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Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan

DATE: April 18, 1968

FROM : C. D. Brennan

JUNE

1 - Mr. Rozamus  
1 - Mr. Ridgeway

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIFICATION RETAINED BY 2026  
 EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 2  
 DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

This is to advise you of past electronic surveillances that we had installed for the purpose of securing intelligence data concerning the late Martin Luther King, Jr., former President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

King had been in close association with individuals having a Communist Party background during his rise to prominence in the civil rights field. Among such individuals was his principal advisor Stanley Levison, a communist whose membership in the Communist Party, USA, has been established.

Another close advisor of King, had been a member of the Communist Party and in a position of leadership in the Labor Youth League, a communist front organization.

Another of King's close advisors, was a member of the Communist League in the early 1940's.

In order to determine the subversive influence in racial matters, the following microphone and wiretap coverage was placed in effect which provided coverage on the activities of King and the SCLC.

Classified by 6088  
 Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

Installed	Discontinued	Type	Location
11/8/63	4/30/65	Wiretap	563 Johnson Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia
1/5/64	1/8/64	Microphone	Willard Hotel, Washington
1/27/64	1/27/64	Microphone	Shroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2/18/64	2/20/64	Microphone	Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii
2/20/64	2/21/64	Microphone	Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California
2/22/64	2/24/64	Microphone	Hyatt House Hotel, Los Angeles, California
3/19/64	3/20/64	Microphone	Statler Hotel, Detroit, Michigan
4/23/64	4/24/64	Microphone	Senator Hotel, Sacramento, California
4/24/64	4/26/64	Wiretap	Hyatt House Hotel, Los Angeles, California
7/7/64	7/9/64	Wiretap	Hyatt House Hotel, Los Angeles, California

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RLR:sss

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Sec. 21 3 of 13

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Memorandum C. D. Kennan to Mr. F. C. Sullivan  
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
100-106670

<u>Installed</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
7/7/64	7/9/64	Microphone	Hyatt House Hotel, Los Angeles, California
8/14/64	9/8/64	Wiretap	125 East 72nd Street, New York, New York
8/22/64	8/27/64	Wiretap	Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey
9/28/64	10/2/64	Microphone	Manger Hotel, Savannah, Georgia
1/8/65	1/11/65	Microphone	Park Sheraton Hotel, New York, New York
1/28/65	1/31/65	Microphone	Americana Hotel, New York, New York
3/29/65	3/31/65	Microphone	Park Sheraton Hotel, New York, New York
5/12/65	5/13/65	Microphone	Sheraton Atlantic Hotel, New York, New York
10/14/65	10/15/65	Microphone	Astor Hotel, New York, New York
10/28/65	10/30/65	Microphone	New York Hilton Hotel, New York, New York
11/29/65	11/30/65	Microphone	Americana Hotel, New York, New York

In addition to the above coverage of King, the following coverage was afforded the SCLC.

<u>Installed</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/24/63	1/24/64	Wiretap	New York Office
11/8/63	6/21/66	Wiretap	Atlanta Headquarters
7/13/64	7/31/64	Wiretap	New York Office

All of the above wiretap surveillances were authorized under the signature of the then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy who on 10/10/63 authorized the coverage of King's residence and other future address to which he may move, and the New York Office SCLC. He also authorized wiretap coverage of King and the Atlanta headquarters of SCLC on 10/21/63. These authorizations were given during the administration of President John F. Kennedy.

Attorney General Kennedy did not sign any microphone surveillance requests. Microphone surveillances were authorized by Bureau officials acting on general authority relating to the Attorney General.

ACTION:

None. For information.

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JR  
Jed  
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Wes

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Mr. DeLoach

W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Miss Holmes
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Baugardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. Rozamus
- 1 - Mr. Bates

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST  
DECLASSIFIED BY *[Signature]* 7/1/96  
ON 5/22/90

Special Agent in Charge Roney, New York Office, called on 1/20/66 and advised that Martin Luther King, Jr., and some of his associates have a reservation at the Americana Hotel, beginning 1/21/66 for approximately four days. King and his party will have Rooms 3435 - 3437. The New York Office has available Room 3335 from which it advises it can maintain a microphone surveillance on King with full security assured and without the use of any wiring.

We have had prior information that King planned to meet with some of his advisors with communist backgrounds, such as Harry Wachtel and Clarence Jones this week in New York City. Past conferences with such advisors have shown the communist influence exerted by them upon King relative to the racial situation as well as the Vietnam situation.

New York Office requested authority to make the microphone surveillance installation the night of 1/20-21/66, to be activated 1/21/66 with full security assured. It also requested authority for expenditure of up to \$35 per day for the monitoring room.

ACTION:

On New York's assurance that full security was available and since time was of the essence, New York was told to go ahead with the installation and was also authorized to make the necessary expenditure for the monitoring room. Attached for approval is a memorandum to the Attorney General advising him that this microphone surveillance will be activated 1/21/66 and will be immediately discontinued upon King's departure on or about 1/25/66.

CLASSIFICATION RETAINED BY 6076 WAB/...

DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

1 - E. F. Row - Room 6221 IB

100-103370  
Enclosure  
W.C. Sullivan  
(9)

MAR 3

EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE  
10/21/78

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*Remove this surveillance at JUNE 1-31*

*Remove this surveillance at JUNE 1-31*

*Remove this surveillance at JUNE 1-31*

*no one here approved this. I have had Sullivan again not include this with...*