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11:30 PM URGENT 3/28/68 ARK
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
FROM ATLANTA

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM - C, BUFILE ONE ZERO ZERO DASH ONE ZERO SIX SIX SEVEN ZERO, ATLABTA FILE ONE ZERO ZERO DASH FIVE FIVE EIGHT SIX.

SANITATION WLRKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. RM.

INFORMATION AT FOUR THIRTY PM MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT.

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HOSEA WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND AND POLITICAL EDUCATION, SCLC, CURRENTLY IN ATLANTA, WHO DURING LATER AFTERNOON MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT, CONFERRED TELEPHONICALLY WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., PRESIDENT, SCLC; RALPH D. ABERNATHY, VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER, SCLC; AND BERNARD LEE, SPECIAL AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT, SCLC.

KING, ABERNATHY, AND LEE ARE CURRENTLY UN ROOM EIGHT ZERO

ONE, HOLIDAY INN, MEMPHIS.

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

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WITH REFERENCE TO RACIAL DISTURBANCE IN MEMPHIS MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT, KING IS EXTREMELY DEJECTED. HE AND ABERNATHY STRONGLY FEEL DISTURBANCE ON THIS DATE DELIBERATELY PLANNED BY NEGROES WHO ARE NEITHER SYMMATHETIC TO KING OR SCLC. IDENTITY OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS NOT KNOWN.

ABERNATHY, LEE, AND WILLIAMS ARE GREATLY CONCERNED FOR WELFARE OF KING., PARTICULARLY ON NIGHT OF MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT, WHEN HE EXPECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MARCH OR DEMONSTRATION WITH SANITATION WORKERS. AT PRESENT TIME KING DOES NOT FEEL HE SHOULD LEAVE MEMPHIS. DURATION OF STAY AND FURTHER DETAILS IN THES CONNECTION NOT KNOWN.

ACCORDING TO WILLIAMS, HE, ABERNATHY AND LEE STRONGLY FEEL SAME ELEMENTS WHICH CAUSED DISTURBANCE IN MEMPHIS EARLIER MARCH TWENTYEIGHT MAY CAUSE PERSONAL HARM TO KING EVENING OF MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT.

INFORMATION FROM

CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL. MEMPHIS, HOWEVER, SHOULD ADVISE LOCAL

AUTHORITIES IF NOT ALREADY KNOWN THAT KING CONTEMPLATES PARTICIPATING

IN MARCH OR DEMONSTRATIONE KNAME EVENING OF MARCH TWENTYEIGHT

AND THAT IN VIEW OF EARLIER DISTURBANCES IN MEMPHIS ON THIS DATE,

SEVERAL RANKING SCLC OFFICIALS APPREHENSIVE FOR PERSONAL WELFALE

OF KING.

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