

## LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Page 1 of 3

Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
01	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Mildred Stegall <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	2	7/10/68	A
02	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 6 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-240</i>	PCI	1	4/22/68	A
02a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Mildred Stegall <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	C	1	4/22/68	A
02b	report	re Foreign Political Matters <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	C	2	4/22/68	A
03	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 7 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-240</i>	PCI	1	4/12/68	A
03a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Mildred Stegall <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	1	4/10/68	A
03b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	2	4/10/68	A
04	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Mildred Stegall <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	2	4/1/68	A
05	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 5:10 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-240</i>	PCI	1	3/22/68	A
05b	report	re Washington Spring Project <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	3	3/22/68	A
06a	report	re Washington Spring Project <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	3	3/19/68	A
07	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 6:50 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-240</i>	PCI	1	3/14/68	A, C

Collection Title Office Files of Mildred Stegall

Folder Title "King, Martin Luther (1968) (Deceased)"

Box Number 32

## Restriction Codes

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 12958 governing access to national security information.  
 (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.  
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# LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Page 2 of 3

Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
07a	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Mildred Stegall <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	1	3/14/68	A, C
07b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>sanitized 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i> <i>USDC # 96-1185, 76-1186</i>	S	23	3/12/68	A, C
08	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 6 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-240</i>	PCI	1	3/5/68	A, C
08b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	2	3/5/68	A, C
09	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 4:15 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-240</i>	PCI	1	3/2/68	A
09b	report	re Selected Racial Developments & Disturbances <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	C	4	3/1/68	A
10a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	3	3/1/68	A
11a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	<del>3</del> <sup>2</sup>	2/27/68	A
12	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 4 pm <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-240</i>	PCI	1	2/21/68	A
12b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	S	2	2/21/68	A
13	letter	J. Edgar Hoover to Marvin Watson <i>open 11/29/01 NLT 01-239</i>	PCI	1	2/20/68	C

*not yet open* 13a ~~report~~ re Martin Luther King, Jr. ~~PCI~~ ~~1~~ 2/20/68 ~~C~~ <sup>B</sup>  
*declassified 11/29/01 NLT 01-239; closed under "B" restriction*

Collection Title Office Files of Mildred Stegall  
Folder Title "King, Martin Luther (1968) (Deceased)"  
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## LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Page 3 of 3

Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
14a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr.	S	2	2/13/68	A, C
open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-239						
15	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 5:15 pm	PCI	1	2/8/68	A
open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-240						
15b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr.	S	3	2/8/68	A
open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-239						
16	memo	unsigned and unaddressed memo, 7:50 pm	PCI	1	1/25/68	A
open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-240						
16b	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr.	S	2	1/25/68	A
open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-239						
17a	report	re Martin Luther King, Jr.	S	2	1/18/68	A
open 11/29/01 NLJ 01-239						

27 memo Hill to Watson 2p 1/30/68 B

Collection Title Office Files of Mildred Stegall  
 Folder Title "King, Martin Luther (1968) (Deceased)"  
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## Restriction Codes

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I  
~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

7

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

I thought the President might be interested in the following information.

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past indicated that Coretta King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., had advised Stanley Levison that she objected to a story in "Jet" magazine which indicated that she is supporting Senator Eugene McCarthy in the presidential race. Levison indicated that someone other than Mrs. King should contact "Jet" magazine to correct this. Levison suggested that he could contact Martin Peretz of Harvard University in this regard and explain that Mrs. King does not want to come out in support of any presidential aspirant right now. Peretz was a member of the Board of Directors of "Ramparts" magazine, a publication that has been highly critical of United States foreign policy. Reportedly, Peretz withdrew his financial support of "Ramparts" magazine in 1968.

Levison is an advisor to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and has been identified as a secret Communist Party member as late as 1963.

~~SECRET~~

Group 1

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By *sjh* NARA, Date 8-30-01



~~SECRET~~

Mrs. Mildred Stegall

According to the source, Peretz had asked Andrew Young, Executive Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Levison to have lunch with Senator McCarthy so it could be decided what Senator McCarthy could do. They had a previous meeting with Senator McCarthy and suggested he attend some meetings in the ghetto to observe what goes on there. However, it was difficult for them to evaluate his response to their suggestion. Levison claimed that Hunter Pitts O'Dell, who is known as Jack O'Dell, is on Senator McCarthy's "staff" and is doing a good job. Levison said that, although Peretz feels "our influence" is evident in some of Senator McCarthy's actions, Levison is of the opinion that they still do not know how Senator McCarthy stands or what influence they really have on him.

O'Dell is a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA.

No further dissemination is being made of the above data.

Sincerely yours,

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

~~SECRET~~

Q

S

pr

2

April 22, 1968  
6:00 p.m.

Q

The attached FBI memorandum concerns reactions of employees of the Peruvian Embassy, Washington, D. C., with regard to the recent riots in Washington.

Sources report that members of the Embassy staff no longer have faith in the United States and its leadership because of their failure in coping with the looters and arsonists. They feel that these individuals should have been stopped.

Wmu)

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-240  
By SJA NARA, Date 11-28-01





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 22, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth comments made by employees of the Peruvian Embassy, Washington, D. C., following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which I thought might be of interest to the President.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General and appropriate agencies of the Government.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure

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NLJ 01-239  
By Sj/An NARA, Date 8-30-01

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

April 22, 1968

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - PERU

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised he received numerous comments from employees at the Peruvian Embassy, Washington, D. C., following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., concerning the assassination and the rioting in Washington, D. C.

The source stated that the consensus of the Peruvian Embassy staff was that they no longer had any faith in the United States as a country that could be looked upon for leadership inasmuch as no leadership was exhibited in putting a stop to the looting and burning which took place in Washington, D. C. The Embassy employees were all of the opinion that the United States Government failed miserably in its efforts to stop the looting and burning because of the delay in using soldiers to assist the police. It was incomprehensible to these persons that the police and the soldiers, after their arrival, stood still while stores were being looted. While these employees believed that the policemen and the firemen performed heroically during the crises, they were all shocked that the Mayor of Washington, D. C., and the President of the United States delayed sending help to these men for such an extended period of time.

According to the source, the opinion was expressed by the Peruvian Embassy staff that the timid and weak stand taken by "the Administration" against the looters in Washington, D. C., will serve as another lesson to all of the countries of Central and South America that the United States has degenerated into a country run by weaklings who are afraid to make decisions because these decisions might offend some racial or religious minority of the country, or might offend some foreign government.

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NLJ 01-239  
By Sj/An WARA, Date 8-30-01



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - PERU

The source repeatedly emphasized the fact that the Peruvian Embassy staff was completely disheartened by the lack of leadership exhibited by "the Administration" during the crises in Washington, D. C., and wondered how the Department of State and the United States could hope to furnish leadership and guidance to the countries of Central and South America in the future.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

N 413

3

M

April 12, 1968  
7:00 p.m.

The attached FBI report states that a source who has furnished both accurate and inaccurate information in the past reported that a source learned from a female, who he refused to identify, that the female had overheard a partial conversation between two Communists where one of them stated that for more than fifteen days Carmichael and Brown had been advocating the death of Martin Luther King. This conversation took place in the Dominican Republic and the source is from the Dominican Republic. Assassination was planned because King dulled the plans of Black Power.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-240  
By g/h NARA, Date 11-28-01



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 10, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth information volunteered to our representative in the Dominican Republic by a Dominican national concerning an allegation made by a Dominican communist that Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown have advocated the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., by a white man.

These data are being furnished for the information of the President. The material is also being furnished to the Attorney General and other interested Government officials.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover", is written below the typed name.

Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By SPH NARA, Date 8-30-01

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declassification

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 10, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The following information was volunteered to our representative in the Dominican Republic on April 8, 1968, by a Dominican national who has previously furnished both information that has been subsequently verified and information that has been proven to be inaccurate. The source is a member of a respected family in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and is bitterly anticommunist and anti-Castro. He reportedly had some "bad experience in Cuba during and just after 1959." During prior interviews the source when pressed for specific details has sometimes become evasive.

The source advised he learned from a female, whom he refused to identify, that the latter had visited during the afternoon of April 6, 1968, the residence of Francisco Alberto Henriquez Vasquez, Calle Sanchez Number 78, Santo Domingo. During such visit she overheard a partial conversation between Henriquez Vasquez and Pericles Bienvenido Franco Ornes, both active members of the Dominican Communist Party (PCD).

According to the source, the above female advised that Henriquez Vasquez told Franco Ornes that since possible peace in Vietnam was weakening communist actions, an "event strong enough to shake the U.S. to its foundations was needed to create a national atmosphere of war which would lead to the overthrow of the present Government" in the United States. Henriquez Vasquez commented that Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown are geniuses or they have perfectly assimilated the lessons they have received during the past two years.

Henriquez Vasquez noted that for more than fifteen days Carmichael and Brown have been advocating the death of Martin Luther King. King was described by Henriquez Vasquez as a person who favored the men of the right or the "pseudo-Democrats" with his politics of nonviolence and

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By S/4h NARA, Date 8-30-01



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ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"dulled the plans of black power which is one of violence." Henriquez Vasquez stated it was, therefore, propitious for the cause of "black violence" from all points of view to assassinate Martin Luther King with the assassin being a white man. As a result the "guilt" for this deed would be attributed to President Johnson and Wall Street.

The source advised the above-described female could furnish no further information concerning this matter.

The source possessed no information as to how Henriquez Vasquez or Franco Ornes could possibly have been in contact with Carmichael or Brown. He expressed the opinion, however, that these Dominicans are in close communication through couriers with individuals in Cuba. On February 26, 1968, he advised that Henriquez Vasquez's wife, Angelica Cruz de Henriquez, was then in Havana, Cuba, where she was in charge of Guanajay Prison, a prison for women.

H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael are the Chairman and former Chairman, respectively, of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, an extremely militant Black Nationalist organization.

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F

4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 1, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

I thought the President might be interested in the following information that has been supplied by confidential sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past.

