King, Jr., telling his
secretary about his conversation with
you.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NJ 01-236
By g/4h NARA, Date 11-28-01

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 23, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I thought that the President would be interested in the following information which has been furnished by a confidential source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past.

On July 16, 1965, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, stated to his secretary, Dora E. McDonald, that during the preceding week he had spoken at some length with the President and had "hit" the President hard in regard to Vietnam. King related that his conversation with the President on the whole had been a pleasant one and the President told him he was glad he had called. King told McDonald that the President realizes "he made a mistake in Vietnam but does not know how to get out of it."

King also advised McDonald that he had prepared a telegram to Thurgood Marshall congratulating him on the recent publicity pertaining to Marshall having received an appointment from the United States Government. King mentioned he had sent a telegram to the President commending him on his support of civil rights and his consideration of Thurgood Marshall.

Sincerely yours,

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NJ 01-235

By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

74

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

100

July 20, 1965
7:18 p.m.

Mr. President :

Martin Luther King, Jr. , mentioned
that he had not observed a willingness
on the part of the US to negotiate with
the Viet Cong.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLI 01-236
By g/th NARA, Date 11-28-01

~~SECRET~~

20a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 20, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

July 20, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

A confidential source of this Bureau, who has supplied reliable information in the past, has furnished the following information concerning the continued involvement of Martin Luther King, Jr., in the current Vietnam situation.

On July 14, 1965, King conferred with one Doctor Jerry Reed (phonetic) concerning the current international situation. This Bureau's source had no information to further identify Reed. Reed told King that if King were able to stimulate some African nations he, Reed, believed that such nations could force the Chinese to sit down at the conference table. King referred to a statement which Reed apparently had previously prepared regarding Vietnam and King commented that he felt that the statement placed too much blame on China and Hanoi. King also mentioned that he had not observed a willingness on the part of the United States to negotiate with the Viet Cong.

In response to King's comments, Reed said that he would reword his text and soften the "placing-of-the-blame bit" and merely take a neutral attitude. Reed said that it is his hope that a group of some African countries might henceforth be able to negotiate for a cease-fire.

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01

39

58
21

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 19, 1965
7:36 p.m.

Mr. President:

Information that Martin Luther King, Jr.,
is meeting with known Communist by the
name of Levison.

Levison reportedly is asking Senators
Robert Kennedy of New York and Thomas
Kuchel of California to speak to the
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
in Alabama sometime between August 9-13.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLI 01-236
By g/h NARA, Date 11/28/01

~~SECRET~~

21a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 19, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

215

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 19, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

The following information was obtained from confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past and from observations by Special Agents of this Bureau. This information concerns the continuing relationship between Stanley David Levison and Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which organization King heads. Levison is a frequent advisor to King and a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963.

Levison, whose residence is in New York City, visited Atlanta, Georgia, from July 11 to 13, 1965. Prior to his trip, Levison told an employee of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that he had proposed a fund-raising program of which King approves and which King plans to present to a future meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference. Levison expressed the opinion that Ralph Abernathy, Treasurer of the Conference, will oppose his program inasmuch as it requires an initial expenditure of money. Levison believed that Abernathy would not desire to spend the money even though it will eventually raise more funds for them. Levison's proposal calls for soliciting funds through various churches. Levison planned to see Abernathy in Atlanta on this matter.

On July 12, 1965, several staff members of the Conference were observed having a luncheon meeting at an Atlanta restaurant. Included among those present were King, Levison and Cordy T. Vivian who was a member of the Communist Party, USA, in 1947. After luncheon, this group adjourned to a near-by business office. On July 12, 1965, Mrs. Coretta King, the wife of Martin, indicated that she was planning on having Stanley Levison at her home for dinner that evening.

~~SECRET~~

Group 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NJ 01-235
By SJ NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

On July 14, 1965, Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones, who is also an advisor of King, conferred concerning King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Levison referred to a trip he had made to Atlanta, Georgia, beginning July 11, 1965, to discuss with King affairs of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, including a convention. In this connection, it is noted that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference plans to hold a convention in Birmingham, Alabama, August 9 to 13, 1965.

Levison told Jones that he and Jones are to work on draft resolutions for the convention and he, Levison, felt that there should be a resolution on Vietnam. Levison said that King had received a statement from Linus Pauling which generally follows the suggestions of U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations, for a cease-fire and settlement on the basis of the Geneva Conference. Levison said that this statement has been signed by every living Nobel Peace Prize winner except Ralph Bunche and that the convention could endorse this statement and do it appropriately. Pauling is a Nobel Prize winner and a well-known pacifist.

Levison also told Jones that they are trying to get speakers for the convention and suggested Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York. It was agreed to ask Kennedy and Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California.

