ENTED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

J. Stanley Pottinger Assistant Actorney General

Hobert A. Murphy Chief Criminal Section

RECCIPIENDATION

Me: Martin Luther King, Jr. Review



DATE: March 31, 1976

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I recommend against reopening the assassination investiSation because there is no evidence that the Bureau had anything to do with the shooting of Dr. King. While I believe
that serious invasions of the privacy of Dr. King and many others
occurred as a result of the Bureau's activity, I do not recommend that any action be taken against any individual for the
rollowing reasons: (1) if criminal acts occurred, the statute
of limitations has long since expired; (2) no one has filed a
civil suit against the Department or the Bureau, in spite of
much publicity about the Bureau's activities, so no decision
speed be made as to what position the Department might take;
(2) no Bureau employee who was a section chief or higher who
was involved with the King case still works for the Bureau so
its disciplinary action need be taken. (4)

I recommend against a public report by the Department or the appointing of a "blue ribbon" committee. The Church Committee has largely performed that function and the risk of adversely affecting the reputations of many people is too great. I certainly recommend against my report being made public of his multiplied to make half the Many is the many in the supplied of the suppl

It is clear that steps must be taken to change Rureau procedures to prevent anything like this from ever happening again. The Department was seriously at fault in not supervising the Bureau. I have certain ideas in mind about necessary changes that we can discuss but I have not set them out here because I believe that most, if not all, are being considered by one or more of the study groups and task forces the Attorney General has established. (6)

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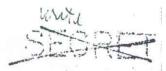
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