

June 23, 1976

Mr. Les Payne  
Newsday  
550 Stewart Avenue  
Garden City, New York 11530

Dear Mr. Payne:

I have received your letter of June 10, 1976, and appreciate the continued interest in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which prompted you to write.

You undoubtedly will be pleased to know that data concerning evidence recovered in Memphis, Tennessee, and sent to the FBI Laboratory for examination have been released in response to requests received by us under the Freedom of Information Act. If you will write or telephone him at (202) 344-5359, Assistant Director Donald W. Moore, Jr., of our Internal Affairs Division will make arrangements for you to review this material.

Presumably your desire to discuss the Invaders group which existed in Memphis at the time of Dr. King's murder stems from the article you wrote for the February 1, 1976, issue of Newsday. At my instruction, a thorough search was made of pertinent files at our Headquarters, as well as in our Memphis Field Office, immediately after that article was published. It resulted in no substantiation being found for the allegations which served as the basis for your article: namely, that "Several FBI informants...were among the most active members" of the Invaders and that "FBI informants actively participated in the rioting" that erupted in Memphis on March 28, 1968.

- Assoc. Dir. ....
- Dep. AD Adm. ....
- Dep. AD Inv. ....
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. .... 1 - Mr. Moore (detached)
- Comp. Syst. .... 1 - Mr. Cochran (detached)
- Ext. Affairs .... 1 - Mr. Gallagher (detached)
- Files & Com. .... 1 - Mr. Leavitt (detached)
- Gen. Inv. .... 1 - Mr. McDermott (detached)
- Ident. .... 1 - Mr. Mintz (detached)
- Inspection .... 1 - Mrs. Metcalf (detached)
- Intell. .... 1 - Telephone Room (detached)
- Laboratory ....
- Plan. & Eval. ....
- Spec. Inv. ....

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Mr. Les Payne

Enclosed is a copy of a news release which was issued by the Department of Justice on April 29, 1976, reflecting that Attorney General Edward H. Levi has directed that a review be made of all records in the Department concerning Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We are, of course, cooperating fully in that review; and I am sure you will agree that it would be improper for us to comment further prior to its completion.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Enclosure

NOTE: See Monroe to Moore memo dated 6-21-76 and captioned "Martin Luther King Murder, Inquiry from Les Payne of 'Newsday'."

APPROVED:	Ext. Affairs.....	Laboratory.....
Assoc. Dir. /	Fin. & Pers.....	Legal Coun.....
Dep. AD Adm. /	Gen. Inv.....	Plan. & Eval.....
Dep. AD Inv. /	Ident.....	Rec. Mgnt.....
Asst. Dir.:	Inspection.....	Spec. Inv.....
Adm. Serv.....	Intell. /	Training.....

158  
8/13