During the mid-1950's, Jones held a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been cited as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

2a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 16, 1965

BY LIAISON

(V)

77 Honorable Lee C. White
Special Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. White:

Reference is made to your memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 9, 1965, which forwarded a letter to the President dated July 4, 1965, from Irving Jay Fain, 400 Laurel Avenue, Providence 6, Rhode Island. Fain's letter is attached. Fain charged in his letter that a Mr. Sullivan of the Federal Bureau of Investigation stated in a recent briefing session at The National War College that it was widely known that the Reverend Martin Luther King was a homosexual.

Assistant Director William C. Sullivan of this Bureau delivered an address before the Defense Strategy Seminar, The National War College, Washington, D. C., on June 28, 1965, on the subject, "Internal Security." The members of the Seminar held security clearance through Secret. Mr. Sullivan's address and the question-and-answer period that followed was a classified discussion up to and including Secret.

Mr. Sullivan made no mention of King in his address although the role of King in the civil rights movement was brought up by one of those present in the question-and-answer period. Mr. Sullivan neither praised King nor referred to him as a homosexual.

The Director of the Defense Strategy Seminar has advised that the records of the Seminar did not list Fain as having been present at the Seminar.

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

SANITIZED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 01-235

By S, NARA, Date 8-29-01

~~SECRET~~

Honorable Lee C. White

The files of this Bureau indicate that Fain is the Secretary of Apex Tire and Rubber Company, Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He was a contributor in 1957, 1960, and 1962 to the Southern Conference Educational Fund. This organization was previously known as the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and under that name was cited as a communist front by the Committee on Un-American Activities. Mr. Fain was listed as a reference in a United States passport application filed at Tokyo, Japan, by one Harry Francis Alber, who was indicted by a Federal grand jury in 1952 for violation of Section 1001, Title 18, United States Code, based on denial that he was a member of the Communist Party.

[REDACTED]

3.4
(b)(1)(6)

In any reply to Fain, you may desire to point out to him that Assistant Director William C. Sullivan of the Federal Bureau of Investigation delivered an address before the Defense Strategy Seminar, The National War College, Washington, D. C., in June, 1965. It also could be pointed out to him that since this was a classified discussion, you are not at liberty to disclose to him exactly what was said; however, you have looked into the matter and have ascertained that Mr. Sullivan did not state that Martin Luther King was a homosexual.

A copy of this letter is being furnished to the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

~~SECRET~~

53 21
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2
2
July 7, 1965
11:48 a.m.

Mr. President:

Believe you will find this report of interest. It concerns primarily Martin Luther King, Jr., and his position on your Vietnam policy. Relates how he is now following Communist lines and seems to have embraced their Communist lines, motives and purposes in this country.

Page 5 points out that other Civil Rights organizations have taken a position contrary to King's.

Marvin

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLI 01-236
By sy/th NARA, Date 11-28-01



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 7, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I am enclosing information which is being called to your attention as of possible interest to the President.

The enclosure concerns the position of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Communist Party, USA, concerning Vietnam.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "J. Edgar Hoover", is written below the "Sincerely yours," text.

Enclosure

~~SECRET~~



23b

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

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 7, 1965

THE POSITION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, ON VIETNAM

King Declares Himself Concerning Vietnam

Martin Luther King, Jr., declared in a speech on July 1, 1965, that he and his aides would study the use of "peace rallies" and so-called teach-ins to bring pressure to bear in foreign policy matters. Speaking at Petersburg, Virginia, King reportedly said that he "was not going to sit by and see war escalated without saying anything about it," and he called for a negotiated settlement, demanding that we "even negotiate with the Vietcong."

As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, one of the main civil rights organizations in this country, King's announced intention to inject himself and his organization into foreign policy issues was significant for several reasons.

Communist Influence on King Relative to Vietnam

Of primary significance in connection with King's announcement is the fact that several of his advisors with communist backgrounds are known to have been in favor of having King inject himself into the peace movement in opposition to our foreign policy on Vietnam. On May 13, 1965, Stanley Levison, Clarence Jones, and Cordy Vivian, advisors to King, met in New York City. They discussed the situation in Vietnam and the civil rights movement. Concerning Vietnam, Levison, a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963, told Jones and Vivian that if King would join with other clergymen in urging peace it would constitute a powerful influence because King had received the Nobel Peace Prize. Levison pointed out that King's stature could thus be exploited in that it would serve as a means of urging others to join the movement for peace.

It is to be noted that King confers with Levison, Jones, and Vivian frequently, and, in fact, on that particular

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj NARA, Date 8/29/01

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**THE POSITION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, ON VIETNAM**

occasion subsequently joined them at the meeting. Vivian was a member of the Communist Party in 1947, and Jones held a position of leadership during the mid-1950's in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

It should also be noted that another individual with a communist background who has been close to King wrote a speech which King's wife, Coretta, made at an "Emergency Rally on Vietnam" at Madison Square Garden in New York City on June 8, 1965. The speech was written by Bayard Rustin and was given by Coretta King in place of her husband at the Rally, the purpose of which was to ask President Johnson to stop the bombing, seek a cease fire, and press for negotiations in connection with the situation in Vietnam. Rustin, who also spoke at the Rally, was, during the early 1940's, a member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The Party Line Concerning Vietnam

The determination of King's advisors with communist backgrounds to have him inject himself into the peace movement surrounding the Vietnam situation at this time is another significant factor bearing on his announced intention to do so. The announcement comes at a time when the Communist Party, USA, has placed the Vietnam situation foremost among issues about which to center communist action in this country.

