Mr. Tolson Mr. Sullivan .

Mr. Mohr .

Form DJ-190 (Ed. 4-26-65)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTME

morandum

Director,

Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

JL:MG:p DJ 144-

FROM

. Jerris Leonard

Assistant Attorney General

Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. Bishop _ Mr. Brennan, C.D. Mr. Callahan . Mr. Casper Mr. Conrad Mr. Dalbey Mr. Felt . Mr. Gale . Mr. Rosen Mr. Tavel . Mr. Walters . Mr. Soyars . Tele. Room . Miss Holmes Miss Gandy

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 16, 1971 at Atlanta and to previous communications in the captioned matter.

It appears that Robert Byron Watson (Byron watson) may have information pertinent to the captioned matter. Please interview Byron Watson fully with respect to all details of this matter and with respect to his background, education, employment, criminal record if any, and any other matters which may cast light on the creditability of his statements in connection with the captioned matter.

If the statement furnished by Byron Watson is substantially similar to that attributed to him and his mother by your source (pp. 3-5 of your memorandum of 3/16) or to the statement attributed to him by Ken Smith (my memorandum of 2/1/71, pp. 5-8 of attachment), please provide full background information on Byron Watson and his parents, and, in addition, please conduct the investigation requested in paragraph III (4.) of my memorandum of February 1, 1971.

15 MAR 2619