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Hoover Wished to Smear King-Spock Peace Slate

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 12 (UPD)

—J. Edward Hoover, the late FBI director, once made plans to link Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the Communist Party in the event King decided to run for president, The Philadelphia Bulletin reported today.

The newspaper said FBI documents show that Hoover ordered subordinates to consider "counter-intelligence action" against the late civil rights leader and Dr. Benjamin Spock after the noted pediatrician said he would like to run for vice president on a "peace ticket" with King in 1968. The campaign never materialized.

The Bulletin said it learned of the plan through secret FBI counter-intelligence files it was given by Richard Gutman, an attorney for the Chicago Alliance to End Repression.

The newspaper said Gutman got the documents as the result of a federal court suit seeking to bar the FBI and Chicago police from spying on political activity.

Hoover apparently made the decision to try to tie King and Spock to the Communist Party after learning that Gus Hall, General secretary of the Communist Party-USA, told followers he would support them if they ran.