Beginning in the Fall of 1964, the Party began issuing instructions to rank-and-file members to concentrate on the Vietnam issue. Since that time, the Party has issued a virtual avalanche of directives to all Party districts containing instructions on activities to be followed to achieve the Party's objectives in regard to Vietnam. Condemning the "military aggression" of the United States against North Vietnam, Party Headquarters instructed district leaders to organize activities in trade unions, youth groups, religious organizations, peace groups, and the like. It instructed that steps be taken to cooperate in regard to activities of these groups involving picket lines, peace walks, student assemblies, and demonstrations aimed at protesting this Nation's foreign policy position on Vietnam.

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THE POSITION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, ON VIETNAM

Illustrating the increased tempo of communist activity in this regard is the fact that an analysis made of communist propaganda media during the six-month period beginning January 1, 1965, reveals that the "peace-in-Vietnam" theme was the predominant issue exploited.

Implementing the Party Line

Communists, their supporters, and their sympathizers have responded to the Party's campaign and the Party instructions on a broad scale. Typical was the communist exploitation of the student uprising which took place on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley, California, this past school year. Seizing the opportunity presented on that occasion, Herbert Aptheker, a leading national functionary of the Communist Party, appeared and spoke at a demonstration involving some 1,300 students in February, 1965. Encouraging the students to demonstrate in protest against the United States foreign policy on Vietnam, Aptheker declared that the war in Vietnam was the fault of the United States and a direct result of our intervention there.

Similarly, communists and individuals with communist backgrounds have exploited opportunities of a like nature in connection with the widespread demonstrations which have occurred in the country this past year. One of the best examples of the Party's tactics in this regard involves the communist-inspired W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America. At a national conference of that organization held in Chicago, Illinois, during the last three days of May, 1965, plans for mass protests against the policy of the United States in Vietnam, ties with international front groups, and cooperation with other organizations to protest United States policy were the principal topics of discussion.

Civil Rights Group Follows Party Line

In this connection, it is noteworthy that an announcement was made concerning the plans of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee to dramatize opposition to

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THE POSITION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, ON VIETNAM

United States policy in Vietnam. It was stated that this organization, which is one of the more militant civil rights groups, would attempt to recruit 2,000 people this summer for the purpose of surrounding the White House in a sit-down in September. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee is a prime target for communist infiltration since it has made it clear that it will accept support for its endeavors from anyone, including communists.

This announcement of the plans of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee is of particular interest because it constitutes the injection of a civil rights group into foreign policy protests, something the communists are most desirous of achieving to further their own objectives.

It can be clearly seen from the communist directives that the key to communist action on the central issue of Vietnam today is infiltration of all groups in our society through which the communists might in any way work to create opposition to our foreign policy. Since the civil rights movement embraces widespread groups and supporters constituting a major force on the national scene, the Communist Party sees in it a ready-made vehicle to organize widespread protests in line with its program of opposition to foreign policy if the Party's campaign is carefully executed.

King's Influence Potential for Party Exploitation

In this regard, Martin Luther King's emergence on the scene with the announced intention of participating in protests against our foreign policy in Vietnam cannot be lightly dismissed or underestimated. Whether it constitutes a witting or unwitting move on his part in relation to serving communist objectives, it holds out the prospect of additional support being engendered among civil rights groups for protest demonstrations against our current policy in Vietnam, and in turn holds out the prospect of additional opportunities for communist exploitation of the situation.

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THE POSITION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, ON VIETNAM

As to King's witting or unwitting role in this matter, it is most interesting to note that the heads of two other principal civil rights organizations in the country today have taken a position contrary to King's by opposing a merger of the issues of civil rights and Vietnam. James Farmer, head of the Congress of Racial Equality, told that organization's convention at Durham, North Carolina, on July 5, 1965, that their organization should stay out of the peace movement and concentrate on civil rights. Roy Wilkins, head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is reported as having commented concerning King's involvement in the Vietnam situation to the effect that his, Wilkins', organization was too busily engaged in civil rights matters to have any time left for becoming involved in the Vietnam crisis.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

June 17, 1965

BY LIAISON

A handwritten circled 'W' is located in the center of the page, below the date and 'BY LIAISON' text.

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I thought that the President would be interested in the following information which has been furnished by a confidential source of this Bureau who has supplied reliable information in the past.

