



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legal Policy

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 14 1981

Mr. James H. Lesar  
2101 L Street, N.W.  
Suite 203  
Washington, D. C. 20037

Re: AG/77-HD  
RLH:JKF ABM

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is in further response to your request on behalf of your client, Harold Weisberg, for records in the Office of the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General which pertain to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a result of the review of Document CVRTS #3 (refer to former Director Shea's letter to you dated February 3, 1981, in which fifty-three documents were released) under current Executive Order 12065 as requested by Judge Green of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on September 8, 1981, certain portions of that memorandum have been declassified and are appropriate for release to your client. Five pages on which this information appears are enclosed. Certain declassified information in paragraph one on page 34 and paragraph one on page 36 is being withheld from your client pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7)(C) and (7)(D). These provisions pertain to information contained in investigatory records, the release of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and reveal the identity of a confidential source. This information is not appropriate for discretionary release.

Although I am aware that you already have filed suit concerning this matter, I am required by law and Department regulation to advise you that judicial review of my action on this appeal is available to your client in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which he resides or has his principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, which is also where the records sought are located.

Sincerely,

Jonathan C. Rose  
Assistant Attorney General

By:   
Richard L. Huff, Acting Director  
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

Enclosures

cc: Harold Weisberg

~~SECRET~~

pistol". However they had found evidence of the Bureau's campaign against Dr. King and, through public testimony, have already publicized that fact. On Monday, March 22, I read the draft of the Committee's report dealing with this matter. (v)

It was obvious that existing staff and other workload did not permit us to read all of the FBI's files that relate to Dr. King, so it was determined to concentrate in three areas. You satisfied yourself that the FBI's written reports of microphone surveillances (misurs) and telephone surveillances (tesurs) were accurate by listening to selected tapes.

*Adw?*

[REDACTED]

(S)

Turner read that file in order to determine whether there was a legitimate basis for the FBI's security investigation of Dr. King. Mr. Turner also read about the first half dozen sections of the security investigation of Dr. King. I read those sections of the security investigation from where Mr. Turner left off through February 1965, and from December 1967 through June 1968. I also read the first ten sections, as well as several others randomly selected, of the assassination investigation. In addition, I have read some of the Department's files and several other Bureau documents relating to Dr. King, including all which were held in either Mr. Hoover's Official and Confidential files or those presently held in Mr. Deegan's office. As already mentioned, I also read the draft report of the Church Committee. (See attached Report Exhibit for an outline of that report). No interviews were conducted by us. *CSJ*

Jim

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

with the notation, "not now". King was photographed by the FBI in Los Angeles with an aide [REDACTED] b7C  
[REDACTED] (U)

A proposal was made to try and stop Springfield (Mass.) College and Yale University from awarding honorary degrees to King. King's tax returns were analyzed. New York was told to be alert to friction between two black leaders that might be exploited to neutralize King. A proposal was made to Sullivan that all of King's writing be reviewed to identify Marxist or Communist influence on him [REDACTED] (S)

In April 1964, DeLoach briefed Senator Saltonstall (Mass.) and Springfield College President Glenn Olds (now President of Kent State University) about King in an unsuccessful effort to prevent the awarding of an honorary degree. Also in April Joseph Alsop published the article concerning King, communist connections, and Hoover's January testimony concerning communist influence on racial matters. King responded by criticizing the Bureau's concern with communism and not with racial problems. (U)

[REDACTED] (S)

~~SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

(c)

b7c

King was overheard talking with [REDACTED] in August and the Bureau memo of Baumgardner to Sullivan contains comments such as, "...immorality and prevarication..., ...'Hitlerite tactic'...

[REDACTED]

b7c

Authority was given by Headquarters for a tesur at a New York City apartment where King would be staying. He had tesurs placed on him at the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City in August. Misurs were authorized but not installed because of time problems. Electronic surveillance of the Convention was widespread and the results were reported to the White House. (S)u

Attorney General Kennedy resigned in September and he gave Courtney Evans the material about King's hotel activities provided him on two earlier occasions by the FBI. Kennedy did not want the material in Department of Justice files and he recommended that the FBI destroy it. Hoover refused to do so and directed that it be retained in a secure location. (U)

[REDACTED]

(S)  
(S)

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rights Act had been passed. He said that [REDACTED] wanted to meet with King. King said that the matter could be discussed in a forthcoming meeting in New York and that, "...after the election, it would be a new situation". The White House and Acting Attorney General were advised of this information. (U) b7C

b7D On November 6, 1964, Headquarters sent a memo to Atlanta which indicated that [REDACTED] was an FBI informant. By November 10, the Bureau was concerned with King's upcoming trip to Oslo to receive the Nobel prize. [REDACTED]

(c) [REDACTED] Information about King's communist connections was classified SECRET; information [REDACTED] was classified TOP SECRET. (Su) b7C

b7C On November 12 information was given to the [REDACTED] in the hope that the paper would expose King's possible and prospective [REDACTED] Nothing happened. (U) b7C

The State Department asked for security information about King because of the Oslo trip. On November 13, in a memo to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Security, the Bureau discussed only [REDACTED] He was called a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7C Also on the 13th, the Legat in London was told to advise the U.S. Ambassadors to England and Norway of King's background in an effort to forestall embassy receptions for King. (U)

On November 16, 1964, a memo was prepared which pulled together recent information indicating "further evidences of the influences in high places which Martin Luther King, Jr., and his associates are able to wield." On the 18th, Hoover (U)

[REDACTED]  
CONFIDENTIAL

On January 25, 1965, Atlanta requested a 90 day extension of the misur on King's house. On the twenty-sixth, Sizoo advised Sullivan he had authorized misurs of King for two days at a hotel in New York because of the potential for developing intelligence information. (U)

Selected memoranda between February 1965 and December 1967 indicated that the Bureau continued its campaign to discredit and neutralize King. In February 1965 Atlanta was reprimanded for not forwarding information about King quickly enough. In February the Bureau proposed to seek Cardinal Spellman's help in preventing the Davenport, Iowa Catholic Inter-racial Council from giving King an award. Hoover said no. But in March, Gov. Volpe of Massachusetts was briefed by the FBI about King's background in an effort to tone down "Martin Luther King Day". (U)

F. Early 1967-1968

The primary concerns of the Bureau relating to Dr. King at this time were his anti-Viet Nam statements and his planned Washington Spring Project which later became the Poor People's Campaign. On December 7, 1967 the Bureau alerted various field offices and told them to develop ghetto informants, if they had none, and to report weekly on plans for the Project. On December 20, 1967 an updated monograph of King was prepared. It contained mainly old information, adding to it [REDACTED] (U)

[REDACTED] It also referred to King's statements about Viet Nam and the Spring Project. (U)

In December 1967, King was preparing a taped series of lectures for Canadian radio. The Director instructed the Legat in Ottawa to determine who made the arrangements, including financing, for the series. The justification was to find the source of funds to finance a "new program... of massive civil disobedience demonstrations which may result in riots". The Director was referring to the Spring Project in which King had threatened continuing demonstrations until Congress passed a program designed to help blacks. (U)