

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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MAY 4 1976

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DATE: May 3, 1976

TO : The Attorney General

FROM : *with* Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to the letter dated April 15, 1976, from Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Special Counsel for Intelligence Coordination, to Assistant Director John A. Mintz of this Bureau, entitled "List of FBI Documents Pertaining to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which were Delivered to SSC."

Referenced letter modified a letter from Mr. Shaheen dated April 14, 1976, and advised that you desired an approximation of the number of documents and number of pages of documents which were delivered to the Senate Select Committee (SSC) as well as a very general description of the type of material contained in those documents. In addition, you requested a description of the type of material which was not turned over to the SSC.

Set out below, under appropriate headings is the information you desire? An extra copy of this communication is being designated for Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger because of the Civil Rights Division's current interest in the King investigation.

Number of Documents and Number of Pages of Documents Delivered to the SSC

Approximately 1,300 documents totaling approximately 2,900 pages have been delivered to the SSC. These included documents already in FBI Headquarters files and did not include memoranda prepared specifically for the SSC. In arriving at these figures, we reviewed the various requests from the SSC, and our replies thereto, and counted only those documents where King's name was involved in the request.



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We did not include documents relating to some indirectly related requests which did not mention King. Examples of the latter are requests for materials on the March on Washington and analyses, made at FBI Headquarters, concerning communist influence in racial matters.

General Description of Type of Material Contained in Documents Furnished

To best portray by a general description the type of material involved, we extracted and are setting out below phrases taken from the numerous SSC requests.

Preparation, dissemination and/or withdrawal of monographs concerning King, but not including the monographs; material concerning dissemination of information and contacts outside the Executive Branch; meeting between King and the FBI; information concerning discrediting or neutralizing King; information concerning electronic surveillances; Cointelpro activities; material reflecting inception of investigations of King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); follow-up material concerning monographs; Official and Confidential (O & C) files; installation, continuation and authorization of electronic surveillances; information concerning photographic surveillances; information concerning meetings between King and Stanley David Levison; preparation of transcripts of tapes and playing of tapes to anyone outside the FBI; material concerning meeting between FBI Director and representatives of "Newsweek."

Also, material relating to FBI investigation of communist infiltration of racial movement bearing on disagreement between J. Edgar Hoover and FBI Domestic Intelligence Division; information concerning Hunter Pitts O'Dell; material concerning King's criticism of FBI; information concerning microphone surveillances of King; information concerning meetings of FBI personnel and others to discuss electronic surveillances of King; tax returns concerning King and SCLC; information concerning possible inclusion of King in the Security Index; material relating to electronic surveillances of associates of King (Levison,

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O'Dell, Bayard Rustin, Ralph Abernathy, and others); information that a former President and a former Attorney General were aware of microphone surveillance of King; basis for investigation of King.

Also, materials contained in files of W. C. Sullivan concerning King and the SCLC; information concerning conversations between FBI and Department of Justice officials about King and SCLC; meetings between FBI officials and news media representatives concerning King; delivery of letter from Director Hoover to Mr. Moyers of the White House; information concerning Poor People's Campaign and Sanitation Workers Strike; basis for investigation of Levison; consideration for placing Levison on the Security Index; institution and termination of microphone surveillance of Levison.

General Description of Type of Material
Which Was Not Furnished to SSC

By specific exemption enunciated by the SSC, it was not furnished information believed to be the products or fruits of electronic surveillances of King. Included in this exemption were tapes and transcripts. Also not furnished the SSC were several monographs written containing considerable information about King.

100-106670

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
Attention: Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.
Special Counsel for
Intelligence Coordination

- 1 - J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Attention: Robert A. Murphy