

Thursday pk 44-38861

Dear Jim, C.A.75-1996: Invaders; Compliance; WFO missing 10/8/77

MFO#157-1067, the main Invaders file, Serial 2055 is the last record by date, in fact as delivered to me, and is classic FBI practise of Orwell, as to a degree I spell out. The reason for noting WFO is that while numerous political records are noted with copies to the Washington Field Office, this is one case in which I'm pretty sure FBI HQ made at least a call there to see what they knew and had on file. WFO has been a political-file adjunct of HQ for very long. An example of sure forwarding in this part of the Memphis files is Serial 2027.

One has to presume that NYFO did not inform MFO and that the response was sent to HQ prior to MFO knowing the contents of the story rather than the wire service condensation.

Or we presume that the wire service copy provided mere means of appearing to deny and refute what is in no sense refuted and is confirmed.

The stories were facsimiled to MFO. I'm not checking to see when because it is not worth the time.

The story appeared Sunday, the wire copy was on the wire Saturday night. I do not believe that nobody in the FBI waited until Monday, the second day after the FBI had the wire copy, to make any inquiries. Les had been in touch with DJ and with Jensen and McColloman, so there is every reason to believe the HQ knew in advance of the coming story.

Correction: the wire copy says it was on the wire p.m. 1/31. But the basic situation is as above, with the direction to send to Memphis undated. Notes at the bottom of it are illegible.

It required until 1:38 Memphis time, an hour after that in Washington, for the teletype to be sent 2/1 - and then in code of all things!

At the bottom of page 1 there is reference to the five "informants" the MFO was "operating...who were furnishing information regarding extremist activities at Memphis." That "none of these informants was on a policy making level is utterly immaterial."

This clearly refers to only numbered informants. And it omits those who were designated as "criminal" informants who provided Invader and related information. I have the records.

What the FBI means by "policy" one can only guess but its sources provided all kinds of internal records, including financial, organizational and other purely internal and unpublished records.

The limitation to this formalation of "informant" eliminates many other sources of the FBI, of whom and which I have records. Some of the reports cite 10 or perhaps more.

That only on FBI informant was an Invader member is meaningless. Others were connected and informed the FBI, as did the MPD's.

Whether McCullough, not named on page 2, could "formulate policy" is immaterial. He was always with the Invaders and had much input. Any one of them or their associates could have prompted the 3/28/68 violence. My information, prior to these stories, is that McC. did do this. The FBI would lie if it knew but it is obvious that it has no authentication of whether or not he or the other "sources" cited at the top of p.3 did anything. This is limited to turning the Invaders against "ing at the top of p.3. That is not the same as suggesting or contributing to the violence.

That the MFO never "publicly" reported agents within the Invaders or that they had sources inside also is immaterial. Les did not say this. He did say that Jensen, no longer in the FBI but retired, confirmed it. What he did say is neither addressed nor refuted.

Last graf p. 2 can be used out of context. The right context is that "he reported it and that it was publicly reported at the time of the assassination - in the papers.

Page 3 fails to report what was in the files, that there was at least one other policeman undercover and on the inside, after McCullough was exposed at the least. In saying McC. swas no longer with MPD the MFO fails to say where he was- working for federal government.

The FBI anywhere has no way of knowing that the (names obliterated) four of the five finks it admits did not "advocate riots" or take part in the "planning." Who said the Invaders "planned" what happened 3/28/68?

Even the wire copy does not quote Les as saying FBI "special agents" had penetrated the Invaders. So the MFO confirms even this part of his story. It admits four penetrations. Or, nothing refuted. astily,

Transmit attached by Facsimile - PLANTEXT

URGENT

SAC, MEMPHIS
DIRECTOR, FBI

Subject: N

Propaganda Plans Propaganda Material

Article Collection

Special handling instructions:

DELIVER TO CASE AGENT HANDLING INVESTIGATION

~~WALL~~
~~DAM~~

157-1067-205
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 3 1976
FBI - MEMPHIS

THURSDAY 1-31
ADT FOR 6:30 A.M. SUN 2-1

NEW YORK (UPI) -- FBI INFORMANTS WERE ACTIVE IN THE 1968 RIOTS THAT BROUGHT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BACK TO MEMPHIS, TENN., WHERE HE WAS ASSASSINATED, NEWSDAY SAID TODAY.

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER QUOTED TWO UNDISCLOSED SOURCES AS SAYING SEVERAL FBI AGENTS AND AT LEAST ONE MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICER PENETRATED THE BLACK MILITANT GROUP KNOWN AS THE "INVADERS" -- A 100-MEMBER FACTION IN THE VANGUARD OF RIOTING ON MARCH 28, 1968, IN OPPOSITION TO KING'S POLICY OF NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. ONE YOUTH WAS KILLED, SCORES WERE INJURED AND 233 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BEFORE THE MELEE WAS QUIETED.

NEWSDAY QUOTED THE REV. JESSE JACKSON, ONE OF KING'S AIDES AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT, AS SAYING KING NEVER WOULD HAVE RETURNED TO MEMPHIS FOLLOWING HIS ABORTED ATTEMPT TO LEAD A PEACEFUL MARCH ON BEHALF OF THE CITY'S SANITATION WORKERS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INVADER-LED DISTURBANCE.