Recently, Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was in conference with his principal advisor and long-time secret Communist Party member, Stanley Levison, concerning the current College Presidential Poll in "Time" magazine. King has received letters from many colleges asking him for campaign material and also requesting personal appearances.

Levison suggested that King take the position that he is not a candidate but favors those candidates who strongly oppose the war in Vietnam and those candidates who support the principles of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders. Levison informed King to advise these colleges that there are only two candidates who reflect these points of view; namely, United States Senators Robert F. Kennedy of New York and Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota. According to Levison, King should answer these inquiries stating he does not wish to be a third candidate and split the antiwar candidates.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By Sjth NARA, Date 8-30-01

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Mrs. Mildred Stegall

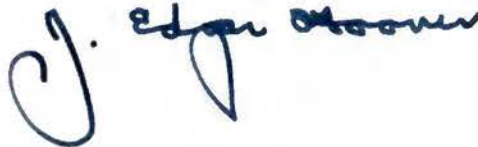
Levison commented that if King were to be a candidate in the College Presidential Poll, he would probably collect many votes along with Kennedy and McCarthy, which would result in President Johnson emerging the winner. Levison pointed out that by taking the position outlined, King would be "blessing both McCarthy and Kennedy" and not making a choice between them.

King commented that both Kennedy and McCarthy are good competent men, committed to the principles he is concerned about. King related that these two candidates should be realistic and see that Kennedy is the only man that can stop President Johnson.

King expressed the opinion that at some point along the campaign trail, Kennedy and McCarthy will have to get together.

The above information is not being furnished the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

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

~~SECRET~~



W

5

March 22, 1968  
5:10 p.m.

The attached FBI memorandum concerns further developments of Martin Luther King's project, the "Washington Spring Project."

On March 19 and 20, King and members of his staff toured Mississippi attempting to generate interest and support for the project.

The date of the demonstration, April 22, has been cancelled. King and top leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) will go to Washington, D. C., either April 23 or 24, where they will attempt to contact Congressional leaders, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Commerce. King will present his "Economic Bill of Rights" and try to receive assurances that legislation will be passed favorable to the Negro.

On April 27 or 28, the people recruited for the campaign in Mississippi will arrive in Jackson for a mass meeting. They will proceed to Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; Columbia, South Carolina; Durham, North Carolina; and Richmond, Virginia. The group will then continue to a staging area in Alexandria, Virginia. At the same, groups will follow the same arrangement departing from Boston, Detroit, Chicago and Philadelphia. The latter contingent will meet at a staging area near Baltimore.

The SCLC expects to have a total of 3,000 people in these groups which will then march to Washington and stay for at least two weeks. The original group will then be replaced by a second group and this will continue until enough pressure has been applied on Congress and favorable legislation is passed.

A "City of Hope" or a "Shanty Town" will be built in Washington to house and feed these demonstrators. This will continue until the Democratic Convention in August.

King privately has expressed disappointment at the lack of enthusiasm and small donations he has received in Mississippi. A total of \$1,000 was collected from eight rallies in that State and there appeared to be few volunteers available to go to Washington.

King has plans during this month to visit the State of Virgin, Newark, New Jersey and New York City, Baltimore, Washington, D. C., and back to Virginia.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-240  
By S/4h NARA, Date 11-28-01

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5a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

March 22, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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  
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

March 22, 1968

WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT

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

Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has announced publicly he will conduct a massive civil disobedience campaign in the Nation's Capital in April, 1968, in an effort to pressure Congress into passing legislation favorable to the Negro. King calls this campaign the "Washington Spring Project" or the "Poor People's Campaign."

On March 19 and 20, 1968, King and key members of his staff toured the State of Mississippi attempting to generate interest and support for this project.

In Jackson, Mississippi, on March 20, 1968, before an audience of approximately 400 persons, Hosea Williams, an aide to King, advised that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference had just completed a strategy meeting. The date of the "Washington Spring Project" set as April 22, 1968, at Washington, D. C., has been canceled. According to Williams, King and his top leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will go to Washington, D. C., either April 23 or 24, 1968, where they intend to contact Congressional leaders, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Commerce. At this time, King will present his "Economic Bill of Rights" to the Congressional leaders and Government officials in an effort to receive assurances that legislation will be passed favorable to the Negro.

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Group 1

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLI 01-239  
By sjh NARA, Date 8-30-01



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## WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT

On April 27 or 28, 1968, the people recruited for this campaign in Mississippi will arrive in Jackson for a mass meeting. They will march through the downtown section of Jackson en route to Birmingham, Alabama. At Birmingham, they will meet another group which will have completed a mass meeting and march through Birmingham. This same procedure will be adhered to in the following cities: Atlanta, Georgia; Columbia, South Carolina; Durham, North Carolina; and Richmond, Virginia. This group will then continue to a staging area located at Alexandria, Virginia. At the same time, groups will follow the same arrangement departing from Boston, Massachusetts; Detroit, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This latter contingent will meet at a staging area near Baltimore, Maryland. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference expects to have a total of 3,000 people in these groups who will then march on Washington and stay for at least two weeks. This original group, after two weeks, will be replaced by a second group and this will continue until enough pressure has been applied on Congress and favorable legislation is passed. A "City of Hope" or a "Shanty Town" will be built in Washington to house and feed these demonstrators. According to Williams, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will stay in Washington by continuing to send waves of people until the Democratic Convention which begins in August, 1968.

King also spoke at this meeting and expressed the same sentiments as Williams. King also stated that professional groups, professional people, and industrialists throughout the country are being contacted for donations to support this project.

After this meeting, as in the other seven meetings where King spoke, a collection was requested for funds to support this campaign. To a select group later, King expressed disappointment at the lack of enthusiasm and small donations he

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WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT

had received in the past two days in Mississippi. It was determined that a total of \$1,000 was collected from these eight rallies and there appeared to be few volunteers available to go to Washington.

Another source advised that King plans to visit the areas listed below on the dates indicated in an effort to stimulate interest, support, and enthusiasm for the "Washington Spring Project."

March 22 and 23, 1968, touring State of Virginia

March 26 and 27, 1968, touring Newark, New Jersey, and New York City

March 28, 1968, touring Baltimore, Maryland

March 29, 1968, touring Washington, D. C., and meeting officials

March 30, 1968, touring State of Virginia

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6



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

March 19, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

W

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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.

This information is also being  
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

March 19, 1968

WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT

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

Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has announced publicly he will conduct a massive civil disobedience campaign in the Nation's Capital in April, 1968, in an effort to pressure Congress into passing legislation favorable to the Negro. King calls this campaign the "Washington Spring Project" or the "Poor People's Campaign."

Hosea Williams, an aide to King advised at a meeting held recently in Baltimore, Maryland, that current plans call for two staging areas for the marchers in this campaign. One staging area would be located in Virginia and the other in Maryland. From these staging areas, the marchers would depart to march on Washington, D. C., where they would pitch tents on the Capitol grounds and at other Government buildings. The purpose of this activity would be to cause a massive stoppage of the Government machinery.

The possibility of having sick people and pregnant women participate was also discussed. These people could be used to flood Walter Reed Hospital and the Bethesda Naval Hospital. In addition, these individuals would attract sympathy and support for the march.

Tentative plans now call for transporting the demonstrators from city to city en route to Washington, D. C.

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification
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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLI 01-239  
By SP4 NARA, Date 8-30-01

~~SECRET~~

## WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT

At the larger cities the demonstrators would alight and march through the city's business district to gain publicity and support for the campaign.

At a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 15, 1968, King referred to the "Washington Spring Project" starting date as being April 28, 1968. Previously, he had advised a news conference that this campaign would start on April 22, 1968. During the above meeting, King announced that approximately \$4,000 would be needed to support the campaign between March 15, 1968, and the day the demonstrators arrive in Washington, D. C.

King was optimistic that after the first few days of the demonstrations, spontaneous contributions from throughout the Nation would be received and supply a large part of the funds needed to continue the project.

Stanley Levison, principal advisor to King, attended this meeting. Another of King's advisors, Harry Wachtel, was invited to attend this meeting but was unable to do so.

At another meeting held recently in Atlanta, King advised that participants of this project should be willing to lay down their lives, if necessary, for this cause using Biblical quotations to exhort the group assembled.

Some staff members fear an assassination attempt will be made on King during the march. Because of this, it was agreed that the Chicago group of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, a militant civil rights group, should be contacted concerning the possibility of this group furnishing armed bodyguards for King during the demonstrations.

King also advised a few members of his staff last week that he desired to avoid making a trip to Africa. He

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WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT

contemplates having Ralph Abernathy, his vice president, go in his place. He feels that the "Washington Spring Project" requires his continued attention. To date, the following is the estimated number of demonstrators recruited for this project from the areas listed below.

Mississippi	114
Chicago, Illinois	150-175
Central Alabama	150
North Carolina	155
Boston, Massachusetts	125
Birmingham, Alabama	40

Another source advised in April, 1964, that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, USA, in July, 1963. In late 1963, and early 1964, he criticized the Communist Party for not being sufficiently militant in the civil rights struggle. Levison was described by certain Communist Party leaders as being to the "left" of the Communist Party in his position on civil rights. His differences with the Communist Party, however, are merely tactical, and he continues his ideological adherence to communism. Stanley Levison is the owner and operator of the Park Management Realty Company, 1841 Broadway, New York, New York.

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

~~SECRET~~



*m - to Q/Q  
Show this  
Bill Wicks  
C*

*1*

. March 14, 1968  
6:50 p.m.

The attached FBI document summarizes the background and activities of Martin Luther King, Jr. King has announced that he will lead a massive civil disobedience campaign this spring in Washington, D.C.

The FBI reports that King has been surrounded by associates who have or have had Communist affiliations and that his conduct and statements have been influenced by these individuals. King was initially active in the civil rights area, and now has become involved in the "peace" movement.

In December 1966 the Southern Leadership Conference (SCLC) "was about" to participate in a four-million dollar loan from the FHA because of its involvement in a slum clearance program in Chicago. In November of 1967 the Department of Labor negotiated a contract with SCLC to train Negroes for employment in Atlanta, Georgia. Of the \$61,000 involved in the contract, \$13,000 went to SCLC and \$48,000 went to the grocers in Atlanta for providing on the job training to previously unemployed Negroes.