On June 14, 1965, Mr. Goodwin of the White House staff contacted Martin Luther King, Jr., and discussed two pending vacancies in the "Fifth Circuit." Goodwin declared a Mr. Coleman was a possible candidate and that he had discussed Coleman with Attorney General Katzenbach and former Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall, both of whom feel Coleman is about the best candidate presently available. King stated that if a Mr. Wells from Texas was appointed, it would "put us in a strong position." He pointed out that Wells is highly recommended and his appointment would "lessen the possibility of strong protest." King advised that if Coleman was appointed, he would not raise much objection and would not make a "moral blast." Goodwin informed King that the President said that he would follow any alternative King suggested. Goodwin then stated he would check further into the matter and speak to King later in the week.

Mr. Coleman may be identical with James Plemon Coleman, former Governor of Mississippi from 1956 to 1960, who is now engaged in private law practice.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01

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Honorable Marvin Watson

Mr. Wells may be identical with one Leonard Nathaniel David Wells, Jr., who was a Teamster representative on the three-member court appointed monitor board for the Teamsters Union. He resigned from that position in March, 1959. One L. N. D. Wells, Jr., 420 United States Courthouse, Fort Worth, Texas, was listed on a membership list of the National Lawyers Guild in March, 1939. The National Lawyers Guild was cited as a communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311 on the Congress of Industrial Organizations Political Action Committee on March 29, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is stylized, with a large "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

June 8, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The following information is being called to your attention as of possible interest to the President.

A confidential source of this Bureau, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on June 4, 1965, the following transpired during a conference between Martin Luther King, Jr., and his secretary, Dora McDonald. King told McDonald that he had been contacted that day by Mr. Richard Goodwin of the White House Staff. Goodwin informed King that the President was making a commencement speech at an educational institution that evening and in the speech would make substantial reference to the civil rights movement in general. Goodwin desired to consult with King in regard to a civil rights matter relating to the President's speech. This Bureau's source had no further, specific information relating to this matter.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

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NLJ 01-235
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 15, 1965

BY LIAISON

W

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I am enclosing information which is being called to your attention as of possible interest to the President.

The enclosure concerns a meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr., and some of his advisors at which time matters pertaining to voter registration, Vietnam and peace were discussed.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General.

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

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 15, 1965

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS

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

At 10:08 a.m., May 13, 1965, Special Agents of this Bureau observed Stanley Levison enter the Sheraton Atlantic Hotel in New York City and take the elevator to the 16th floor where Martin Luther King, Jr. was registered in Room 1690. Commencing at 10:15 a.m., Levison conferred with some of King's advisors including Clarence Jones and Cordy Vivian. Their conference covered several matters including voter registration, Vietnam, peace and the civil rights movement in general. Levison said that what was needed in the civil rights movement was a broad base and that this could be realized by utilizing church groups and the clergy who have played a vital role in recent times. Concerning Vietnam and peace, Levison said that if King would join with other clergymen in urging peace, they would have a powerful voice due to King's having received the Nobel Peace Prize. King's stature could thus be capitalized on by urging others to join the movement for peace.

At 11:10 a.m., King joined the above group for a general conversation including the voter registration drive in Alabama. It was agreed by those present that they must insure that Alabama lives up to its promise to register 100 individuals per day.

At 12:40 p.m., King was observed to leave the Hotel with Jones. Levison was observed departing at 12:41 p.m.

Levison, a frequent advisor of King's, is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963. Jones is also a frequent advisor to King and during the mid-1950's held a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. Vivian was a member of the Communist Party, USA, in 1947.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

27

April 15, 1965

BY LIAISON



Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

My letter to you dated April 2, 1965, furnished information concerning a proposed boycott of Alabama products which had been announced by Martin Luther King, Jr. The following additional information which was furnished by confidential sources of this Bureau who have supplied reliable information in the past may be of interest to the President.

Two frequent advisors of King, Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones, recently conferred concerning the Alabama boycott. Levison indicated that he had met with King on April 4, 1965, at which time King sought Levison's opinion concerning the boycott. Levison stated that he told King it was not a sound policy; that King should back away from the boycott proposal; and that only new industries going into Alabama should be threatened with a boycott. Levison told Jones that King seemed to agree with Levison's advice.

Levison and Jones also discussed a new program recently adopted by King's organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to engage in voter registration activities in a number of southern states during the Summer of 1965. Levison told Jones that he, Levison, had also counseled King concerning this matter. Levison told King to avoid drifting into the summer without a program and while King's program appears to be a good one Levison has reservations about working in seventy counties. Levison does not believe it to be either safe or good from an organizational standpoint to spread out too much.

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Honorable Marvin Watson

Levison is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963. During the mid-1950's Jones held a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and interested officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a cursive "Hoover".

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. President:

For your information.

Marvin

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 30, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I thought that the President would be interested in the following information which was furnished by a source of this Bureau who has supplied reliable information in the past.