"WE NEVER INTENDED TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN MEMPHIS," HE SAID. NEWSDAY SAID A FORMER LEADER OF THE INVADERS TOLD ONE OF ITS REPORTERS HE LATER LEARNED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE POLICE OFFICER WHO WORKED UNDERCOVER, POSING AS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP.

"HE HAD A 7.62 RUSSIAN AUTOMATIC RIFLE AND HE WAS ARMED EVERY TIME WE WERE ARMED," THE FORMER GANG-LEADER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. "HE WAS ALWAYS SUGGESTING ACTIONS THAT WE SHOULD TAKE. I NEVER SAW HIM PHYSICALLY ATTACK ANYONE, BUT HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST PROVOCATIVE MEMBERS OF THE INVADERS."

NEWSDAY SAID BOTH THE FBI AND MEMPHIS POLICE HAVE VERIFIED THAT THEIR AGENTS WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AT THE TIME OF THE RIOTS AND KING'S ASSASSINATION.

THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED THE REV. ROSEA WILLIAMS, ATLANTA DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOUNDED BY KING, AS SAYING THE SCLC FREQUENTLY USED INVADER GANG MEMBERS AS PARADE MARSHALS OR SECURITY GUARDS.

"THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE HURT DR. KING," WILLIAMS WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. "BUT THOSE WHO INFILTRATED OUR GROUPS, AND WE COULD NEVER IDENTIFY THEM, TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE YOUNGSTERS' FRUSTRATIONS AND REJECT AND TURN THEM AGAINST US."

ADT FOR 6:30 A.M. EDT SUN 2-1
UPI 01-31 09103 PES

FBI

Date: 2/2/76

Transmit the following in _____

~~PLAINTEXT~~ *code*

(Type in plaintext or code)

TELETYPE

IMMEDIATE

(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR *WA 1³⁸⁷ / m CMB/BES*

FROM: MEMPHIS (157-1067) (C)

"NEWSDAY" ARTICLE RE INVADERS AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1976. EM.

RE BUREAU FACSIMILE TO MEMPHIS, FEBRUARY 1, 1976.

THE INVESTIGATION OF THE INVADERS WAS INSTITUTED PER
INSTRUCTION OF BUREAU DATED JANUARY 15, 1968, TO KEEP
BUREAU ADVISED OF THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT KNOWN AS THE
INVADERS.

THE INVADERS, ALSO KNOWN AS BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT,
A BLACK MILITANT ORGANIZATION THAT ADOPTED THE PHILOSOPHY
NIHILISM AND ANARCHY, WAS ORGANIZED IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,
IN 1967. THE INFLUENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS WEAKENED
BY ARREST OF NUMEROUS MEMBERS AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN 1969.
IN AUGUST, 1970, THE ORGANIZATION SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS AND
IN OCTOBER, 1970, THE TWO GROUPS DISCONTINUED ALL ASSOCIATION
WITH EACH OTHER AND THE INVADERS BECAME A DEFUNCT ORGANIZATION.

DURING THE 1968 RIOTS IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THE
MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI WAS OPERATING FIVE INFORMANTS
WHO WERE FURNISHING INFORMATION REGARDING EXTREMIST

HSL:rsb
(1)

Approved: _____

[Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

157-1067-2056
SEK
ABOVE
Lowell

M

Per _____

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED _____

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F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO ME 157-1067

ACTIVITIES AT MEMPHIS. NONE OF THESE INFORMANTS ^{was} WERE ON A POLICY MAKING LEVEL WITH ANY ORGANIZATION AT MEMPHIS. ONLY ONE OF THESE INFORMANTS WAS A MEMBER OF THE BLACK MILITANT GROUP KNOWN AS THE INVADERS. HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THIS ORGANIZATION. NO SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE FBI AT ANY TIME PENETRATED THE INVADERS. ONE UNDERCOVER OFFICER OF THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT PENETRATED THE INVADERS AND WAS A MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION DURING THE 1968 RIOTS. HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP NOR WAS HE IN A POSITION TO FORMULATE POLICY FOR THIS ORGANIZATION.

THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI HAS NEVER PUBLICLY REPORTED "THAT THEIR AGENTS WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION" NOR HAS THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI PUBLICLY REPORTED THAT THEIR INFORMANTS OR SOURCES WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION.

SOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE MEMPHIS OFFICE HAVE ADVISED THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1968 RIOTS AT MEMPHIS, SCLC DID USE INVADER MEMBERS AS PARADE MARSHALS AND AS SECURITY GUARDS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE THREE ME 157-1067

SOURCES UTILIZED BY THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI NEVER AT ANY TIME MADE ANY EFFORT TO TURN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AGAINST THE SCLC.

THE MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICER WHO WORKED UNDERCOVER IN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION IS MARRELL MC COLLOUGH. MC COLLOUGH, WHO HAS BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS AN UNDERCOVER OFFICER, IS NO LONGER EMPLOYED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1968 RIOTS IN MEMPHIS, FORMER [REDACTED] WAS A MEMBER OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AND FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMANTS AND FORMER INFORMANTS REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION DURING 1968 BUT WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION: FORMER [REDACTED] FORMER [REDACTED] FORMER [REDACTED]

THESE SOURCES FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP, FINANCES, ACTIVITIES, AND PLANS OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION, BUT AT NO TIME DID THEY ADVOCATE RIOTS NOR DID THEY TAKE PART IN THE PLANNING OF ANY RIOT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge