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RR HQ

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FM MEMPHIS (66-2197)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

BT

EFTO

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

RE BUTEL SEPTEMBER 28, 1976.

RECENT ARTICLES APPEARING IN LOCAL PRESS INDICATE THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL SOON BE PREPARING TO HOLD MEETINGS AND THEREAFTER WILL CONDUCT PUBLIC SESSIONS.

AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE NOVEMBER 17, 1976, ISSUE OF THE "COMMERCIAL APPEAL," A DAILY NEWSPAPER AT MEMPHIS, STATES THAT LAWYERS FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE MURDER OF DR. KING CHARGED THAT DOCUMENTS IN THE CASE HAD BEEN DESTROYED SINCE THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN MEMPHIS CONTACTED THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, THE CITY POLICE CHIEF,

#248852 Spradling 12/5/76  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/8/84 BY SP8 BTG/ch  
2/18/86

Airtel to SAC, Memphis  
HNH:qiw  
11/29/76

55 DEC 6 1976

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV - 7 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgt.	_____
S. & T. Serv.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

*Deagan*  
*Hester*

*or*

EX-109  
62-117290-10

DEC 1 1976

*[Signature]*

PAGE TWO ME 66-2L97

OTHER POLICE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS THIS OFFICE. DENIALS WERE RECEIVED FROM ALL INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED THAT ANY DOCUMENTS INVOLVING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDER OF DR. KING HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE KING ASSASSINATION OCCURRED IN MEMPHIS, IT CAN REASONABLY BE ANTICIPATED THAT THE BULK OF THE WORK BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THIS LOCALE. FBIHQ IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE MEMPHIS WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY INDICATION THUS F R AS TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL BE SEEKING TO QUESTION FBI PERSONNEL WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INVESTIGATION. SINCE THE BULK OF THE INVESTIGATIVE WORK ON THIS CASE WAS DONE BY THE MEMPHIS FBI OFFICE, IT IS APPARENT THAT WE WILL BE ASKED BY THE COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THEM OF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED AND POSSIBLY TO TURN OVER PERTINENT FILES.

AS THE BUREAU IS AWARE, THE KING ASSASSINATION AND RELATED FILES IN MEMPHIS TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 140 VOLUMES AND OVER 10,000 SERIAL. ALL OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE FBI INVESTIGATION AT MEMPHIS HAVE SINCE RETIRED

PAGE THREE ME 66-2197

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SA JOE C. HESTER WHO IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO MEMPHIS AS A FIELD SUPERVISOR AND WHO WAS THE CASE AGENT ON THE ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION.

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN AT THIS TIME TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ITSELF OR ITS STAFF MEMBERS WILL WANT TO BE GIVEN A THOROUGH BRIEFING OF THE SCOPE OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION. IN VIEW OF THE MASSIVE NUMBER OF SERIALS INVOLVED AND THE LENGTH OF TIME (EIGHT AND ONE-HALF YEARS) SINCE THE INVESTIGATION WAS INITIATED, SA HESTER ADVISED THAT HE WILL NEED APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS FULL TIME TO REVIEW THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO HAVE A CURRENT OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION. IF FBIHQ AGREES THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN PREPARING FOR THIS EVENTUALITY, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SA HESTER BE RELIEVED OF HIS SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEVOTE FULL TIME TO INITIATING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THIS INVESTIGATION SO THAT HE CAN INTELLIGENTLY RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

BT