King's personal conduct does not measure up to the image he presents to the public. Various incidents of immoral and "abnormal" behavior by King are cited in this report.

TRANSFERRED TO HANDWRITING FILE

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NJ 01-240  
By *sy/h* NARA, Date *11-28-01*



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

*Martin Luther King*

March 14, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

I thought the President would be interested in the enclosed current study entitled "Martin Luther King, Jr., - A Current Analysis," particularly in view of King's announced plans for massive civil disobedience in the Nation's Capital this coming April.

Copies of this document are being furnished the Attorney General and other interested Government agencies.

The sources utilized in the enclosure have furnished reliable information in the past and because of their sensitive nature this document has been classified "Secret." Upon removal of the classified enclosure, this letter becomes unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

Enclosure

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLI 01-239  
By *Siv* NARA, Date 8-30-01

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



**SUBJECT:** MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., -  
A CURRENT ANALYSIS

**DATE:** March 12, 1968

SANITIZED

Authority USDC, DC, Civil Action #76-1185 & 76-1186  
By sj/th, NARS, Date 11-29-01

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~~SECRET~~



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## I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1956, Martin Luther King, Jr., has occupied a prominent role in the drive for equal rights for Negroes in the United States. During this critical period in our Nation's history, much has depended on him as the individual Negroes in great numbers have looked to for leadership in their drive to achieve equality. Much depends on him still in these times when racial tensions have created an atmosphere of fear and foreboding among many Negroes and whites alike. The course King chooses to follow at this critical time could have momentous impact on the future of race relations in the United States, and for that reason this paper has been prepared to give some insight into the nature of the man himself as well as the nature of his views, goals, objectives, tactics and the reasons therefor.

### Washington Spring Project

Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), has stated publicly that he and 3,000 of his followers will march on Washington, D. C., this spring. He has announced that he will lead a massive civil disobedience campaign that will disrupt the normal course of business and, in fact, close down the Nation's Capital. He originally announced this project on August 15, 1967, in Atlanta, Georgia, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the SCLC.

King predicted that this massive civil disobedience will be more effective than riots. Concerning civil disobedience, King declared, "To dislocate the function of a city without destroying it can be more effective than a riot, because it can be longer lasting, costly to society, but not wantonly destructive."



King has referred to this campaign as the "Washington Spring Project" and the "Poor People's March," which is reportedly being staged to pressure Congress into passing legislation favorable to the Negro. It is King's contention that the Government of the United States does not move until it is confronted dramatically. To add to the dramatic confrontation, King has boasted he and his entourage are coming to Washington to stay; that his followers will conduct sit-ins, camp-ins, and sleep-ins at every Government facility available including the lawn of the White House. He has bragged that he will fill up the jails of Washington and surrounding towns.

#### Black Nationalist Terror

One serious danger in the confrontation lies in the proposed action of the black nationalist groups which plan to attempt to seize the initiative and escalate the nonviolent demonstrations into violence.

King has met with black nationalists and attempted to solicit their support. Stokely Carmichael of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an extremist Black Nationalist organization, has conferred with King. Carmichael endorses the objectives of King and advises he will not oppose or interfere with the "Washington Spring Project's" plans for nonviolence. However, he also states his role will be governed by what SNCC decides.

King is aware of the possibility of violence because one of his aides proclaimed recently to the press, "Jail will be the safest place in Washington this spring." However, in spite of this potentially explosive situation, King continues his plans. He adroitly uses this possibility as a lever to attempt to pressure Congress into action by warning that the "Washington Spring Project" may be the last chance in this country for peaceful change with respect to civil rights needs.

### Strong Communist Influence

Another complicating factor in the picture is the degree of communist influence on King. One of King's principal advisors is Stanley David Levison. Ostensibly only a New York City attorney and businessman, Levison is, in fact, a shrewd, dedicated communist. Levison has spent the major part of his life advancing communist interests.

Levison gravitated to Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1956. He has been as dedicated in his support of King as he has been in advancing communist goals. He has actively involved himself in fund-raising drives for King, served as his legal counsel in certain matters, suggested speech material for him, discussed with King demonstrations in which King was involved, guided him in regard to acceptance or rejection of various public appearances and speaking commitments, and helped him with matters related to articles and books King has prepared.

Levison edited most of the chapters of King's new book entitled "Where Do We Go From Here; Chaos Or Community?" Levison wrote one chapter of this book and the publisher's representative complained to King and Levison that it was obvious certain sections of the book were written by different individuals.

Stanley Levison has told Clarence Jones, another advisor to King, that under no circumstances should King be permitted to say anything without their approving it. Levison also informed Jones that King is such a slow thinker he is usually not prepared to make statements without help from someone. Levison is actively participating in the planning for King's "Washington Spring Project."

### Explosive Situation

The combined forces of the communist influence and the black nationalists advocating violence give the "Washington Spring Project" a potential for an extremely explosive situation.

## II. FORMATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

### Background of Founder

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born January 15, 1929, at Atlanta, Georgia. His name at birth was Michael Luther King, Jr. In 1935, his first name was changed to Martin. King received an A.B. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. He then entered Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was one of six Negroes among 100 students. He won the Plafker Award as the most outstanding student, was President of the Senior Class, and received the J. Lewis Crozer Fellowship for graduate study at the university of his choice. King graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951 and did graduate work at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, where he secured a Ph.D. degree in 1955.

Upon graduation, he was offered the pastorate of two Baptist churches in the East and teaching posts in three colleges. King chose the pastorate at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. After becoming established in his church, he founded the Montgomery Improvement Association and led local Negroes in the Montgomery Bus Boycott that attracted national attention. In March of 1957, he founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) with himself as President. He still holds that position today. He is also co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

### Subversives Attracted

Stanley Levison was attracted to King and SCLC when King gained national attention. Levison soon developed a close relationship with King and was known in King's group as "Assistant Chief." In 1961, he was assistant treasurer of SCLC.

Prior to joining forces with King, Levison led a double life for the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA). Outwardly



he was a successful businessman but he was also the clandestine fund-raiser for the CPUSA. He was entrusted with raising and handling secret funds for the Party and used some of these funds to finance his own activities.

Through Levison's influence, other subversives were attracted to SCLC. Hunter Pitts O'Dell, former National Committee member of the CPUSA, was employed by SCLC. In 1962, when King mentioned to Levison that he was thinking of adding an administrative assistant to his staff, Levison recommended O'Dell, who was then head of SCLC's New York Office. King said he liked the idea. At the time, King was well aware of Levison's and O'Dell's communist affiliations.

The reason King enjoyed this close relationship with communists is best explained by the fact that Levison, in February, 1962, passed the word to Gus Hall, General Secretary, CPUSA, "King is a whole-hearted Marxist who has studied it (Marxism), believes in it and agrees with it, but because of his being a minister of religion, does not dare to espouse it publicly." Further, in March, 1962, Levison told a CPUSA functionary that King was concerned about a "communist label" being "pinned on us" but that, at the same time, he wanted to do everything possible to evidence friendship toward the Soviet Union. In addition, King has been described within the CPUSA as a true, genuine Marxist-Leninist "from the top of his head to the tips of his toes." The feeling within the CPUSA at that time was, and still is, that King definitely follows a Marxist-Leninist line.

#### Communist Exposed

King was forced to get rid of Hunter Pitts O'Dell in October, 1962, when several newspaper articles exposed O'Dell's connection with SCLC and his communist affiliations. King still tried to hide O'Dell in his organization until July, 1963, when he accepted O'Dell's "resignation." As King put it, O'Dell's release was not because of connections between O'Dell and the CPUSA but because of the emotional public response.

O'Dell has continued his efforts to make his presence felt in the civil rights movement in behalf of the CPUSA. The Winter, 1967, issue of "Freedomways," self-described as a review of the Negro freedom movement, lists O'Dell as Associate Managing Editor. Actually, "Freedomways" is a CPUSA-initiated and CPUSA-supported publication espousing the communist viewpoint of Negro problems.

#### King Speaks at Rally Honoring Communist

On February 23, 1968, King was the guest speaker at a rally of more than one thousand people at Carnegie Hall, New York City, sponsored by "Freedomways," celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of W.E.B. DuBois, famous Negro civil rights crusader who joined the Communist Party at age 93. Jack O'Dell, the popular name used by Hunter Pitts O'Dell, was also listed as one of the speakers at this affair.

On the following day, Stanley Levison confided to Clarence Jones that King performed very badly at the "Freedomways" rally. He commented: "King has never read anything as badly," and, "as though he did not understand what he was reading."

#### Former Communist Advisors

Bayard Rustin is a former advisor to King and a one-time assistant secretary of the SCLC. Rustin has publicly admitted affiliation with the communist movement in the late 1930's. He was also one of a selected number of observers permitted to attend the CPUSA's National Convention in 1957. King said he had to let Rustin go because of problems arising from his homosexual activities. Rustin has long been so inclined, having been arrested in New York City in 1946 for offering to commit a lewd or indecent act. Rustin was arrested again in Pasadena, California, in 1953, 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.

#### Advisory Committee Established for King

On June 22, 1964, an advisory and research committee was formed, with King's approval, for the purpose of writing

King's speeches and guiding his actions. Among the members of the group were Lawrence Reddick, Bayard Rustin, Clarence Jones and Harry Wachtel.

Reddick is a former member of the CPUSA. On March 5, 1944, Wachtel's name was on a list of names, whose significance is not known, maintained at the headquarters of the Kings County Communist Party, New York. On the same date, records at this headquarters contained the name of Wachtel's wife, Leonora, on a list of newly elected officers of the Bath Beach Club of the Kings County Communist Party, New York.

In addition to being on the Advisory Committee, Clarence Jones, a Negro attorney, is also General Counselor for the Gandhi Society for Human Rights, a fund-raising adjunct of the SCLC.

Prior to October, 1966, King attempted to hide his association with Stanley Levison and used Jones as the intermediary. 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.

