

Memorandum

Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 8, 1964

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. J.A. Sizoo
- 1 - Mr. D.E. Moore
- 1 - Mr. D.J. Erennan
- 1 - Mr. R.W. Smith

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
 Holmes
 Gandy

[REDACTED]

b7c

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] ON 3/11/84

We know that Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, [REDACTED] represents a very real security problem to this country.

[REDACTED] apart from the security factor, b7c

Obviously he has the capacity to deceive people very successfully. This was made evident most recently by his being selected "Time" Magazine as the man of the Year.

Further, we know that he has been able to cleverly deceive the very important Protestant and Catholic organizations, securing thereby support from them which gives him added stature. It should be very clear to all of us that Martin Luther King must, at some propitious time in the future, be revealed to the people of this country and to his Negro followers as being what he actually is--a fraud, demagogue and [REDACTED]. When the true facts concerning his activities are presented, such should be enough, if handled properly, to take him off his pedestal and to reduce him completely in influence so that he will no longer be a security problem and no longer will be deceiving and clouding the Negro people. b7c

When this is done, and it can be and will be done, obviously much confusion will reign, particularly among the Negro people. There will be embarrassment, frustration, confusion, resentment, et cetera. The crux of this and the emotional reaction that will set in, it is not likely that movements like the Nation of Islam could benefit greatly. Rather, other ridiculous developments similar to the Old Father Divine and Daddy Grace organizations may appear. The Negroes will be left without a national leader of sufficiently compelling personality to steer them in the proper direction. This is what could happen, but need not happen if the right kind of a national Negro leader could at this time be actually developed so as to overshadow Dr. King and be in the position to assume the role of the leadership of the Negro people when King has been completely discredited.

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62-117290
Sect. 21 Part 7 of 13

Memorandum for Mr. E. A. Tamm

Re: [REDACTED]

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For some months I have been thinking about this matter. One day I had an opportunity to explore this from a philosophical and sociological standpoint with [REDACTED] whom I have known for some years. As I previously reported, [REDACTED] is a very able fellow, former Oxford scholar and professor, and one on whom I can rely. I asked [REDACTED] to give the matter some attention and if he knew any Negro of outstanding intelligence and ability let me know and we would have a discussion. [REDACTED] has submitted to me the name of the above-captioned person, [REDACTED] b7c

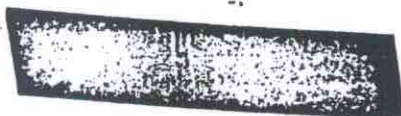
Enclosed with this memorandum is an outline of [REDACTED] biography which is truly remarkable for a man so young, having been born September 8, 1922. On scanning this biography, it will be seen that [REDACTED] does have all the qualifications of the kind of a Negro I have in mind to advance to positions of national leadership. I won't go into all his accomplishments and qualifications in this memorandum, for it will only take a minute or two to scan the enclosed biography. b7c

On first blush I know it can be said it is not the concern of the Bureau what happens to the Negroes when Martin Luther King has been discredited. This can be said, but I think it is a very shortsighted view. It is our concern if large numbers of them go into the hands of Islam and other extremist groups with which we are concerned as an investigative agency. It is our concern if the Communist Party would be able to capitalize upon this confusion. Further, from a positive and constructive standpoint it would be of great advantage to have leading among the Negro people a truly brilliant, honorable and loyal Negro who would lead the 50 million Negroes away from communism. I think in a very sound sense this necessarily must be of great interest to us. It would be most helpful to have a man like [REDACTED] leading the Negroes to whom we could go, if necessary, and rely upon in sensitive matters over which this Bureau has jurisdiction. b7c

I want to make it clear at once that I don't propose that the Bureau in any way become involved openly as the sponsor of a Negro leader who would overshadow Martin Luther King. As far as I am concerned, this is not an issue at all. But I do propose that I be given permission to explore further this entire matter with [REDACTED] and any other person known to both [REDACTED] and myself who could be helpful. If this thing can be set up properly without the Bureau in any way becoming directly involved, I think it would be not only a great help to the FBI but would be a fine thing for the country at large. While I am not specifying at this moment, there are various ways in which the FBI could give this entire matter

Memorandum for Mr. Belmont
RE: [redacted]

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the proper direction and development. There are highly placed contacts of the FBI who might be very helpful to further such a step. These can be discussed in detail later when I have probed more fully into the possibilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) For the information of the Director.

(2) That approval be given for me to explore this whole matter in greater detail, as set forth above.

G.K.
d

W.C.S.

See biography outline enclosed
WCS

ADDENDUM (1/9/64), WCS/csh:

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[redacted] has been investigated by the Bureau as a Departmental Applicant (for the position of Assistant US Attorney, Southern District of NY), and no derogatory information of any kind was developed. The investigation showed, as does the biography, that he has a remarkably fine record.

W.C.Sullivan

I am glad to see that "big fish" has finally been caught and is being dealt with. The Commission is to get over the fact that the Commission's role is to get the record straight and not to get involved in a scandal case.

