

# Evans and Novak

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## King's Murder Boosts Carmichael, Who Seems Under Sinister Influences

WASHINGTON—When the numbing news came Thursday night of the brutal assassination of Martin Luther King, the usually decisive Stokely Carmichael was in a momentary state of confusion and inaction—until he received a mysterious telephone call from an unknown source.

After that conversation, Carmichael was his old self. He announced he would immediately go into the Negro ghetto on Washington's Northwest Side to demand the stores close out of respect for Dr. King.

Not surprisingly, Carmichael's efforts degenerated into looting by Negro youths later in the evening (though Carmichael, for a time, tried to discourage it). Moreover, he was back in Washington's streets Friday morning leading a march which preceded waves of new violence.

The mobilization of Carmichael by a single phone call reinforces suspicions of Negro leaders who believe he is guided through his otherwise inexplicable shifts of strategy by unseen — and undetermined — forces.

After returning several months ago from a long sojourn in Communist countries, he dropped his advocacy of violence for a calmer popular-front line couched in Leninist vocabulary. A few weeks ago, however, Carmichael abruptly switched back to advocating violence.

What makes the source of Carmichael's tactical aberrations so frighteningly pertinent is that he may be the Negro filling the void left by Dr. King as the charismatic leader of the Negro masses.

The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Dr. King's successor as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, will maintain his martyred chief's principle of nonviolence. But neither he nor any of the other SCLC lieutenants can command national attention among the militant youths of the nation.

Nor do any of the middle-aged, middle class Negro leaders summoned to the White House on Friday by President Johnson. It is significant that when Negro youths took to Washington's streets Thursday night, none of the established civil rights leaders was on hand. Only two prominent Negroes were in the ghetto: Car-



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michael and Chuck Stone, chief aide of Adam Clayton Powell and a preacher of political — not physical — black power.

Indeed, there are only two black leaders today nationally with the charisma to replace Dr. King. One is Powell — ailing, aging, embittered, self-exiled much of the time in the Caribbean. The other is Carmichael.

Moreover, Carmichael fits perfectly with the fierce new ghetto mood. Wherever militant Negro youths have gathered in recent weeks, there has been one subject: guerrilla warfare. The militants claim that the department store fires in Chicago and New York began this war and grimly warn of sophisticated antiwhite assaults such as dynamiting power plants and poisoning water reservoirs.

With this backdrop, Chuck Stone on Friday wrote to his chief, Adam Clayton Powell, to come home and try to seize leadership of the angry black militants. Although Powell bitterly declared an end to nonviolence in his last U.S. lecture tour, the fact remains that he never has been the cause, purposely or otherwise, of racial violence.

It would be ironic should Powell, defrocked for personal peccadilloes by his congressional colleagues, turn black militants away from suicidal revolution. It would also be unlikely. More probably, white leaders who so often condemned Martin Luther King as an extremist now will have the pleasure of dealing with Stokely Carmichael.

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