On March 27, 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr., was told by his secretary, Dora McDonald, that she had been called by a representative of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America. She was told that the funeral of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo would be held in Detroit, Michigan, March 30, 1965. Mrs. Liuzzo is the civil rights sympathizer who was murdered in Alabama March 25, 1965. Miss McDonald asked King whether he was going to attend the funeral and he said that he did not know. Miss McDonald then said that James R. Hoffa, President of the above-mentioned union, desires to give to King and King's organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, \$25,000. This donation is to be made at the funeral for Mrs. Liuzzo. Upon hearing this King replied, "I guess I'll have to go then."

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and other officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "J. Edgar Hoover", is written below the typed name.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ, NARA, Date 8-29-01

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 2, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The following information is being called to
your attention as of possible interest to the President.

A source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past has advised that Bayard Rustin, a frequent advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr., is attending a Board meeting of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference presently being held in Baltimore, Maryland. According to Rustin, a proposed boycott of Alabama products will be discussed at the meeting and Rustin indicated that he is trying to "bail out King on that stupid boycott thing." King reportedly will announce at a press conference on April 2, 1965, that he plans to ask for a limited rather than a complete boycott of Alabama products.

Rustin is a former member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has been cited as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

This information has been furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ, NARA, Date 8-29-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

30

3/11/65

Mr. President:

For your information:

Dr. King, Stanley David

Levison and others.

Marvin

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30a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 9, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The following information concerning the current relationship between Martin Luther King, Jr., and Stanley David Levison may be of interest to the President. This information was supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

On March 2, 1965, Levison and Clarence Jones discussed a forthcoming meeting between these two individuals and King. Jones said that sometime during the period March 3 through 5, 1965, King would see Levison and Jones. On March 4, 1965, Jones discussed with Bernard Lee, of King's staff, the planned conference between Jones and King and Lee told Jones that King would be available if Jones was to come to King's room, Number 4323, at the Americana Hotel in New York City at 1 p.m., that date.

The following observations were made by Special Agents of this Bureau on March 4, 1965. At 12:31 p.m. Levison was observed to enter the Americana Hotel, ask for the room of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and then take the elevator to the 43rd floor and enter Room 4323 at 12:36 p.m. At 12:40 p.m. King entered the Americana Hotel. At 1:25 p.m. Jones entered the Americana Hotel. At 3:55 p.m. Levison and Jones were observed leaving the Americana Hotel.

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NLJ 01-235
By SJ, NARA, Date 8-29-01

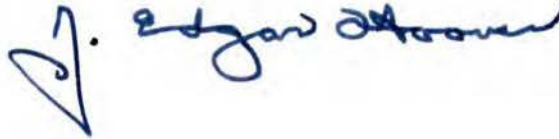
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Honorable Marvin Watson

Levison, a frequent advisor of King's, is a long-time communist whose secret membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established as recently as July, 1963. Jones is also a frequent advisor to King and during the mid-1950's held a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and interested officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 5, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

The President may be interested in the following information concerning Martin Luther King, Jr., which has been supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

Clarence Jones and Ossie Davis recently conferred concerning the safety of King. Jones is a close advisor to King and during the mid-1950's held a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, an organization which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450. Davis is a well-known author and playwright. During the latter part of 1963 a national functionary of the Communist Party, USA, stated that Davis was then a Party member.

During the recent Jones-Davis conference, Davis said he desired that President Lyndon B. Johnson's attention be called to recent threats on King's life and urge that the President move to protect King's life because "we cannot afford to lose him at this juncture." Davis said that "their" request should be dramatically made, pointing out that King is doing a job that the United States Government should be doing, and that it was mockery to talk about freedom in South Vietnam when "the one man who is defending it in Selma (Alabama) is in jeopardy." Davis also told Jones that King had suggested calls be made to the President, the Attorney General and me to inform us that King's life is in jeopardy.

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By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01

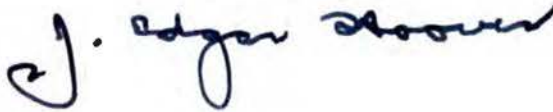
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Honorable Marvin Watson

Jones suggested to Davis that the following be considered. Jones mentioned the possible submission of an open letter to the President, the Attorney General and me subscribed to by "opinion makers" whom the President would respect because of their stature in the civil rights movement. Jones also suggested the sending of a telegram to the Attorney General subscribed to by about ten nationally prominent people in the civil rights field. Still another suggestion of Jones' is that they have a group of responsible people ask for an appointment with the Attorney General at which time their fears could be voiced. Jones indicated that he intended to soon meet with King at which time these suggestions would be submitted for King's approval.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and interested officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

32



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 10, 1965
BY LIAISON

Honorable Lee C. White
Legal Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. White:

The following information concerning Harry Herzhaft Wachtel, who recently attempted to arrange an appointment with the President for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., may be of interest to you.

Wachtel is a 48-year-old New York attorney and businessman. Evidence indicates he was brought into the King organization in 1962 by Stanley David Levison, who was described in 1963 by a source who has furnished reliable information in the past as a secret member of the Communist Party. Since 1962 Wachtel has acted as counsel and more recently as Executive Vice President of the Gandhi Society for Human Rights, a King fund-raising enterprise, and has become increasingly active as an advisor to and writer for King. Wachtel's office has been used as a New York meeting place for King and his advisors and as recently as January 27, 1965, Wachtel represented himself as King's attorney.

On March 5, 1944, Wachtel's name was on a list of names, significance unknown, maintained in the headquarters of the Kings County Communist Party, New York City. In the same year Wachtel's wife's name was maintained on a list of names of newly elected officers of the Bath Beach Club of the Kings County Communist Party, New York City. Wachtel was a member of the National Lawyers Guild as of December, 1949, and he registered a preference from the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, for the American Labor Party in 1938, 1940, 1941 and 1945.

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Honorable Lee C. White

The National Lawyers Guild has been described by the House Committee on Un-American Activities in a report dated March 29, 1944, as a communist front. The same House Committee on Un-American Activities report stated that the communists had succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 8, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I thought the President would be interested in the information set forth in the attached memorandum which was furnished by sources who have supplied reliable information in the past.

A copy of the attached memorandum has also been furnished to the Vice President and the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

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Upon removal of classified enclosure,
this transmittal letter becomes
unclassified.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

33a

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 8, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A confidential source has advised that Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Andrew Young, Executive Director of SCLC, and Ralph Abernathy, Treasurer of SCLC, plan to take a chartered plane from Montgomery, Alabama, to Washington, D. C., at 4:00 p.m. on February 9, 1965, to meet with Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach. It was indicated that arrangements had also been made for King to meet with President Lyndon B. Johnson after the meeting with Mr. Katzenbach; however, the meeting with the President is to receive no publicity. King and his companions were expected to be in Washington, D. C., during the night of February 9, 1965, and they will return to Selma, Alabama, on February 10, 1965.

Another confidential source has advised that Harry Wachtel, a close adviser to King who was a member of the National Lawyers Guild, which organization was described as a Communist front by the Committee on Un-American Activities of the U. S. House of Representatives, on February 7, 1965, was in contact with Clarence Jones, another close adviser to King who in the mid-1950's was a member of the Labor Youth League, which organization has been designated as subversive pursuant to E. O. 10450.

Wachtel said that he had been in touch with Lee White of the White House about King's coming trip to Washington, D. C. Wachtel said the trip has opened up a hornet's nest for the President and King's statement about a meeting with the President will have to be very carefully worded. Wachtel said the White House would like certain words, such as "not definite," "hopeful" and "in view of circumstances" used by King in his statement about meeting the President.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLI 01-235

By Sj, NARA, Date 8-29-01

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Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wachtel said King would actually see the President sometime after King's meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 1965, with the Vice President and the Attorney General but that fact must be kept in complete secrecy. Wachtel said that if the fact should become known, then the President will not see King. Wachtel indicated that he was not happy over the alternatives this leaves them.

Wachtel mentioned that he hates to see the Vietnam crises and said he was told that the National Security Council expects to meet on Monday and Tuesday. Wachtel said that now King knows, when he is dealing with the President, he is not dealing with a friend, but a Texan.

Jones read to Wachtel the prepared text for a press release concerning King's visit to Washington, D. C., which is set forth as follows with corrections suggested by Wachtel.

"Recent events in Selma, Alabama, have disclosed the persisting barriers to enfranchisement of Negroes in the South. If the rate of registration manipulated in Selma were to prevail, it would take several decades to register eligible Negroes. The mandate of the American people and the intention of Congress are subverted by these conditions. There is a clear and urgent need for new and improved Federal legislation and expanded law enforcement to eliminate these undemocratic barriers. To pursue this objective, conferences in Washington have been scheduled. The pressure of international developments have made impractical the scheduled Monday conferences. However, on Tuesday I will be meeting with Vice President Humphrey in his new capacity as chairman of the newly created Council for Equal Opportunity and with Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach. I am in communication with the White House concerning a possible meeting with the President. While there are no definite arrangements for such a meeting, I am hopeful that such a conference will be held on Tuesday. Following the preliminary explorations of the issue, plans will be made for further discussion on appropriate levels where the programs we believe to be indispensable for solution of problems can be examined."

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

34

February 8, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

With reference to my letter to you earlier this date, there is set forth in the attached memorandum additional information concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, proposed trip to Washington, D. C., on February 9, 1965, which might be of interest to the President. This information was furnished by a source who has supplied reliable information in the past.

A copy of the attached memorandum has also been furnished to the Vice President and the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover", is written below the "Sincerely yours," text.

Enclosure

~~SECRET~~

Upon removal of classified enclosure,
this transmittal letter becomes
unclassified.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 8, 1965

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A confidential source advised on February 8, 1965, that Bayard Rustin, a former member of the Young Communist League, which has been designated as subversive pursuant to E. O. 10450, Harry Wachtel, a close adviser to King who was a member of the National Lawyers Guild, which organization was described as a Communist front by the Committee on Un-American Activities of the U. S. House of Representatives, and Jack Greenberg, Director of the Legal Defense Fund, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have reservations aboard American Airlines flight number 375 for Washington, D. C., February 8, 1965, to depart New York City at 5:30 p. m.

According to Rustin, Martin Luther King, Jr., will meet with some Congressional leaders and with the Attorney General on February 9, 1965. Rustin said their position will be to demand enactment of a civil rights bill in 1965 guaranteeing the right to vote.

The source advised that Wachtel was in contact with Rustin on February 8, 1965, regarding King's trip to Washington where King will arrive at Friendship Airport at 1:50 p. m. on February 9, 1965. He will go from Friendship Airport to attend a conference with the Attorney General. A press conference will also be held by King on February 9, 1965.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-235
By SJ NARA, Date 8-29-01



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 4, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Bill D. Moyers
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

*Verbally given
Lee White 1/31/65 -*

Dear Mr. Moyers:

A confidential source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past has supplied the following information which I thought the President would like to have.

On February 3, 1965, a number of friends of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Atlanta, Georgia, contacted Walter P. Reuther and George Meany asking that telegrams be sent to President Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Governor George Wallace of Alabama protesting the imprisonment of King. Reuther is President, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America. Meany is President, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. It is to be noted that on February 1, 1965, King was arrested and imprisoned by local authorities at Selma, Alabama, for parading without a permit and failure to obey an officer.

King's friends indicated that requests were going out on a nationwide basis to bring pressure to bear for Government intervention. As of February 3, 1965, efforts were being made to contact "Mr. Lee White at the White House" to obtain the personal intervention of President Johnson. Andrew Young, one of King's assistants, was scheduled to meet on February 3, 1965, in Selma with Governor LeRoy Collins in an effort to obtain the assistance of Governor Collins in his present capacity as Director, Community Relations Service, United States Department of Commerce.

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Honorable Bill D. Moyers

This information is also being furnished
to interested officials in the Department of
Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is stylized, with a large "J" and "H".

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 3, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Bill D. Moyers
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moyers:

On January 2, 1965, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., appeared in Selma, Alabama, where he announced the beginning of a statewide drive to enable Negroes to register for voting. Since that time, there has been a continuing series of demonstrations by Negroes seeking to register to vote in Selma, and many demonstrators have been arrested on such charges as violating the city's parade ordinance, disorderly conduct and refusing to obey an officer.

On February 1, 1965, King led a group of approximately 264 Negroes from a church in Selma toward the county courthouse. They were confronted by J. Wilson Baker, Commissioner of Public Safety, who stated they were violating a city ordinance by parading without a permit. The group continued approximately three blocks when they were again confronted by Commissioner Baker who placed the entire group under arrest.

The group was taken to the City Hall where Commissioner Baker told King and Reverend Ralph Abernathy, an associate of King's, that they were not under arrest and advised them to leave the building. King and Reverend Mr. Abernathy then held a press conference on the steps of the City Hall, and they were instructed by a police officer to leave the premises. When they refused to do so, they were arrested and charged with violating the city's parade ordinance. All others arrested have been released on bond; however, King and Reverend Mr. Abernathy remain in jail in Selma in lieu of a \$200 bond each.

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Honorable Bill D. Moyers

On February 3, 1965, we received information from a reliable source to the effect that Andrew Young, an assistant to King in New York City, held a discussion with Clarence Jones, an attorney in New York who is an advisor to King. Young and Jones discussed a request from King that "show people" visit him in Selma, and it was indicated that this might be arranged for February 4, 1965.

Young and Jones also discussed a request of King's that Young make a personal call to the President to have him intervene in some way. Young indicated that he did not think he would be able to speak directly to the President but thought that he could discuss the matter with Mr. Lee White.

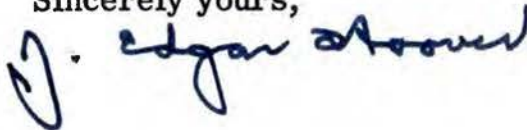
Jones advised Young that it should be made clear to the President they do not want troops in Selma but are requesting that the President set the issue straight before the nation regarding the right to vote without obstruction, chastise Alabama for obstructing the right to vote and take legislative or executive action to clear up the confusion in this area.

Jones also suggested to Young that the President dispatch a small force of United States Marshals specially deputized by the President or the Attorney General, and he alleged that the United States Marshal at Selma is afraid of Sheriff James Clarke.

Clarence Jones was a member of the Labor Youth League in the mid 1950's. The Labor Youth League has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order Number 10450.

It is suggested that the above information may be of interest to the President, and the Attorney General is also being advised.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a cursive "Hoover".