Clarence Jones married Anne Aston Warder Norton on June 3, 1956. She is the daughter of deceased publisher William H. Norton. Between 1947 and 1950 she was identified as a Communist Party club member at Sarah Lawrence College. In the early 1950's she was also active in the Labor Youth League. On April 5, 1955, she was observed as the driver of a station wagon which was used to transport Communist Party underground leaders in connection with an official Communist Party meeting. In 1956, she was described by a self-admitted communist as a "hard-core communist."

#### King Wins Nobel Peace Prize

In October, 1964, it was announced that King, a 35-year-old Baptist minister, was being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. On November 24, 1964, King contacted Jones and



asked that Jones and Levison, among others, submit five-minute speeches which King could use in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize. King would select the best material from these speeches.

### King's Attraction for Communist Advisors

Two previous aides of King were Cordy T. Vivian, who formerly served as Director of Affiliates of the SCLC, and Randolph Blackwell, who at one time acted as SCLC Program Coordinator. Both of these individuals are former members of the CPUSA.

During the early stages of development and formation of the SCLC, the following eight individuals helped shape and mold the policies of this organization, and, as noted, all have had communist affiliations:

Stanley David Levison	"Assistant Chief"
Clarence Jones	Advisory Committee
Harry Wachtel	Advisory Committee
Cordy T. Vivian	Director of Affiliates
Randolph Blackwell	Program Coordinator
Hunter Pitts O'Dell	Administrative Assistant
Lawrence Reddick	Advisory Committee
Bayard Rustin	Advisory Committee

Of these, Levison, Jones, and Wachtel continued to exert strong influence on King and the SCLC. In addition, at the tenth anniversary convention of SCLC at Atlanta, Georgia, on August 14, 1967, a brochure listed L. D. Reddick as historian of SCLC.

### III. COMMUNIST OBJECTIVES

During the early 1960's, the CPUSA was striving to obtain a Negro-labor coalition to achieve its goals in this country. At that time, the CPUSA "Party Line" was: "Big business attacks on the rights of labor are continuing. In order to defeat this offensive, organized labor, assisted by communists, must launch a countercrusade, which can succeed only if it is based on the united action of the entire trade-union movement."

Also, communists had recognized the error of their ways by proclaiming that the communist program for "self-determination" of the Negro in the "Black Belt" area of the South had been discarded. The new policy was to seek complete economic, political, and social equality for the Negro with all other American citizens. In a May, 1961, issue, the communist newspaper, "The Worker," stated, "Communists will do their utmost to strengthen and unite the Negro movement and bring to it the backing of the working people."

Martin Luther King, Jr., and his organization were made to order to achieve these objectives. King and his group were demonstrating and conducting voter-registration campaigns to align the Negro movement solidly behind King.

#### The Peace Issue Appears

This activity continued with much fanfare until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by the Congress. This was the most far-reaching civil rights act passed since the reconstruction era. Now it was no longer newsworthy to demonstrate for Negro rights. The passage of this Act was one factor that took King off the front pages of the daily newspapers.

The second factor that had a bearing on King's lack of publicity and change of policy was the Gulf of Tonkin incident on August 2, 1964. Because of this, the United States took a more active role in the Vietnam War. The CPUSA then started to demand through its propaganda machine that the escalation of the war in Vietnam be stopped. The activities in Vietnam were now more important news than was the Negro freedom movement.

The CPUSA also realized that even though the peace issue was of primary importance, a secondary issue not to be forgotten was the freedom movement. Abandoning its previous efforts to form a Negro-labor coalition, the CPUSA now started touting a Negro-peace coalition that would form a massive movement to force the United States Government to change its foreign and domestic policies.

"The Worker," in April, 1965, claimed that this coalition was starting to form when it stated, "The civil rights movement was coming to see the identity of interests of the Negro people's freedom movement with the anti-imperialist objective of ending the neo-colonialist war of the United States against the people of Vietnam."

#### IV. THE EMERGENCE OF THE PEACE ISSUE IN KING'S GROUP

##### Role as a Peacemaker

King and his aides helped form this coalition of "peace" and "freedom" groups. They saw an opportunity to again propel King into the international spotlight by proposing he make peace in Vietnam.

On August 12, 1965, King announced publicly that he would appeal personally to President Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam to join a conference to end the Vietnam war. He said he would also send letters to leaders of South Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and the United States in this regard.

This move on the part of King was engineered by Bayard Rustin and Harry Wachtel. In early August they met and discussed how to inject King into the Vietnam issue. It was decided to have King write these world leaders utilizing King's prestige as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. This action, they felt, would cast an image of King as a great moral leader and extend his influence beyond the civil rights movement.

Subsequently, a leading newspaper sent King 12 questions to answer which would clarify his position on Vietnam. Upon receipt of these questions, King referred them to Stanley Levison to answer.

Because of the unfavorable public reaction to King's announcement, a conference with his top advisors was held in early September, 1965, at which time it was decided



that King would avoid the Vietnam issue. Bayard Rustin, Stanley Levison, Harry Wachtel, and Clarence Jones were in attendance at this conference.

#### Admiration Lost

In early 1966, King was lamenting to Harry Wachtel about a nationally known figure, who at one time was a heavy contributor to and admirer of King but was displeased because of King's stand on Vietnam. Wachtel reminded King, "When we went into this Vietnam thing, we decided that he who controls the purse strings doesn't control our philosophy."

#### Continued Pressure by Press

After the resumption of bombing of North Vietnam in February, 1966, King conferred with Stanley Levison and Bayard Rustin concerning a statement for the press. King informed them that the press had been bothering him for a statement, but he dared not take any action until he discussed the matter with them. It was agreed that King would say he was deeply impressed by the large number of Senators who called for a cessation of the bombings. Levison reiterated that King should point out how much opposition there is to the bombings.

#### Anti-Vietnam War Resolution

Miami was the scene of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference executive board meeting in the Spring, 1966. During this two-day conference, the sessions ran into the early morning hours attempting to draft a resolution on the Vietnam war. While there appeared to be general agreement, Stanley Levison and Harry Wachtel continued to argue for a stronger resolution than was presented. They wanted a resolution that would condemn participation by United States troops in Vietnam. The conference finally adopted a resolution calling on the Government to desist aiding the military junta in Vietnam and to seriously consider a prompt withdrawal.

"Face the Nation"

In May, 1966, King was extended an invitation to appear on the Columbia Broadcasting System's program "Face the Nation." Prior to this appearance, King sought the advice of Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones. King wanted their thinking on the more important questions he might be asked. Levison noted the possibility that King might be questioned on the Vietnam war. Jones advised King to use the Southern Christian Leadership Conference resolution on Vietnam as his text. Levison suggested that King should also point out how unfair it was that Negroes were shouldering a heavier burden in the war and that more Negroes were in combat than other Americans.

When King appeared on the program, he suggested the United States stop bombing North Vietnam, negotiate with the Viet Cong, and recognize Red China.

Senate Hearings

Prior to his appearance before a Senate Sub-Committee hearing on urban affairs in December, 1966, King contacted Levison for counsel concerning his testimony. During this discussion, it was agreed that King must reiterate during his testimony that the war in Vietnam is standing in the way of the implementation of any of his civil rights projects and is an open invitation to confusion, chaos, disruptions, and riots.

During his subsequent testimony before this committee, he spoke critically of the war in Vietnam along these lines.

"The Nation" Symposium

In late February, 1967, King spoke before a symposium sponsored by "The Nation" magazine concerning the problems of redirecting "American Power." After this speech in which King was highly critical of the United States involvement in

Vietnam, Levison congratulated him. Levison was pleased with the publicity King's speech received, commenting that King's appearance on a panel with four United States Senators was the appropriate occasion for him to express his antiwar sentiments.

Over the years a number of individuals who have been employed at one time or another by "The Nation" in editorial and writing capacities have been identified with the communist movement.

#### Riverside Church Speech

In early April, 1967, King accepted an invitation to speak before the group, "Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam." This is an interdenominational committee formed to mobilize religious opinion against the war.

Prior to this speech, King and Andrew Young, Executive Director of SCLC, spent approximately eight hours in conference with King's top advisors in New York, New York. Stanley Levison and Harry Wachtel were present at this conference.

Later that same day, King spoke at the Riverside Church, New York, New York, before this group, at which time he was highly critical of the United States involvement in the Vietnam war. He referred to the United States Government as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." He proposed a five-step process to extricate the United States from this conflict. Comments in the news media coverage of King's remarks pointed out that the five points are similar in concept to the conditions imposed by North Vietnam as a prerequisite to negotiations. It is interesting to note that King's proposals parallel the propaganda line which the Communist Party, USA, has been projecting regarding the war in Vietnam.

#### Spring Mobilization

At a conference in the Fall of 1966, of the Peace Mobilization Committee, it was tentatively decided to hold massive peace demonstrations on April 15, 1967, in New York City and San Francisco, California. Of the one hundred seventeen individuals in attendance, seventy-five were members of the



Socialist Workers Party or its youth group, the Young Socialist Alliance. The Communist Party was represented by Arnold Johnson and James West, both of whom are members of the Communist Party, USA, National Committee.

This group subsequently changed its name to Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. Reverend James Bevel, on leave from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was appointed Executive Director of this Committee.

On April 13, 1967, Levison and King were in contact to discuss the progress Levison was making in the writing of the speech King was to deliver on April 15, 1967, to a rally of the Spring Mobilization Committee at the United Nations. Levison discussed part of the speech which King enthusiastically accepted. King particularly liked the part indicating that the United States should unilaterally withdraw from Vietnam. He also enjoyed the part where he would appeal to the country to "demand insistently that our Government honor Hanoi's promise to negotiate if the bombings cease."

The CPUSA was delighted with King's actions in this regard. The recognized leader of 22 million Negroes had openly attacked his country's policy in Vietnam. He participated in the largest rally ever staged against the Vietnam war by being the keynote speaker. In his speech King again called for the withdrawal of United States troops from Vietnam. King was helping the CPUSA achieve its goal of uniting the Negro movement with the peace issue.

