



R
per Quin,
Weisberg
already has

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE FBI MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
SECURITY AND ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATIONS

January 11, 1977

OPR #19



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

R

JAN 11 1977

TO: The Attorney General

FROM: Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel *M. E. Shaheen, Jr.*
Office of Professional Responsibility

SUBJECT: Report of the Department of Justice Task Force
to Review the FBI-Martin Luther King, Jr.
Security and Assassination Investigations

By your memorandum of April 26, 1976, you directed the Office of Professional Responsibility to complete a review of all records in the Department of Justice concerning the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In ordering this review of all documents you requested that answers to four specific questions be furnished to you and FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley. You requested to know:

(1) Whether the FBI investigation of Dr. King's assassination was thorough and honest;

(2) Whether there is any evidence that the FBI was involved in the assassination of Dr. King;

(3) Whether, in light of the first two matters, there is any new evidence which has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination of Dr. King;

(4) Whether the relationship between the Bureau and Dr. King calls for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings, or other appropriate action.

I transmit herewith the report of the special task force that was formed for the review you requested and to respond to the questions you asked.



OPR #3

I wish to advise you that the report and appendices are to be classified Top Secret by the Bureau. Accordingly, these materials should be handled as so classified. I shall await your instructions before sending the report to the FBI for classification.

Enclosures:

3 copies of referenced report

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

REPORT EXHIBIT

REPORT OF SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

- I. Introduction (pp. 1-11) (u)
- II. The COMINFIL Investigation is Opened: October 1962 (pp. 12-23) (u)
- III. Concern in the FBI and the Kennedy Administration Over Allegations of Communist Influence in the Civil Rights Movement Increases, and the FBI Intensifies the Investigation: October 1962 - October 1963. Introduction and Summary (pp. 24-26) (u)
 - A. The Justice Department Warns Dr. King about Advisors A and B - January - June 1963 (pp. 26-34) (u)
 - B. Allegations About Dr. King During Hearings on the Public Accommodations Act and the Administration's Response: July 1963 (pp. 31-37) (u)
 - C. The Attorney General Considers a Wiretap of Dr. King and Rejects the Idea: July 1963 (pp. 37A-40) (u)
 - D. The Attorney General Voices Concern Over Continuing FBI Reports about King: July - August 1963 (pp. 41-44) (u)
 - E. The FBI Intensifies its Investigation of Alleged Communist Influence in the Civil Rights Movement: July - September 1963 (pp. 45-57) (u)
- IV. Electronic Surveillance of Martin Luther King and the SCLC (u)
Introduction and Summary (pp. 58-59) (u)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

- A. Legal Standards Governing the FBI's Duty to Inform the Justice Department of Wiretaps and Microphones During the Period of the Martin Luther King Investigation (pp. 60-62) (u)
- B. Wiretap Surveillance of Dr. King and the SCLC (pp. 63-70) (u)
- C. Microphone Surveillance of Dr. King: January 1964 - November 1965 (pp. 70-71) (u)
 - 1. Reasons for the FBI's Microphone Surveillance of Dr. King (pp. 71-75) (u)
 - 2. Evidence Bearing on Whether the Attorneys General Authorized or Knew About the Microphone Surveillance of Dr. King (u)
 - a. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy (pp. 76-80) (u)
 - b. Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach (pp. 80-86) (u)
- V. The FBI's Effort to Discredit Martin Luther King: 1964 Introduction and Summary (pp. 87-88) (u)
 - A. The FBI Disseminates the First King "Monograph" and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy Orders It Recalled: October 1963 (pp. 89-91) (u)
 - B. The FBI Plans Its Campaign to Discredit Dr. King December 23, 1963 (pp. 91-94) (u)
 - C. William Sullivan Proposed a Plan to Promote a New Negro Leader: January 1964 (pp. 94-96) (u)
 - D. FBI Headquarters Order the Field Offices to Intensify Efforts to Discredit King: April - August 1964 (pp. 97-101) (u)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

E. Steps Taken by the FBI in 1964 to Discredit Dr. King (p. 101) (u)

1. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with the White House (pp. 101-102) (u)
2. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with the Congress (pp. 102-103) (u)
3. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with Universities (pp. 103-104) (u)
4. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with Churches (pp. 104-106) (u)
5. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with the Pope (pp. 106-107) (u)
6. The Attempt to Discredit Dr. King During His Receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize (pp. 107-110) (u)
7. Attempts to Block Dr. King's Publications (pp. 110-111) (u)
8. Attempt to Undermine the National Science Foundation's Cooperation with SCLC (p. 111) (u)
9. Unsuccessful FBI Attempts to Locate Financial Improprieties (pp. 112-114) (u)

F. The Question of Whether Government Officials Outside of the FBI Were Aware of the FBI's Effort to Discredit Dr. King (pp. 114-128) (u)

VI. The Hoover-King Controversy Becomes Public and a Truce is Called: April - December 1964
Summary (p. 129) (u)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

- A. First Steps in the Public Feud: April - November 1964 (pp. 130-134) (u)
 - B. Tapes are Mailed to King: November 21, 1964 (pp. 135-140) (u)
 - C. Attempts by the FBI to "Leak" to Reporters Tape Recordings Embarrassing to King (pp. 140-141) (u)
 - D. Roy Wilkins of NAACP Meets with DeLoach to Discuss Allegations About King: November 27, 1964 (pp. 141-144) (u)
 - E. King and Hoover Meet: December 1, 1964 (pp. 144-153) (u)
 - F. Civil Rights Leaders Attempt to Dissuade the FBI From Discrediting King: December 1964 - May 1965 (pp. 153-154) (u)
 - 1. Farmer - DeLoach Meeting - December 1, 1964 (pp. 154-156) (u)
 - 2. Young - Abernathy - DeLoach Meeting: January 8, 1965 (pp. 156-159) (u)
 - 3. Carey - DeLoach Meeting: May 19, 1965 (pp. 159-161) (u)
- VII. The FBI Program Against King (u) 1965-1968 (p. 162)
- A. Major Efforts to Discredit Dr. King 1965-1968 (p. 162) (u)
 - 1. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with Churches (pp. 162-164) (u)
 - 2. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with Heads of Government Agencies (pp. 164-166) (u)

UNCLASSIFIED

3. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King By Using the Press (pp. 166-172) (u)
4. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with Major Political and Financial Leaders (pp. 172-173) (u)
5. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King with Congressional Leaders (pp. 173-174) (u)
- B. COINTELPRO Operations Against King (pp. 174-176) (u)
- C. The FBI's Efforts to Discredit King During His Last Months (pp. 177-181) (u)
- D. Attempts to Discredit Dr. King's Reputation After His Death (pp. 181-183) (u)
- VIII. Conclusion (pp. 183-185) (u)