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1997



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

IACSF-FI

17 January 1978

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter of 21 July 1977 to the Central Intelligence Agency requesting records concerning the King assassination under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC552. The CIA, on 5 January 1978, forwarded your letter with one (1) Army-originated document to this office, through the office of the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, for a decision as to the releasability of the information to you. This correspondence was received in this office on 12 January 1978.

We have reviewed the information in the Army document and have determined it is releasable to you. A copy is forwarded herewith for your use. Reproduction fees are waived.

If you have any further questions, you may contact the Freedom of Information/Privacy Office, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Meade, Maryland 20755. The telephone numbers are (301) 677-4011/4743.

Sincerely,


THOMAS F. CONLEY
Chief

Freedom of Information/Privacy Office

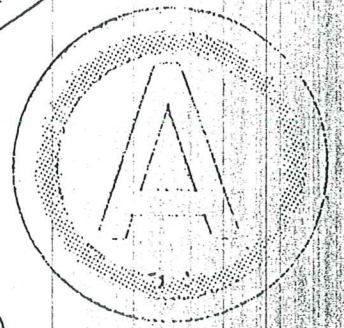
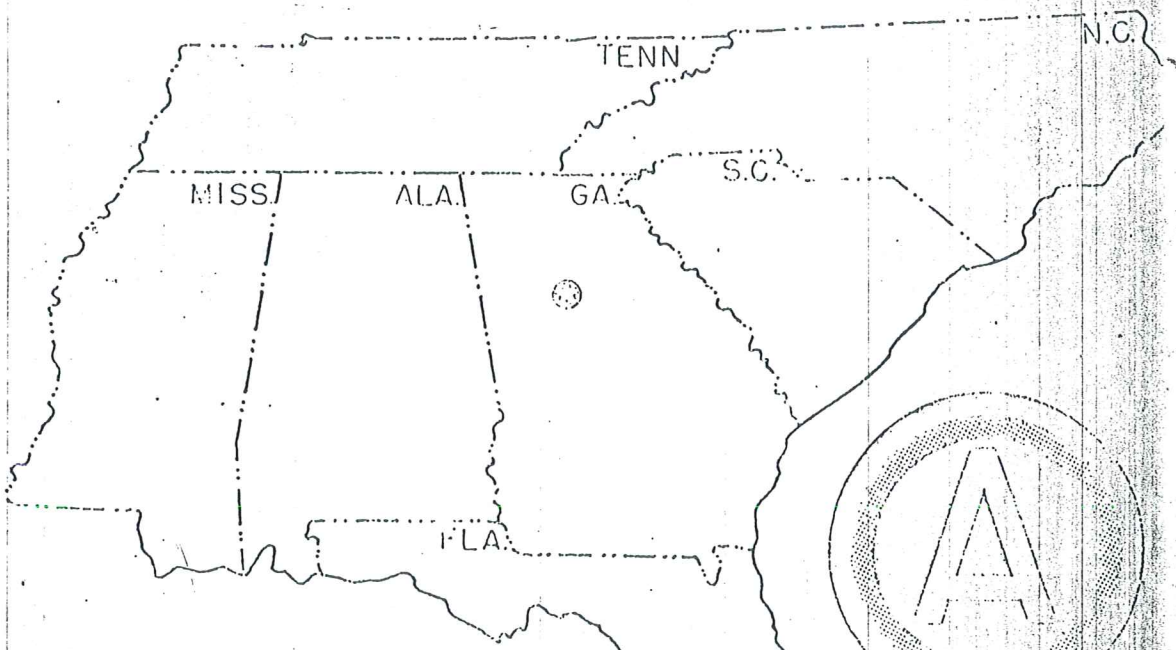
1 Inclosure
As Stated

Copy Furnished:

HQDA (DAAG-AMR-S) wo/Inclosure

Army
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MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (U)



Office of the
Deputy Chief of Staff
Intelligence

Handwritten scribbles and signatures

APRIL 1965
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HEADQUARTERS, THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
Fort McPherson, Georgia

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC RECLASSIFICATION
DOD DIR 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

13 MAY 1965

[REDACTED]

F. Racial

([REDACTED]) Racial Situation, Third US Army Area.

The situation in Alabama continued to dominate the racial picture with sympathy demonstrations throughout the area and the nation.

([REDACTED]) Alabama. On 1 March, Martin Luther KING, Jr., continued his voter registration drive in Selma and carried the "freedom fever" into neighboring counties of Perry, Hale, Marengo, Wilcox, and Lowndes. After addressing a rally, KING led an automobile caravan to the Dallas County courthouse and then drove to the neighboring county seats of Wilcox and Lowndes Counties where no Negroes were reported registered.

On 3 March, two funerals were held for the Negro youth who died of gunshot wounds suffered in Marion last month during racial violence. The first service was held in Selma with about 1500 in attendance. A funeral procession of about 100 cars traveled to Marion where approximately 500 attended another service conducted by KING. Following the funeral KING announced plans for a march from Selma to Montgomery to protest voter registration procedures to Governor Wallace. Plans called for the marchers to leave Selma on Sunday, 7 March by U. S. Highway #60 and reach the Capitol in about five days. City, county and state officials placed a ban on any further massive demonstrations, in an effort to stop the protest march.

On 7 March, about 625 Negroes set out on the march to Montgomery along U. S. #80 leading from Selma. About one mile east of Selma the marchers were halted by state troopers. They were told that the demonstration was illegal and given two minutes to disperse. State troopers and sheriff's possemen used tear gas, rope whips, clubs and horses to disperse them. The Negroes reformed into a group in front of Brown's Chapel, their starting point, and began throwing rocks and bricks at law enforcement officials. One policeman and 17 Negroes were reported injured seriously enough to require hospitalization.