"The Worker" expressed the CPUSA's pleasure in the May 7, 1967, issue where it stated in part, "When Dr. King insists upon the connection between aggressive foreign policy and regressive domestic policy he insists upon what is true and consequential. When Dr. King points to the racism common in colonialism and jim crow he points to that which is historically demonstrable. When Dr. King affirms that the present war in Vietnam threatens all democratic and progressive advance in the United States and does so for economic, political, ethical and psychological

reasons, again he is saying what every fact and every day's events confirm. Hence Dr. King, precisely as a leader in the struggle against jim crow, must be--and is--a leader in the struggle against war."

Being the astute advisor he is, and to keep King from being openly aligned with the CPUSA, Levison advised King to align himself with those individuals who have power rather than be aligned with a fringe antiwar element. He was to make the new alignment after his April 15, 1967, speech.

#### King for President

The fringe element Levison referred to was attempting to persuade King to run for President on a peace ticket. On April 19, 1967, Levison and Wachtel conferred concerning King's political possibilities. According to Wachtel, a pacifist group was meeting that day in an effort to get King to agree to run for President with Dr. Benjamin Spock, the antiwar agitator, as his Vice Presidential candidate. Both Levison and Wachtel agreed that it was too early and that King should not agree to run at this time.

The CPUSA again seized the opportunity to cause dissension and unrest in the country by announcing they would support King and Spock on a peace ticket. At a May Day, 1967, program in Berkeley, California, Gus Hall stated, "The Party forces should begin work right now to elect these two men because they are for peace in Vietnam."

Early in May, 1967, Levison was still concerned with King's being identified with the peace movement rather than civil rights. When approached by peace groups attempting to get King to continue to run for President, Levison informed those representatives that King would talk on Vietnam on occasion to various groups, but that would be the extent of his involvement.

In an effort to evaluate his position, King and the SCLC held a retreat in Frogmore, South Carolina, on May 21, 1967, to determine the relationship of the SCLC to the peace movement. King and other top functionaries concluded that the SCLC would give no overt or covert support to anti-Vietnam war demonstrations.

#### The Birth of Washington Spring Project

On July 19, 1967, Levison was in conference with King concerning the Newark, New Jersey, riot. Levison indicated he was concerned about King's failure to make any public statement concerning the racial disturbances. King informed Levison that he had been considering making a statement but did not merely want to condemn the riots but also to condemn the conditions which lead to riots.

Levison suggested that King advocate a program with dramatic qualities similar to the Works Project Administration of the 1930s. This new program would be implemented by the Federal Government to employ the jobless youth. Levison continued that this program worked in a period when the United States was almost bankrupt and should work even better now that the country is almost sick with money. King agreed that Levison's idea had merit and he would publicly call upon the Federal Government to do something along this line.

King waited until the Tenth Annual Convention of the SCLC before he made these plans public. On August 15, 1967, he delivered an address at the convention urging new massive civil disobedience which would include general strikes, school boycotts, and a camp-in at Washington, D. C. All this would be to force Congress to take action to improve the lot of the Negro.

#### V. SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FINANCES

The foremost problem in conducting such a campaign is making financial arrangements to handle the costs. As he

has in the past, King turned to Levison to help him handle this problem as well as all financing of the SCLC. At a retreat in September, 1967, it was decided that SCLC would attempt to raise \$1,500,000 during the coming year. It was contemplated that this money would be realized through the mail-appeal program of SCLC under the general supervision of Levison.

During the fiscal year July 1, 1966, to June 30, 1967, SCLC realized income in the amount of \$901,021.52. The total expenses of SCLC for this period were \$859,933.34. This indicated income exceeded expenses by \$41,088.18.

#### A Tax Dodge

The SCLC set up Foundations to serve as tax exempt organizations that would solicit funds for SCLC. To this end the American Foundation on Nonviolence of New York City, and the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation of Chicago, Illinois, were established. As money is needed by SCLC, Harry Wachtel reportedly funnels the money from the American Foundation on Nonviolence to SCLC.

#### Funds from Firms and Foundations

In February, 1967, the firm of Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith, a stock brokerage firm, contributed \$15,000 to SCLC. In August, 1967, Edward Lamb of the Edward Lamb Foundation, Toledo, Ohio, donated some stock to SCLC which had a market value of \$6,000. Edward Lamb is a well-known successful businessman in Toledo, Ohio.

It was learned in November, 1967, that the Ford Foundation was about to give SCLC \$230,000. This money was to train Negro ministers in 25 cities throughout the Nation to become qualified leaders in the ghetto areas.

#### Funds from Individuals

In October, 1965, Governor of New York Nelson Rockefeller matched the \$25,000 donation which King made to the Gandhi Society for Human Rights, another fund-raising adjunct of SCLC.



In February, 1967, it was learned that Harry Belafonte, well-known entertainer, performed on a television program in Paris, France, for the benefit of SCLC. As a result, SCLC was to receive \$10,000.

During the year 1967, Anne Labouisse Farnsworth, also known as Mrs. Peter Farnsworth and heiress to the Clark Thread Fortune, donated \$50,000 to SCLC. In January, 1968, it was learned she was in the process of donating \$100,000 to King's group.

#### Funds from Government Agencies

In early December, 1966, it was determined that King's organization was about to participate in a four-million-dollar loan from the Federal Housing Administration because of SCLC's involvement in a slum clearance program in Chicago, Illinois. Under existing Government regulations SCLC would share in the ten per cent profit allowed, or \$400,000. Levison made available \$12,500 of his own money so that SCLC could participate in this program and share in the profits.

It was also determined that in November, 1967, the Department of Labor negotiated a contract with SCLC to train Negroes for employment in Atlanta, Georgia. Of the \$61,000 involved in the contract, \$13,000 went to SCLC and \$48,000 went to the grocers in Atlanta for providing on-the-job training to the previously unemployed Negroes.

#### Funds for Washington Spring Project

In February, 1968, Levison was in conference with one of King's aides concerning methods of raising funds for the "Washington Spring Project." Levison suggested that a meeting be held in the home of Harry Belafonte of approximately 60 individuals who have contributed \$1,000 or more to SCLC in the past. Levison advised that some of the people to be invited to this meeting would be Governor and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, Mary and Stephen Rockefeller, and Franklin D. Roosevelt III.

PAGES 19 AND 20 ARE WITHHELD PER U.S. DISTRICT COURT, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
CIVIL ACTION NUMBERS 76-1185 AND 76-1186

u 2 2  
March 5, 1968  
6:00 p.m.

The attached FBI memorandum concerns Martin Luther King, Jr. William Rutherford, Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) recently conferred with Stanley Levison and Harry Wachtel, both advisors to King, concerning the "Washington Spring Project".

Among the points discussed were whether King should visit President Johnson to discuss problems of ghetto people; whether King should speak before a joint session of Congress; and whether the SCLC should consider legal action against the government for reimbursement for the years Negroes were held in slavery.

Chicago staff members of the SCLC have recruited approximately 100 individuals to participate in this demonstration. These individuals are primarily welfare recipients and youths from Chicago's near West Side. Reports are that the SCLC is having difficulty in soliciting funds for this project.

Levison and Wachtel both have records of past affiliation with the Communist Party.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-240  
By sjh NARA, Date 11-28-01

~~SECRET~~

8a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

March 5, 1968

BY LIAISON

**Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.**

**Dear Mrs. Stegall:**

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  
other interested officials of the  
Government.**

~~SECRET~~



RECEIVED  
GARVIN WATSON  
MAR 5 PM 3 40

DEVL. NLS • 258571 :

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
FEB. 27 1963



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 5, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

William Rutherford, Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was in conference recently with Stanley Levison and Harry Wachtel, both advisors to Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, concerning King's massive civil disobedience campaign called the "Washington Spring Project."

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3 { Later, Rutherford mentioned this conference to several staff members of King's organization. Among the points discussed, according to Rutherford, were whether Martin Luther King, Jr., should visit President Johnson for the purpose of discussing problems of "ghetto people"; whether King should speak before a joint session of Congress; and whether the Southern Christian Leadership Conference should consider legal action against the United States Government in the form of a lawsuit for payment of money to Negroes as reimbursement for the many years they have been held in "slavery."

Two officials of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference met with the "Washington Spring Project" staff in Chicago, Illinois, on March 1, 1968. The Chicago staff members reported that efforts on their part to date have resulted in the recruitment of one hundred individuals who have tentatively agreed to participate in the "Washington Spring Project." The individuals are primarily welfare recipients and youths from Chicago's near West Side. The Chicago "Washington Spring Project" staff members have also reported that recently efforts to solicit funds from former Southern Christian Leadership Conference contributors have been largely unsuccessful and appeals for money have been met with flat refusals.

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Group 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLI 01-234  
By SP/AM NARA, Date 8-30-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Another source advised in April, 1964, that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, USA, in July, 1963. In late 1963 and early 1964, he criticized the Communist Party for not being sufficiently militant in the civil rights struggle. Levison was described by certain Communist Party leaders as being to the "left" of the Communist Party in his position on civil rights. His differences with the Communist Party, however, are merely tactical, and he continues his ideological adherence to communism. Stanley Levison is the owner and operator of the Park Management Realty Company, 1841 Broadway, New York, New York.

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

~~SECRET~~



March 2, 1968  
4:15 p.m.

The attached FBI memorandum concerns selected racial developments and disturbances. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young have been requested to visit three African countries during the period of April 16-20, 1968. The identities of the countries are unknown at this time. These three individuals have been requested to serve as mediators in connection with a dispute among these countries.

Support for King's "Washington Spring Project" has been expressed by Father James E. Groppi, the Roman Catholic priest who has been active in open-housing demonstrations in Milwaukee. Groppi will recruit demonstrators from Milwaukee for this demonstration.

Negro comedian Dick Gregory appeared before 250 people in Philadelphia on February 27. The meeting was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Peace and Freedom Ticket for the purpose of obtaining signatures to place Gregory's name on the ballot as a Presidential candidate.

The Cleveland office of the FBI received an anonymous telephone call that six members of the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang in California had plans to assassinate Mayor Carl B. Stokes within the next few days. Sources advise that the Hell's Angels gang is attempting to organize an affiliated gang in Cleveland. This move is opposed by an East Coast gang known as God's Children and the two gangs have "declared war" on each other. There are racial overtones to this dispute and racial violence could erupt as a result of this gang war. Two individuals, one Negro and one white, were shot to death on February 28, as a result of this gang war. A spokesman for the Cleveland Police Department advised that the Hell's Angels gang has left Cleveland and he does not anticipate racial violence.

On February 29, H. Rap Brown made inflammatory remarks concerning New Orleans and Baton Rouge with regard to their potential for racial demonstrations. Brown said that he had requested his attorney to contact Stokely Carmichael and request him to come to New Orleans on March 2.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NJ 01-240  
By SLH NARA, Date 11-28-01



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*ga*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

March 1, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall

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.

A copy of the enclosed has been furnished  
to the Attorney General and other  
interested officials of the Government.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10.

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 1, 1968

SELECTED RACIAL DEVELOPMENTS  
AND DISTURBANCES

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SCHEDULED TO VISIT AFRICA IN  
APRIL OF 1968

A source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and Whitney Young of the National Urban League have been requested to visit three African countries during the period April 16-20, 1968. The identities of the countries are not known at this time. They have been requested to serve as "mediators" apparently in connection with a dispute among the three countries concerned. Information furnished by our source suggested that King had been requested to participate in this matter some time ago but was reluctant to do so because of the "Washington Spring Project," a massive civil disobedience demonstration scheduled to be held in Washington, D. C., during April of 1968. King's decision to visit Africa was motivated in part by his feeling that a declination would imply that he had no interest in African affairs.

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GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By SP/4 NARA, Date 8-30-01

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SELECTED RACIAL DEVELOPMENTS  
AND DISTURBANCES

"WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT"

A source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that support for the "Washington Spring Project" has been expressed by Father James E. Groppi, a Roman Catholic priest, who has been leading marches and demonstrations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in favor of open-housing legislation. Father Groppi will assist by utilizing "his people" to recruit demonstrators from Milwaukee for the "Washington Spring Project."

PHILADELPHIA APPEARANCE OF DICK GREGORY ON FEBRUARY 27, 1968

Sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past advised that Dick Gregory, a Negro entertainer active in civil rights and antiwar activities, appeared before 250 people in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 27, 1968. The meeting was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Peace and Freedom Ticket for the purpose of obtaining signatures to place Gregory's name on the ballot as a candidate in the Presidential election. Gregory stated that, if elected, he would paint the White House black and "bring the boys back from Vietnam." He stated, "We don't want integration, we want liberation." Many of his remarks were jeered by black nationalists in the audience but his candidacy was endorsed at the meeting.

ANONYMOUS REPORT OF PLAN TO ASSASSINATE MAYOR OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Cleveland, Ohio, Office of this Bureau received an anonymous telephone call yesterday that six members of the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang of California had made plans to assassinate Carl B. Stokes, Mayor of Cleveland, within the next few days. The caller hung up before details could be determined.

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SELECTED RACIAL DEVELOPMENTS  
AND DISTURBANCES

Sources of this Bureau who have furnished reliable information in the past advised that the Hell's Angels gang is attempting to organize an affiliated gang in Cleveland. This move is opposed by an East Coast motorcycle gang known as God's Children and the two gangs have "declared war" on each other. The Hell's Angels motorcycle gang is anti-Negro, while God's Children is interracial. There is a possibility that racial violence could erupt as a result of this gang war. One Negro and one white in Cleveland were shot to death in the early morning hours of February 28, 1968, allegedly as a result of this gang war. A spokesman for the Cleveland Police Department advised that there are reports that the Hell's Angels gang has left Cleveland and he does not anticipate racial violence to result from the gang war.

H. RAP BROWN

A confidential source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on February 29, 1968, that H. Rap Brown, National Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a militant black nationalist organization, stated, "New Orleans was ready to go," and that "Baton Rouge, particularly Southern University there, was hot." Brown stated that only time was necessary to mobilize forces and has requested his attorney, William Kunstler, to contact Stokely Carmichael, former National Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and request him to come to New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 2, 1968. Brown is presently incarcerated in Orleans Parish Prison, New Orleans, in lieu of bond awaiting action by the United States District Court.

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SELECTED RACIAL DEVELOPMENTS  
AND DISTURBANCES

Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College is located at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is apparently the school to which Brown referred.

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10



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

March 1, 1968

BY LIAISON

(V)

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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  
other interested officials of the  
Government.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

162

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

March 1, 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

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

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

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

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Group 1

Excluded from automatic  
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declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By 5/4 NARA, Date 8-30-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

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

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

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

A fourth source advised in April, 1964, that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, USA, in July, 1963. In late 1963, and early 1964, he criticized the Communist Party for not being sufficiently militant in the civil rights struggle. Levison was described by certain Communist Party leaders as being to the "left" of the Communist Party in his position on civil rights. His differences with the Communist Party, however, are merely tactical, and he continues his ideological adherence to communism. Stanley Levison is the owner and operator of the Park Management Realty Company, 1841 Broadway, New York, New York.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

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

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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

February 27, 1968

BY LIAISON

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Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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.

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

~~SECRET~~

RECEIVED  
W. MARVIN WATSON

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11a

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 27, 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, held a week-long workshop to train Negro ministers in urban leadership at Miami, Florida, from February 19 through 23, 1968. The Ford Foundation recently gave King's organization a \$230,000 grant to hold these workshops.

Approximately 150 Negro ministers throughout the United States attended this conference. During the day these individuals attended various smaller workshops to discuss problems of the Negro living in the ghetto. A large amount of time was spent discussing ways of putting economic pressure on the white community to create more and better jobs for Negroes.

The delegates were of variant opinions as to the methods to be used in solving the problems within the civil rights movement. The majority of the delegates favored the nonviolent approach. There were a few in attendance who were desirous of a more militant approach. One of those advocating a militant approach was Reverend James Bevel, an aide to King. At one point, Bevel stated he believed in burning down the cities if something significant would be accomplished. He did not believe in burning just for the sake of burning. He

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Group 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NJ 01-239  
By SP/4 NARA, Date 8-30-01



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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

advised he attempted to get Negro leaders in New York City to burn that town down when Adam Clayton Powell lost his congressional seat; however, he was unsuccessful.

Concerning religion, Reverend Bevel advised that he did not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. He advised he was firmly convinced that "Mary" was raped by a Roman soldier.

Another militant minister in attendance was Reverend James E. Woodruff, an Episcopal minister from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Reverend Woodruff confided to some in attendance that he was the leader of a "liberation school" and he also conducted many classes in various homes in the Philadelphia area. He also stated that he believed in terrorist tactics to achieve black power.

Another source advised that there was a marked tendency on the part of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to move away from integration and to move toward economic and political black power.

During the conference some members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference attempted to gain support for King's massive civil disobedience campaign to be held early in April, 1968, in Washington, D. C. King calls this program his "Washington Spring Project." Most ministers in attendance gave their reluctant approval to the "Washington Spring Project" provided the Project would be approached in a nonviolent manner.

Most of the delegates in attendance were opposed to the militant approach to the problems of the civil rights movement advocated by Stokely Carmichael, former Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. These individuals felt that the problems could be solved with a more moderate approach.

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*To Mildred*

(V)

*W 1/21*

*12*

February 21, 1968  
4:00 p.m.

The attached FBI report concerns Martin Luther King, Jr. King is holding the first of two workshops to train Negro ministers in urban leadership from February 19-23 in Miami.

The Ford Foundation has given a \$230,000 grant to hold these workshops. It has been determined that King's massive civil disobedience campaign, the "Washington Spring Project", will be discussed.

The NAACP has tried to dissuade King from carrying out the Project and is not supporting it. There is fear that King cannot control the demonstrators and the demonstration will be taken over by extremists.

The Project seems to be suffering from indecision and King is reported to be concerned about prospects of success. He has instructed his staff to re-evaluate the Project as to whether or not they can carry it out.

The Miami Herald reported on February 18, that some Negro leaders will urge King to detour his demonstration and redirect the demonstrators to the local districts of Congressmen who have voted against civil rights legislation.

*Review and brief  
if Ford Foundation  
beg this*

*2-22-68  
Jms told [unclear]*

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-240  
By *g/h* NARA, Date *11-28-01*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

February 21, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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  
other interested officials of the  
Government.

~~SECRET~~

RECEIVED  
V. MARVIN WATSON

1988 FEB 21 PM 3 34





~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

126

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 21, 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is holding the first of two workshops to train Negro ministers in urban leadership from February 19 through 23, 1968, at Miami, Florida. He has invited approximately 150 Negro ministers throughout the Nation to attend this meeting at the plush new Sheraton - Four Ambassadors Hotel.

The Ford Foundation recently gave King's organization a \$230,000 grant to hold these workshops in an effort to develop responsible leadership in the Negro ghetto areas of the Nation's major cities.

It has been determined that King's massive civil disobedience campaign, which he calls the "Washington Spring Project," will be discussed at this workshop.

Dr. John A. Morsell, Assistant Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, advised Special Agents of this Bureau that his organization is not supporting the Washington Spring Project and is taking no part in it. He advised the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has tried, without success, to dissuade King from executing the Project. Dr. Morsell is afraid that King cannot control the demonstrators and there is a likelihood that the overall demonstration will be taken over by extremists.

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Group 1

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declassification

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By WJ, NARA, Date 83001

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

This past week King concentrated his attention on the South and spoke at rather large gatherings in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Alabama.

King has chartered a small twin-engine aircraft to help speed him about the South urging people to support his Washington Spring Project.

Another source advised recently that the entire Washington Spring Project seems to be suffering from indecision, petty bickering among the staff members, and the idiosyncrasies of King's ego. This source advised that King is worried about the lack of progress being made by his recruiters. He is concerned about the success of the program. He has instructed his staff to seriously consider whether or not they can successfully carry out the Project. If they cannot, then it will be necessary to establish a reason as to why he finds it necessary to discontinue the Washington Spring Project.