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

January 22, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Bill D. Moyers
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moyers:

On January 21, 1965, Mr. Ralph McGill, publisher of the "Atlanta Constitution," Atlanta, Georgia, asked a representative of this Bureau to communicate the following information to the President. Mr. McGill, who expressed great admiration for the President, advised that in the recent past he has learned from several sources about the incredibly immoral activities of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. McGill explained that he was shocked to learn of this and immediately realized what serious consequences King's misbehavior could have for the civil rights movement in which Mr. McGill has been actively interested for years.

Mr. McGill made three points: (1) that from diverse sources he has learned of the incredibly immoral behavior of King, and of King's deceiving of sincere, good people in this Nation who have been supporting King; (2) that he regrets greatly that a banquet is being given in King's honor next week in Atlanta, but that arrangements have now reached the point it is probably not possible to prevent the banquet; and (3) that he believes that the very best thing that could happen would be to have King step completely out of the civil rights movement and public life for he feels that if this is not done, sooner or later King will be publicly exposed. Mr. McGill believes that an exposure of King will do irreparable harm to the civil rights movement in which he, Mr. McGill, and others are so interested and have worked so hard for; and likewise it will do injury to different citizens of the country who have been supporting King, not knowing of King's strange behavior.

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Honorable Bill D. Moyers

Mr. McGill told this Bureau's representative that if it had not been necessary for him to leave Washington, D. C., immediately, he would have liked to convey this message to the President in person. However, in view of the necessity for his hasty departure, he asked that his views be transmitted to the President by the FBI.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

December 31, 1964

BY LIAISON

Honorable Bill D. Moyers
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moyers:

I thought that the President would be interested in the following information which was supplied by a confidential informant of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past.

On December 28, 1964, one Frank Stanley, Jr., of New York City was in contact with Martin Luther King, Jr., and related that Whitney Young of the National Urban League had conferred with Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Wilkins indicated that he would support Robert Weaver, Administrator, Housing and Home Finance Agency, in preference to Whitney Young as the first Negro Cabinet officer. Stanley also told King that "people around the White House" feel that no publicity should be given prior to or during any forthcoming meeting which civil rights leaders may have with the President. Stanley stated that because the President has much respect for King in the civil rights field, King is the logical person to arrange a meeting of civil rights leaders with the President.

On December 29, 1964, King conferred with several individuals including Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph of the Negro American Labor Council and Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women. The purpose of the conference was to unite civil rights leaders behind one logical Negro to be considered for appointment as Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. King suggested Whitney Young be considered and stated that President Johnson would be greatly influenced by the united support of civil rights leaders behind one Negro candidate for the position. Wilkins recommended

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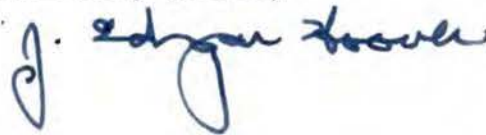
Honorable Bill D. Moyers

Robert Weaver as deserving of the honor. Wilkins, however, conceded that if Weaver was not interested, he would support Young. The conference concluded with all agreeing that they would recommend both Weaver and Young to the President as their choice for the Cabinet position. King pointed out that the President may try to avoid appointing a Negro to the Cabinet unless Negroes really make their preference known positively to the President.

Later on December 29, 1964, King indicated to Frank Stanley, Jr., that Wilkins is to advise King whether Weaver is interested in a Cabinet position. Wilkins is to also indicate as to the advice of one Louis Martin on the strategy King should use to contact the President and arrange a meeting between the President and civil rights leaders regarding a Cabinet choice. According to this Bureau's source, Louis Martin may be identical to an individual by the same name who is a member of the Democratic Party National Committee.

This information is also being furnished to the Acting Attorney General and other officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

December 21, 1964

BY LIAISON

Honorable Bill D. Moyers
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moyers:

I thought the President would be interested in the following information concerning the personal conduct of Martin Luther King, Jr., which has been furnished by confidential sources of this Bureau who have supplied reliable information in the past.

According to information received December 9, 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr., has the reputation among many of the country's Negro leaders of being a heavy consumer of alcoholic beverages and is known to certain Negro leaders to be extremely loose in his moral behavior. As an example, these sources cited an incident which occurred several years ago in Memphis, Tennessee, when King attended a Negro Baptist Convention. With King's knowledge, some of the ministers arranged to rent, from some families, apartments at a housing project. The permanent tenants were told that the apartments were needed for "meditation." Actually, they were used for sex and drinking parties. Our sources heard from other individuals, whom they believed to be reliable, that during this Convention King became so drunk one evening he caused a scene in the housing project, being unable to find the apartment he desired. Some of his colleagues had to physically restrain King lest he be recognized by some of the tenants and thus jeopardize the image of the ministers as well as that of the civil rights movement.

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Honorable Bill D. Moyers

This information is also being furnished to the Acting Attorney General and other officials of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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