

S-20

11 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with

1. The writer had a short discussion this morning with

2. In summarizing point of view, the problem appears to be something like this. The Communist left is making an all out drive to get into the Negro movement. If through any mechanism they can link prominent Negro leaders to illegal activities and activity which is against President Johnson's policy, this may cause a serious break between Johnson and the Negro leadership which, in turn, may create a violent disruption in the Negro Civil Rights Movement which would give the Communists an opportunity to cause chaos and disruption.

3. Furthermore, if the above is coupled with an exposure of Martin Luther KING, Jr. by other than members of his own race, the damage to the Negro movement would be impossible to estimate. is gravely concerned that KING may be exposed by white sources, official or otherwise, which would have no good effect and would probably only make KING a martyr. was also concerned that KING might possibly be assassinated before his exposure which would have the effect of making him a martyr and would not be at all helpful to the Negro movement. It is belief that somehow or other Martin Luther KING must be removed from the leadership of the Negro movement, and his removal must come from within not from without. feels that somewhere in the Negro movement, at the top, there must be a Negro leader who is "clean" who could step into the vacuum and chaos if Martin Luther KING were either exposed or assassinated.

4. In summary, feels that unless the Negro leaders, other than KING, are informed and are capable of intelligent maneuvering, the Communists or Negro elements who will be directed by the Communists may be in a position to, if not take over the Negro movement, completely disrupt it and hence cause extremely critical problems for the Government of the United States.

Seen by Dir/Sec
and Dir/Sec
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Handwritten notes on the right margin, including a large 'X' and some illegible scribbles.

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