In this connection, the "Miami Herald" newspaper on February 18, 1968, reported that some Negro leaders will urge King to detour his planned massive civil disobedience demonstration scheduled for April, 1968, in Washington, D. C., and redirect the demonstrators to the local districts of Congressmen who have voted against civil rights legislation. These leaders feel that Congressmen do not care what happens in Washington, D. C., but they would feel the impact of these demonstrations in their home districts.

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14



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

February 13, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

(v)

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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  
other interested officials of the  
Government.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

RECEIVED  
BY MARVIN WATSON  
FEB 13 PM 3 44

Director  
J. Edgar Hoover  
Special Agent in Charge

TO DIRECTOR  
FROM SAC, NEW YORK  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

RE: [illegible]  
[illegible]  
[illegible]

NY DIVISION

February 12, 1968



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET



~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

14a

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 13, 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Recently Stanley Levison, principal advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was in conference with William Rutherford, Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, concerning funds for King's massive civil disobedience campaign called "Washington Spring Project." Levison stated he had examined the list of contributors to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and he did not observe any large donors on this list.

Rutherford mentioned that a suggestion had been made to have a group meeting of the larger contributors where someone would talk to the group and solicit funds. Levison suggested Andrew Young, Executive Vice President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as the person to conduct that type of a meeting.

Levison then suggested that a meeting be held in the home of Harry Belafonte, a nationally known entertainer, of approximately sixty individuals who have contributed one thousand dollars or more to King's group in the past. Levison advised that some of the people to be invited to this meeting would be Governor and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, Mary and Stephen Rockefeller and Franklin D. Roosevelt III.

SECRET

Group 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By SJA NARA, Date 8-30-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Another source advised on October 28, 1958, that according to Jean Smith, Secretary at Communist Party Headquarters, New York City, before Harry Belafonte came into prominence, he had been a member of the Young Communist League.

The Young Communist League has been designated subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A third source advised in April, 1964, that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, USA, in July, 1963. In late 1963, and early 1964, he criticized the Communist Party for not being sufficiently militant in the civil rights struggle. Levison was described by certain Communist Party leaders as being to the "left" of the Communist Party in his position on civil rights. His differences with the Communist Party, however, are merely tactical, and he continues his ideological adherence to communism. Stanley Levison is the owner and operator of the Park Management Realty Company, 1841 Broadway, New York, New York.

~~SECRET~~

February 8, 1968  
5:15 p.m.

The attached FBI memorandum concerns Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recently Stanley Levison, principal adviser to King, was in conference with William Rutherford, who is Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Levison stated he had recently held a meeting with Harry Wachtel, Clarence Jones, and Bayard Rustin concerning King's plans for civil disobedience, called "Washington Spring Project".

Levison said that Rustin "showed his true colors" by opposing civil disobedience and opposing involving the peace issue with the "Washington Spring Project".

Levison said that during the first week of the demonstration calls will be made on Congressmen by demonstrators from 17 states. During the second week demonstrators will call on the Heads of Departments. On the first visit the demonstrators will make their demands known and on the second visit, if the demands are not met, a sit-in will be conducted.

All of the individual mentioned have had, or currently have, affiliations with Communists or subversive organizations.

The Communist Party of Cleveland, Ohio, is showing an interest in King's plans and members have expressed the opinion that every Communist Party member in Cleveland should take an active party and should contact other groups in this regard.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 91-240  
By sj/4h NARA, Date 11-28-01

~~SECRET~~

15a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

February 8, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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  
other interested officials of the  
Government.

~~SECRET~~



SECRET

RECEIVED  
MARVIN WATSON  
1968 FEB 8 PM 2 49

*[Handwritten signature]*

WATSON, MARVIN

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WATSON, MARVIN

BA DIVISION

February 3, 1968



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SECRET

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

156

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 8, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Recently Stanley Levison, principal advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was in conference with William Rutherford, Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Levison informed that he had recently held a meeting with Harry Wachtel, Clarence Jones, and Bayard Rustin concerning King's massive civil disobedience program called "Washington Spring Project."

According to Levison, Rustin showed his true colors by opposing civil disobediences and opposing involving the peace issue with the "Washington Spring Project."

Levison felt the tactics King and his group will use in conducting the massive civil disobediences must be agreed upon and made known to interested individuals. Rutherford advised that some tentative tactics have been discussed which are as follows:

~~SECRET~~

Group 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLI 01-239  
By *Sjth* NARA, Date 8-30-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

During the first week of the "Washington Spring Project" calls will be made on Congressmen by demonstrators from 17 different areas. During the second week of the campaign the demonstrators will call on the heads of departments such as the Secretary of Labor. On the first visit the demonstrators will make their demands known and on the second visit, if the demands are not met, a sit-in will be conducted.

With respect to the individuals referred to above it is noted that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, USA, in July, 1963. In late 1963 and early 1964 he criticized the Communist Party for not being sufficiently militant in the civil rights struggle. Levison was described by the Communist Party leaders as being to the "left" of the Communist Party in his position on civil rights. His differences with the Communist Party, however, are merely tactical and he continues his ideological adherence to communism. Stanley Levison is the owner and operator of the Park Management Realty Company, 1841 Broadway, New York, New York.

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

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

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

During the early 1940s Bayard Rustin was a member of the Young Communist League, an organization which has

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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.

In addition to the above, it has been reported that the Communist Party of Cleveland, Ohio, is showing an interest in King's "Washington Spring Project" and members thereof have expressed the opinion that every Communist Party member in Cleveland should do all he can to contact people in various groups and through organizations to urge them to take an active part in the proposed demonstrations.

~~SECRET~~



m

PP

January 25, 1968  
7:50 p.m.

The attached FBI memorandum concerns Martin Luther King, Jr. King recently held a meeting in Atlanta to discuss plans for the massive civil disobedience campaign he calls the "Washington Spring Project."

Kings plans to recruit 3,000 persons to come to Washington, D.C. in early April 1968 to lobby and demonstrate in an effort to persuade Congress to pass legislation favorable to the Negro.

A proposal was adopted at this meeting to enlist the support of black nationalist groups in this movement. Indigent Negro farmers in the South are being recruited to lobby before the Department of Agriculture.

Fifteen other "target" cities have been selected as areas from which the unemployed and unemployable will be recruited for this demonstration.

Plans are underway to tie up the Greyhound Bus Station in Washington during this demonstration. King has told the leaders to recruit participants who will be willing to risk arrest and imprisonment. They also must be willing to face death as it was pointed out that some might be killed during the demonstrations.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-240  
By sj/h NARA, Date 11-28-01

~~SECRET~~

16a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

January 25, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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  
other interested officials of the  
Government.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

January 25, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, recently held a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, to discuss plans for the massive civil disobedience campaign he calls the "Washington Spring Project." It is King's current plan to recruit 3,000 individuals primarily from the East, Midwest, and South, to come to Washington, D. C., in early April, 1968, to lobby and demonstrate in an effort to pressure Congress into passing legislation favorable to the Negro. A proposal was made and adopted at this meeting to enlist the support, if not the actual participation, of black nationalist groups in the "Washington Spring Project." King agreed to designate individuals in the future to make the necessary contacts with the black nationalist groups in this regard.

Four individuals have been assigned by King to work in the States of Alabama and Mississippi to recruit

~~SECRET~~

Group 1 -  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By h5j, NARA, Date 8-30-01

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

about 200 indigent Negro farmers in each state. These farmers will be selected from among Negroes who have been deprived of their land. They will join with other Negro farmers of similar circumstances, recruited from Georgia, and upon arrival in Washington, D. C., will lobby before the United States Department of Agriculture. It will be their aim to get new legislation passed that will improve their current economic state.

Other individuals have been dispatched by King to 15 "target" cities throughout the United States to recruit large numbers of unemployed and unemployable. These individuals, upon arriving in Washington, D. C., will lobby before the United States Department of Labor. They will seek some kind of a program that will help them find jobs.

The current plans are to demonstrate and tie up all business in Washington, D. C., if the Departments of Agriculture and Labor fail to meet King's demands.

One contingent of King's group has been tentatively assigned to tie up the Greyhound Bus Station in Washington, D. C., utilizing such tactics as lying down in front of buses and blocking entrances and exits.

King instructed the leaders to recruit participants that will be totally committed to the success of this "Washington Spring Project." They must be willing to risk being arrested. They must be willing to spend up to six months in jail. They also must be willing to face death as it was pointed out that some persons might be killed during these demonstrations.



~~SECRET~~

17



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

January 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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.

A copy of the enclosed has been furnished to  
the Attorney General.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

January 18, 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, held a conference with approximately 50 people in Atlanta, Georgia, from January 15 through 17, 1968, to discuss plans for the massive civil disobedience in Washington, D. C., which he calls the "Washington Spring Project." This project will commence in late March, 1968. King's representatives will attempt to recruit 3,000 Negro people from the ghetto areas in 15 "target cities" throughout the United States to go to Washington, D. C., this spring and demonstrate. The recruiters are currently en route to their assigned cities or will arrive there in the next four or five days.

The conference did not resolve when those individuals recruited to demonstrate would arrive in Washington, D.C. King still plans on presenting his initial demands to the Department of Labor. He also expects to make demands, not resolved, on other Government departments.

King feels that his demands will not be met by any Government agency and his massive civil disobedience will then commence. The demonstrators will be instructed not to abide by injunctions or other legal deterrents. They will sleep in Government office buildings and submit to arrest and jail. Other demonstrators will take the place of those jailed.

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GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ 01-239  
By SPH NARA, Date 8-30-01

~~SECRET~~

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

King envisions that these demonstrations will tie up all business in Washington, D. C., in a matter of a few days. King hopes the news of these demonstrations traveling throughout the Nation will touch off simultaneous demonstrations in the other "target cities." Initially the demonstrators will press for jobs and income; however, King feels the peace issue will naturally become involved and much support will be afforded the demonstrators in Washington, D. C., by various peace groups. Because of the demonstrations, King feels Congress will be forced to pass legislation favorable to Negroes.

