

F.B.I. MEMO OUTLINES WORK AGAINST KING

Bureau and Unnamed Black Plotted Ouster of Civil Rights Leader

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UPI)—An unidentified black leader apparently worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the 1960's in an effort to remove the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from national prominence in the civil rights movement, according to F.B.I. files.

The files, which belonged to the bureau's Director, J. Edgar Hoover, were recently requested and obtained by the Center for National Security Studies, a private organization, under the Freedom of Information Act.

The files "reveal the extent to which King and his close associates were perceived as a threat by the F.B.I. and kept under Government surveillance during the five-year period before King's assassination" in 1968, the center said today.

It said, for instance, that a Dec. 1, 1964, interoffice memo to William Sullivan, then No. 3 in the bureau hierarchy and head of its counterintelligence operations, indicated "the F.B.I. and a black leader apparently worked together in an effort to eliminate King."

The collaborator, whose name was represented by a blank space in the released document, was said to have told Cartha D. DeLoach, a high-ranking bureau official, "that he was faced with the difficult problem of taking steps to remove King from the national picture."

Courses of Action Suggested

The memo also said:

"He indicates in his comments a lack of confidence that he, alone, could be successful. It is therefore suggested that consideration be given to the following course of action:

"That DeLoach have a further discussion with (blank) and offer to be helpful in connection with the problem of removal of King from the national scene."

The memo then suggested that the collaborator could meet with black leaders such as James Farmer, a founder of the Congress of Racial Equality, and A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and "on a highly confidential basis could brief such a group on the security background of King." In the briefing, it said, "the use of a tape, such as contemplated in your memorandum, with a transcript for convenience in following the tape, should be most convincing."

"This might have the effect of increasing the stature of (blank), who is a capable person and is ambitious," it said.

Senate Had Reported Tapings

The Senate intelligence committee reported in 1976 that the F.B.I. had bugged

hotel rooms used by Dr. King to record any meetings he had with women.

With the purpose of "destroying his marriage," the Senate report said, the bureau mailed Dr. King a copy of the recording, with an accompanying note "which Dr. King and his advisers interpreted as threatening to release the tape recording unless Dr. King committed suicide."

Another document made public today referred to the Sept. 9, 1964, "monitoring" at Atlanta, Ga., of a conversation between Dr. King and Muhammed Ali, who was then facing Federal draft evasion charges. In another document, Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach gave Mr. Hoover blanket authority to carry out electronic surveillance in his absence without prior authority, as was required at the time.

Dr. King was shot and killed in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, pleaded guilty to the murder and is serving a 99-year prison term and an additional one to two years for his June 10, 1977, escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee.