

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: October 10, 1963

FROM : C. A. Evans

JUNE

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

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

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "Bliss" and "Folger".

The Attorney General was contacted at his request this afternoon. He had before him our memorandum of October 7, 1963, requesting authority for technical surveillances on Martin Luther King at his residence at Atlanta and at the office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of which he is president, at New York City.

Handwritten initials "Folger".

The Attorney General said that he recognized the importance of this coverage if substantial information is to be developed concerning the relationship between King and the Communist Party. He said there was no question in his mind as to the coverage in New York City but that he was worried about the security of an installation covering a residence in Atlanta, Georgia. He noted that the last thing we could afford to have would be a discovery of a wire tap on King's residence.

I pointed out to the Attorney General the fact that a residence was involved did not necessarily mean there was any added risk because of the technical nature of the telephone system. He was informed that the Bureau had had years of experience in this field and that we continually reviewed our procedures to insure that every measure possible to secure such installations was taken. It was nevertheless noted that of necessity we had to deal with established contacts in the telephone company to get the necessary leased lines, but once again we had procedures which minimized the risks to the nth degree.

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After this discussion the Attorney General said he felt we should go ahead with the technical coverage on King on a trial basis, and to continue it if productive results were forthcoming. He said he was certain that all Bureau representatives involved would recognize the delicacy of this particular matter and would thus be even more cautious than ever in this assignment. He asked to be kept advised of any pertinent information developed regarding King's communist connections.

Large handwritten note: "See memo to [unclear] dated 10/10/63" with various initials and scribbles.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Donohue

ENCLOSURE

Handwritten notes: "Sullivan 10/10/63" and "102".

CA:Vap 3 1083

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

Our memorandum requesting authority for this surveillance was signed by the Attorney General and handed to me. It is attached.

Ch

v

ORIGINAL OF ENCLOSURE
REMOVED FOR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE -
SEE 100-106670-3596
Do