King plans to visit each "target city" and talk to demonstrators recruited about the project and boost morale. In that regard, King plans to visit Washington, D. C., on February 8, 1968. He also informed the conference he would be in Washington, D. C., for the actual demonstrations.

The type of civil disobedience that the demonstrators would use was not discussed during this conference. Even though King indicated that these demonstrations would commence the last week in March, the source advised that King has speaking engagements in several cities in Virginia at that time. The source feels that the mass demonstrations will not start until the first week in April.

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### **LBJ LIBRARY PROCESSING NOTE**

Documents 18 through 27 were closed under the provisions of President Johnson's deed of gift when this file was made available to researchers from the U. S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations. These documents were returned to the file on July 2, 2002.





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

July 19, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

With reference to the extradition of James Earl Ray, who is charged with the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., I thought the following information might be of interest to the President.

British authorities turned Ray over yesterday evening to the custody of Agents of this Bureau who accompanied him, aboard a United States Air Force plane, to the Naval Air Station at Memphis, Tennessee.

Ray was turned over by FBI Agents to officers of the Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office and was incarcerated in the Shelby County Jail at 5:32 a. m., Eastern Daylight Time, July 19, 1968.

The transportation of Ray from Great Britain to the Memphis Naval Air Station as well as from the Naval Air Station to the Shelby County Jail was accomplished without incident.

The Air Force flight surgeon who conducted physical examinations of Ray aboard the plane en route from Great Britain to the United States stated that Ray was in good physical condition.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*



*p. 2*      *4/18 @*      *19*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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. (1)

This information has also been furnished to the  
Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General,  
and Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

April 18, 1968

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On April 17, 1968, the FBI filed a complaint before the United States Commissioner, Birmingham, Alabama, charging that Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother conspired to interfere with a constitutional right of Martin Luther King, Jr., namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. It was also charged that in furtherance of this conspiracy Galt purchased a rifle at Birmingham on or about March 30, 1968.

A .30-06 caliber rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a Memphis rooming house immediately after the fatal shot was fired. The rooming house overlooks the motel room where Martin Luther King, Jr., was slain. The rifle has been traced by the FBI from the factory to a Birmingham dealer who sold it to Galt.

Galt has previously used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer. A white Mustang automobile purchased by Galt in Birmingham on August 30, 1967, was abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, and was located on April 11, 1968. The odometer showed that the Mustang was driven more than 19,000 while it was owned by Galt.

Galt is known to have been in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 3 and 4, 1968. His prior movements have been traced to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Mexico and Canada. He has claimed to have been a merchant seaman and a cook on Mississippi River boats and seagoing vessels. He graduated from a bartending course in Los Angeles in March, 1968, and is known to have taken dancing lessons in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967, to February, 1968. He previously took dancing lessons in Birmingham during September and October, 1967, and reportedly took such lessons at New Orleans in 1964 and 1965.

## **MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**Widespread publicity is being given to Galt's fugitive status and every effort is being made to effect his apprehension as quickly as possible. The most intensive investigation is being pursued throughout the United States as well as in Canada and Mexico.**



20



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 12, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

(u)

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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. (1)

This information has also been furnished to  
the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General,  
and Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

April 12, 1968

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, continues to receive the most vigorous investigative attention.

Additional suspects have been developed and are being expeditiously processed. Other investigative phases of this case are being exhaustively pursued throughout the country.

Additional examinations, comparisons and analyses of physical evidence by the FBI Laboratory and Identification Division are being performed on a continuous basis.

No effort or expense is being spared in our total commitment to the successful outcome of this investigation.

21



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 11, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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. (1)

This information has also been furnished to  
the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General,  
and Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak.



2/a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

April 11, 1968

**MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

The investigation of the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, has assumed gigantic proportions.

All Field Divisions of the FBI are participating in an around-the-clock operation designed to identify and apprehend the person or persons responsible for the killing.

Suspects are being developed and processed on a daily basis as additional information is developed. Every aspect of the investigation is being vigorously pursued and the complete facilities of this Bureau will remain fully committed until this matter has been finally resolved.



22



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 10, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

A handwritten mark, possibly initials, is located to the right of the recipient's address. It appears to be a stylized "P" or "J" with a loop.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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, reading "J. Edgar Hoover", is written over the typed name and title.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enc. (1)

This information has also been furnished to  
the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General,  
and Stephen J. Pollak, Assistant Attorney General.



22a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

April 10, 1968

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

All investigation into the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, is proceeding on a top priority basis.

It has been determined that a pair of pliers believed to have been abandoned by the killer was one of twelve purchased in October, 1966, by a Los Angeles hardware store. When the pliers were received by the store they were placed in a bargain barrel near the front door. One pair remained in the barrel on April 8, 1968. Employees do not recall any sales of this item but an extensive review is being made of credit sales records for any mention of such pliers.

Klansmen, members of other hate groups, and all persons known to have a potential for a crime of this type are being treated as suspects. Their recent whereabouts and activities are being determined and their fingerprints are being checked against the latent fingerprints that have been developed during this investigation.

In addition to the lines of investigation described above, we are vigorously pursuing every other logical investigative approach to quickly bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

23



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 9, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

(Handwritten mark, possibly initials or a checkmark)

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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,

*(Handwritten signature of John Edgar Hoover)*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enc.

This information has also been furnished to the  
Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General,  
and Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

23a  
April 9, 1968

**MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

In connection with the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, we are continuing the investigation with all possible diligence and dispatch.

The investigation is nationwide in scope as countless suspects are being processed and physical evidence is being traced.

A rifle, believed to be the murder weapon, and a zipper bag containing a pair of binoculars and a large number of personal items were apparently abandoned by the subject immediately after the shooting. Extensive efforts are being made to identify the source of each of these items as a means of identifying and locating the person or persons responsible for the killing.

In addition to active investigative efforts throughout the field, the many facilities of the FBI Laboratory and Identification Division are continuing to make exhaustive tests of evidence obtained.

You may be completely assured that this investigation will continue on an expedited basis until the matter has been finally resolved.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 8, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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, the Deputy Attorney General,  
and Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

April 8, 1968

**MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Investigation into the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., is proceeding on a top priority basis and the complete facilities of the FBI are committed to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible.

Additional evidence is being steadily developed and investigation has eliminated a number of suspects. In addition to exploiting all available direct evidence that could lead to the subject, we are also checking a large number of persons considered capable of this crime because of their past activities.

Every logical avenue of investigative approach is being vigorously pursued to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

25



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 6, 1968

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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.

Copies of the enclosure have been furnished to  
the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General  
and the Civil Rights Division.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

April 6, 1968

**MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Laboratory examination of the bullet removed from the body of Martin Luther King, Jr., has established that it is a .30 caliber metal jacketed soft point sporting type bullet of Remington-Peters manufacture. This bullet could have been fired from the rifle found on April 4, 1968, near the scene of the shooting by Guy Warren Canipe, Sr. Due to mutilation of the bullet, it cannot be stated that it was actually fired from this particular rifle.

It has been determined that the rifle was obtained in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. Employees of Aero Marine Supply Company in Birmingham have advised that an individual using the name of Harvey Lowmeyer purchased a caliber 243 W Remington rifle on March 29, 1968. He had a Redfield scope mounted on the rifle at this time. Lowmeyer indicated he planned to go to Wisconsin to hunt. The following day, March 30, 1968, Lowmeyer returned the rifle to the store and exchanged it for a Remington 760 Model .30-06 caliber. The scope was then mounted on the second rifle by the store. It appears that the name Lowmeyer is fictitious, as is the address given by him.

Extensive efforts are being made to identify the person who purchased the rifle.

The binoculars, which were in the zipper bag found by Canipe, were purchased during the afternoon of April 4, 1968, at York Arms, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

The full investigation is continuing and every effort is being made to identify the individual or individuals responsible for this murder.

I am advised also that the Memphis Police Department is utilizing its full facilities to solve this crime.



26



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 5, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

(u)

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

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 has also been furnished to  
the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General,  
and Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

April 5, 1968

**MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

At approximately 6:03 p. m., April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was on a second floor balcony of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, Memphis, Tennessee. King's associates, who were at the street level, heard a shot and King fell immediately after the shot was heard. He was taken at once to St. Joseph Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 7:05 p. m. Death resulted from bullet damage to major neck vessels and the spinal cord.

Investigation indicates that the shot may have been fired from the second floor bathroom of a rooming house at 422 1/2 South Main Street, approximately 205 feet from where King was standing. A shot was heard from the second floor at approximately 6 p. m. and immediately after the shot was fired, a white man left the bathroom and ran out of the building. The bathroom provides an open view of King's room. Occupants of the rooming house had observed a white man carrying a package approximately three feet in length and possibly wrapped in a piece of blanket. This man occupied Room 5B on April 4, 1968.

Bessie Ruth Brewer, manager of the rooming house, advised that a white man who identified himself only as John Willard and who gave no address, appeared at the rooming house sometime between 3 p. m. and 3:30 p. m., April 4, 1968, and rented Room 5B, paying one week's rent in advance. Room 5B affords a view of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel. We are making every effort to locate Willard as quickly as possible.

Guy Warren Canipe, Sr., operates an amusement machine company approximately 300 feet from King's room. At approximately 6 p. m. he heard a noise at his door. He looked up and saw a man walking away.

## **MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

He then found an open carton and saw a gun barrel in the carton. A piece of green cloth was wrapped around the carton and a small zipper bag was nearby. Canipe also observed a white Mustang being driven away at a high rate of speed.

The items found by Canipe are presently undergoing exhaustive examinations in the FBI Laboratory and extensive efforts are being made to trace each item. The carton contained a .30-06 Springfield caliber Remington Gamemaster rifle, Model 760, serial number 461476. The rifle is equipped with a Redfield variable power telescopic sight. The zipper bag contained various personal items including a pair of binoculars.

The bullet recovered from King's body is also being examined by the FBI Laboratory.

Press reports have referred to two suspects who were arrested after they were observed changing clothes in a garage. These men are Manuel Marcus Levin and Alex J. Hurder. Both have been identified as civil rights workers by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and have been released.

A full investigation has been instituted and every effort is being made to promptly identify the person or persons responsible for this murder.