On 8 March, Negro leaders filed suit in federal court, seeking an injunction enjoining the Governor and the State of Alabama from interfering with civil rights marches. KING called for clergymen and lay church members from throughout the nation to join Negroes in another attempt to march to Montgomery on 9 March.

On the 9th, hundreds of Negroes and white supporters, many of them ministers, from throughout the country gathered at Brown's Chapel in Selma to follow KING on the march to Montgomery. Before the march got underway, a federal court ordered the Negroes to postpone their protest until further evidence could be heard. Despite the injunction, KING led a large crowd to the bridge where the march previously dispersed. When confronted by a U. S. Marshal who read the restraining order to them, the marchers continued. After crossing

[REDACTED]

the bridge they were met by state troopers who also ordered them to disperse. Apparently by prearrangement, the marchers returned to their church claiming victory while some charged that KING should not have turned back.

During the evening hours of 9 March, three visiting white ministers were beaten by white men as they emerged from a Negro restaurant in Selma. One of the ministers was severely beaten and taken to a Birmingham hospital in critical condition. The following day despite the state ban on demonstrations, civil rights advocates set out on a "prayer vigil" at the courthouse in honor of the beaten minister. The march was halted by local officials just outside the church. The demonstrators remained, however, in the streets for four or five days honoring the white minister who died on 11 March. Four white men were rearrested and charged with murder after his death. KING continued to call for supporters from throughout the country to come to Selma and join in their planned march. Demonstrations in sympathy with Selma Negroes and in honor of the deceased minister were held throughout the area without incident.

On 13 March, Governor Wallace flew to Washington, D. C., to confer with the President on the Alabama situation. On 14 March, the Governor announced that he would call on the people of Alabama to allow the Negroes to make their march in peace if the federal court ruled in favor of the demonstration. On 15 March, the President asked a joint session of Congress to adopt a new civil rights bill which would strengthen voting rights and provide protection for those who apply for registration regardless of color.

On 16 March, in Montgomery, mounted sheriff's deputies and state troopers broke up a demonstration, injuring about 4 people. According to state officials, the violence was caused by a mixup in police orders. KING led a protest march of 1500 demonstrators on the Montgomery County Courthouse to demand an apology for the attack.

On 17 March, it was announced by the Governor that six Black Belt Counties would be granted 10 additional days to process voter applications. Lowndes County reported its first Negro voter was registered on the 17th and Wilcox County reported that 56 Negroes were tentatively approved.

A federal court in Montgomery, on 18 March, ordered state and county officials to allow the 50-mile civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and to provide them protection. The Governor claimed that the federal government should provide them protection when KING announced they would begin their march on 21 March.

On 20 March, the President federalized the Alabama National Guard and ordered in two battalions of Regular Army Military Police to protect the marchers. Hundreds of integrationists continued to pour into Selma to join in the protest march.

On 21 March, KING began the prolonged march from Brown's Chapel in Selma with about 4,000 participants. They covered about

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eight miles to the New Sisters Spring Church where 300 camped overnight. There were no incidents during the first day and only a small amount of jeering by white spectators was reported. About 200 Ku Klux Klansmen rode in a motorcade in Montgomery in protest to the Negro demonstration. Five bombs were discovered in Birmingham on Sunday and a sixth one on Monday. They were disarmed without exploding. Each bomb contained from 40 - 50 sticks of dynamite. The attempted explosions were believed to have been planned in protest to the march from Selma to Montgomery.

On the second day of the march the number was reduced to 300 in compliance with the court order which limited the number along the dual lane portion of US Highway #80. They covered about 17 miles and camped out in a cow pasture near Big Swamp Creek in Lowndes County. No incidents were reported during the second day's march.

On 23 March, the 300 marchers covered about 11 miles through heavy rain and camped on a muddy knoll near Lowndesboro at the intersection of U. S. Highway #80 and Alabama #21.

On 24 March, the demonstrators resumed their march during the early morning hours and within an hour the number doubled as they entered the four-lane portion of U. S. #80. They covered 14 miles during the day without incident and by the time they arrived at their final campsite, St. Jude's on the outskirts of Montgomery, they had increased to about 4,000. During the evening of 24 March, stage and screen stars entertained the marchers at the campsite, where hundreds of people from throughout the country joined them for the final leg of the march to the State Capitol.

On 25 March, the five-day march concluded with an estimated 25,000 civil rights advocates converging on the State Capitol. Entertainment was provided by prominent movie and TV stars and speeches made by such personalities as Ralph Bunche, Bayard Rustin, Roy Wilkins, A. Phillip Randolph, Whitney Young and Martin Luther KING, Jr. The petition, unanimously ratified by the marchers for presentation to Governor Wallace, protested police brutality, voter registration discrimination, denial of adequate education and opportunities to earn sufficient income, and the "psychotic climate of Alabama which produced the men who savagely attacked and killed" the white minister in Selma. It called for an end to the poll tax in state elections, opening of voter registration offices "at times which are convenient to working people - such as nights and Saturdays," the encouragement of county officials in the democratic process and the appointment of Negroes on boards and agencies of the state in policy making positions.

The Governor refused to receive the 20-member committee designated by KING to present him with the petition until the demonstrators left the Capitol grounds. The committee, headed by Rev. Joseph E. Lowery of Birmingham, met with the Governor on 30 March after failing twice to present him with the petition.

