

15 MAR 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director for Support.

SUBJECT : The Militants: An Up-date on the
Black Power Threat

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. By memorandum entitled "Threat to CIA by Some Black Power Elements," dated 11 December 1967, I advised you of the results of inquiries with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the review of existing materials in the Office of Security concerning militant "Black Power" organizations and personalities. I specifically noted those groups and personalities which have expressed hostility against this Agency and its operations.

3. Since that time additional significant information has been received which reflects increased activity on the part of the militants, coupled with threats for what they have termed "The Bloody Summer." Although the ranks of the extremists are still proportionately small, their threats of violence must be given greater weight than might normally be attributed to their small percentage of the U.S. Negro population. A review of these recent developments is attached for your information.

4. In addition to the new information on the extreme militants, we have also noted two scheduled developments for the months of April and May which will be of interest to you. They are:

a. Beginning on 22 April 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) will initiate their "Poor People's Campaign" in Washington, D. C. On that day, Dr. King has indicated he will lead "waves of the nation's poor and disinherited" into the city for prolonged, disruptive and "non-violent" demonstrations to demand government action for "jobs or income for all." He has indicated that his initial cadre of up to 3,000

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volunteers will remain in the nation's capital "until America responds." In what Dr. King calls the "last resort for nonviolence," SCLC reportedly plans lobbying and other action against the Capitol, a shut-down of all government buildings, transportation tie-ups and school boycotts. It has been threatened that if troops are used to quell these actions, Dr. King will call for demonstrations in other key cities of the nation. As the campaign escalates, SCLC has indicated it will call in peace groups to strengthen the program.

Significantly, Dr. King's campaign will begin early in the announced "International Days of Protest," 21-30 April 1968, sponsored by the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, a group in which Dr. King, ~~Mr. King~~ and ~~Rev. James Bevel~~ ~~a King aide~~ have been particularly active. The National Mobilization Committee is known to include members of the Communist Party, USA, and other subversive groups. Present plans for the ten-day Vietnam protest call for local and regional demonstrations and concentrated organizing efforts around the country, as well as coordinated protests abroad. As part of the campaign, the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Students for a Democratic Society, and SNCC's Black Anti-war Anti-Draft Union have issued a call for a national student strike for peace in Vietnam and against racism at home and abroad," 26 April. On 27 April the sponsors have called for a unified demonstration of the full force of the movement with organized protests and marches in major U.S. cities.

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Despite Dr. King's statements the Washington protests are for "jobs or income for all," there can be little doubt the activity will be closely interlinked with the "peace" movement, particularly at the stage when "peace" groups are formally invited in as the activity escalates.

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b. Close on the heels of the initiation of Dr. King's Washington campaign, and possibly well-timed with the proposed formal call for participation by "peace" groups as that campaign escalates, are the "National Days for Black Unity Against the War in Vietnam, 19-20 May 1968." Sponsored by the Peking-line Progressive Labor Party and certain to attract the more militant factions, the protest calls for nationwide demonstrations "against the war in Vietnam and slum landlords." The announced highpoint of the protests is a day of widespread

work stoppage and demonstrations on campuses and in cities throughout the United States, tentatively set for 19 May. A potential for disturbance exists since the Maoist sponsors will have had almost a month to observe and assess the effects of Dr. King's Washington campaign.

5. I will continue to keep you advised on significant developments in this area as they come to our attention. You will be pleased to know FBI liaison has been most cooperative and effective in providing this office with timely information about the various domestic militants and protest groups.

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Acting Director of Security

Attachment as stated

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