

S-25

5 April 1968

*[Handwritten signature]*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Research Staff

SUBJECT : RETORT FROM

1. reported that following the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther KING, called for advice. claimed that President JOHNSON by telephoning and other Negroes of the same persuasion extending the President's sympathy on the untimely death of the Reverend KING manifests the belief that the President is misinformed in matters of this delicacy. claims that the Negroes are embittered and believe that if the President had not been spending all of our resources on winning the war in Viet Nam, this tragic event would not have occurred.

2. According to stated that he, had been in touch with the and stated that the poor peoples march on Washington which KING was to lead on 22 April 1968 will still be held.

3. said that he had called and recommended that the President issue a proclamation which would make this weekend one of silent prayer. He suggested that the President call upon all ministers, rabbis and priests to concentrate on texts which would emphasize the need for peace in the world. said that he also suggested to that the President extend an invitation to to sing Sunday in a memorial service in Washington, D. C. at the Lincoln Memorial. said that he would be able to bring to Washington at the same time to sing hymns known and loved by the black race. said that today at sundown begins the Jewish Sabbath and that he had urged to request that his suggestions be acted upon forthwith. said that he hates to see this government reacting to notification that the New York Stock Exchange will shut down its trading at 11:00 today and use the time for silent prayer. said that he also noted that campuses all over the United States have also agreed to hold memorial services. He thinks that this government should be way out front in this regard and not react untimely to the practices put into motion by the Stock Exchange and the colleges.