

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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July 11, 1977

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O.L.A.

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell
Attorney General of the
United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Bell:

In the enclosed article copied from "The Review of the News", a publication printed in Belmont, Massachusetts, serious allegations are made against the late Dr. Martin Luther King. The article speaks of surveillance records kept on Dr. King and alleged Communist associates.

I believe that files on Dr. King should be made public and the allegations carefully checked out. FBI Director Kelley has outlined in recent correspondence with me the various ways in which results of the FBI's surveillance of Dr. King are available, including the report of a Justice Department task force and the Senate hearings on intelligence activities.

Director Kelley suggested that I write to you directly regarding any decision involving the release to the general public of FBI investigative results in the King investigation. I would, therefore, like to voice my support for such a decision. There is no need to keep any files on Dr. King secret after such a long time.

I would appreciate any comments you might have on this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Melcher

Enclosures ✓

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
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